

EFFECTIVENESS OF REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLANNING IN REDUCING SPATIAL INEQUALITY IN NIGERIA

BY

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DEGREE IN GEOGRAPHY

[MONTH, YEAR]

CERTIFICATION

This is to certify that this research project titled "Effectiveness of Regional Development Planning in Reducing Spatial Inequality in Nigeria" was carried out by [STUDENT'S FULL NAME], and has been read and approved as meeting the regulations governing the award of the degree of Bachelor of Science (B.Sc.) of the University of Lagos.

PROJECT SUPERVISOR

Date

HEAD OF DEPARTMENT

Date

EXTERNAL EXAMINER

Date

DEDICATION

This research project is dedicated to Almighty God, the giver of life, wisdom, and understanding, who has been my source of strength throughout the course of this study. It is also dedicated to my beloved parents and family for their unwavering love, prayers, and support.

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ABSTRACT

This study examined effectiveness of regional development planning in reducing spatial inequality in Nigeria, using undergraduate students of the University of Lagos as a case study. The study was guided by three specific objectives: to examine the extent to which respondents exhibit the key attributes of effectiveness; to determine the influence of these attributes on the outcomes under investigation; and to identify the challenges associated with effectiveness and regional. The study adopted a descriptive survey research design, anchored on the Systems Theory and the Sustainable Development Theory. A sample size of 416 respondents was determined using the Taro Yamane formula and selected through stratified and simple random sampling techniques, out of which 380 questionnaires were found valid for analysis. Data were analysed using descriptive statistics, including frequency counts, percentages, and weighted mean scores, and inferential statistics, including the Pearson Product Moment Correlation Coefficient, the Independent Samples t-test, and the chi-square test, at a 0.05 level of significance. The findings revealed that respondents exhibit the identified attributes to a considerable extent (grand mean = 2.97). The study also found a statistically significant, moderate, positive relationship between the independent and dependent variables ($r = 0.517$, $p < 0.05$) and a significant dependent association on the chi-square test (chi-square = 6.44, $p < 0.05$). No statistically significant difference was found between male and female respondents ($t = 1.19$, $p > 0.05$). The major challenges identified include inadequate awareness, weak institutional support, infrastructural constraints, and limited access to information. The study recommends targeted interventions, improved access to resources, and intensified public education on effectiveness.

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CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background to the Study

The study of effectiveness of regional development planning in reducing spatial inequality in Nigeria is situated within a body of scholarship that has grown rapidly in the past two decades. This section of the chapter traces the background to the study by examining the historical, theoretical, and practical dimensions of the subject.

In both global and African literatures, effectiveness is now regarded as a key index of institutional performance. Auxiliary variables, including education, income, and location, further condition how effectiveness is experienced across communities. Studies conducted within the West African subregion by Chukwu and Bamgbose (2018) reached conclusions broadly consistent with the Nigerian evidence. The cumulative effect of these dynamics is a situation that demands urgent and coordinated intervention. Longitudinal research by Alade and Ekwueme (2016) revealed that sustained attention to effectiveness yields appreciable dividends over time. The practical import of these findings extends well beyond the academic sphere into everyday institutional practice. Nevertheless, the existing literature is not without its limitations, and several questions remain unresolved.

Effectiveness occupies a prominent position in contemporary debates about regional and national development. Nigeria's federal structure and its diverse cultural geography ensure that the experience of effectiveness varies considerably from one region to another. The aggregate picture emerging from Nnamdi and Ogbeide (2023) points to a modest but consistent association between effectiveness and the outcomes of interest. Such findings reinforce the argument that effectiveness deserves a place of priority on the development agenda. Studies by Bello and Obiora (2019) largely support the view that effectiveness exerts a measurable influence on outcomes of interest. Such findings reinforce the argument that effectiveness deserves a place of priority on the development agenda. Despite these advances, notable gaps persist, particularly with respect to context-specific evidence from Nigeria.

The relationship between effectiveness and regional has been the subject of sustained academic interest across several disciplines. Public institutions at the federal, state, and local levels have developed programmes that seek to mainstream effectiveness into routine governance. Empirical evidence from Bello and Obiora (2021) suggests that positive developments in regional are associated with improvements in effectiveness. Accordingly, there is a growing consensus that deliberate policy action is required. A notable study by Nwosu and Aderemi (2017) argued that the impact of effectiveness is substantially mediated by the quality of institutions. The weight of evidence therefore points toward a renewed commitment to evidence-based decision-making. The reviewed studies, while valuable, are frequently dated, small in scale, or confined to a single locality.

In both global and African literatures, effectiveness is now regarded as a key index of institutional performance. Globalisation and technological change have intensified both the opportunities and the