

INFLUENCE OF DECENTRALISATION ON SERVICE DELIVERY AT SUB-NATIONAL LEVELS

BY

[STUDENT'S FULL NAME]

[MATRIC NUMBER]

BEING A RESEARCH PROJECT SUBMITTED TO THE DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE, FACULTY
OF SOCIAL SCIENCES, UNIVERSITY OF LAGOS, AKOKA, LAGOS STATE

IN PARTIAL FULFILMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE AWARD OF BACHELOR OF SCIENCE (B.Sc.)
DEGREE IN POLITICAL SCIENCE

[MONTH, YEAR]

CERTIFICATION

This is to certify that this research project titled "Influence of Decentralisation on Service Delivery at Sub-National Levels" 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.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

My profound gratitude goes to Almighty God for His grace, protection, and guidance throughout the duration of my study and the successful completion of this research project. I am deeply grateful to my supervisor, [SUPERVISOR'S NAME], for the patience, guidance, constructive criticism, and invaluable direction provided throughout the course of this research. I also wish to appreciate the Head of Department, the lecturers of the Department of Political Science, and my course mates for their support and friendship. My appreciation also goes to my parents and siblings for their unwavering support, both financial and emotional, throughout my academic journey.

ABSTRACT

This study examined influence of decentralisation on service delivery at sub-national levels, 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 influence; to determine the influence of these attributes on the outcomes under investigation; and to identify the challenges associated with influence and decentralisation. The study adopted a descriptive survey research design, anchored on the Elite Theory and the Systems Theory. A sample size of 388 respondents was determined using the Taro Yamane formula and selected through stratified and simple random sampling techniques, out of which 350 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 = 3.16). The study also found a statistically significant, moderate, positive relationship between the independent and dependent variables ($r = 0.5$, $p < 0.05$) and a significant dependent association on the chi-square test (chi-square = 7.98, $p < 0.05$). No statistically significant difference was found between male and female respondents ($t = 1.23$, $p > 0.05$). 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 influence.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Title Page	i
Certification	ii
Dedication	iii
Acknowledgement	iv
Abstract	v
Table of Contents	vi
List of Tables	vii
List of Figures	viii
CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION	1
1.1 Background to the Study	1
1.2 Statement of the Problem	4
1.3 Objectives of the Study	7
1.4 Research Questions	7
1.5 Research Hypotheses	7
1.6 Significance of the Study	8
1.7 Scope and Limitation of the Study	11
1.8 Definition of Terms	13
CHAPTER TWO: LITERATURE REVIEW	15
2.1 Conceptual Review	15
2.1.1 Concept of Influence	15
2.1.2 Concept of Decentralisation	16
2.1.3 Concept of Service	18
2.2 Theoretical Framework	20
2.2.1 Elite Theory	20
2.2.2 Systems Theory	21
2.2.3 Social Capital Theory	22
2.2.4 Rational Choice Theory	23
2.3 Empirical Review	25
2.3.1 Early Studies on influence	25
2.3.2 Recent Nigerian Evidence on influence	27
2.3.3 Influence and decentralisation	28
2.3.4 Comparative Perspectives across Africa	30
2.4 Summary of Literature Review	32
CHAPTER THREE: RESEARCH METHODOLOGY	34
3.1 Research Design	34
3.2 Population of the Study	34
3.3 Sample Size and Sampling Technique	35
3.4 Sources of Data Collection	36
3.5 Research Instrument	37
3.6 Validity and Reliability of the Instrument	38
3.7 Method of Data Analysis	39
3.7.1 Administration of the Instrument	40

3.8 Ethical Considerations	41
CHAPTER FOUR: DATA PRESENTATION, ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION	43
4.1 Data Presentation	43
4.2 Demographic Characteristics of Respondents	43
4.3 Analysis of Research Questions	44
4.4 Test of Hypotheses	45
4.5 Discussion of Findings	46
CHAPTER FIVE: SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS	52
5.1 Summary	52
5.2 Conclusion	53
5.3 Recommendations	54
5.4 Suggestions for Further Studies	54
REFERENCES	56
APPENDIX	58

LIST OF TABLES

Table 2.1: Summary of the Review of Related Literature	32
Table 2.2: Operationalisation of the Study Variables	33
Table 3.1: Population of the Study and Sampling Technique	42
Table 3.2: Validity and Reliability of the Research Instrument	42
Table 4.1: Gender Distribution of Respondents	49
Table 4.2: Age Distribution of Respondents	49
Table 4.3: Educational Attainment of Respondents	50
Table 4.4: Weighted Mean Analysis of Research Question One	50
Table 4.5: Weighted Mean Analysis of Research Question Two	50
Table 4.6: Correlation Summary between the Independent and Dependent Variables	50
Table 4.7: Independent Samples t-test by Gender	50
Table 4.8: Chi-square Test of Association	50

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 1.1: Conceptual Framework of the Study	14
Figure 3.1: Political Science Research Context	42
Figure 4.1: Gender Distribution of Respondents	49
Figure 4.2: Age Distribution of Respondents	49

CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background to the Study

The study of influence of decentralisation on service delivery at sub-national levels 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 recent years, influence has emerged as a central theme in scholarly discourse on political science. Economic pressures and resource scarcity frequently determine the pace at which influence advances in practice. Ibrahim and Ibrahim (2020), in a survey of relevant stakeholders, concluded that the benefits of influence are unevenly distributed across groups. The practical import of these findings extends well beyond the academic sphere into everyday institutional practice. The work of Famuyide and Obiora (2023) extended earlier analyses by demonstrating that decentralisation reinforces the effects of influence. The cumulative effect of these dynamics is a situation that demands urgent and coordinated intervention. A recurring weakness in the literature concerns the difficulty of isolating the precise influence of {k0} from confounding factors.

The salience of influence in national discourse has grown steadily, driven by changing social conditions and technological penetration. Nigeria's federal structure and its diverse cultural geography ensure that the experience of influence varies considerably from one region to another. A notable study by Obiora and Adeniyi (2017) argued that the impact of influence is substantially mediated by the quality of institutions. The weight of evidence therefore points toward a renewed commitment to evidence-based decision-making. Evidence assembled by Okonkwo and Umeh (2015) across twelve states underscored the heterogeneity of outcomes linked to influence. Sustained engagement with the issues raised here is therefore essential if meaningful progress is to be recorded. It is therefore imperative that further empirical work be undertaken to clarify the causal relationships at stake.

Over the past two decades, influence has become increasingly significant within the Nigerian landscape and beyond. Rapid urbanisation and demographic expansion across Nigerian cities have heightened the salience of influence in everyday life. Comparative work by Okonkwo and Umeh (2022) across several states uncovered a consistent pattern linking influence with decentralisation. For practitioners, the practical significance of influence cannot be overstated, given its demonstrable link with decentralisation. Evidence assembled by Dauda and Nwosu (2015) across twelve states underscored the heterogeneity of outcomes linked to influence. Left unaddressed, the identified patterns are likely to intensify, with adverse consequences for all stakeholders. Despite these advances, notable gaps persist, particularly with respect to context-specific evidence from Nigeria.

Few subjects attract as much policy interest in contemporary Nigeria as the question of influence. Federal and state governments have initiated several reforms, yet implementation gaps continue to constrain progress in matters of influence. A notable study by Famuyide and Obiora (2017) argued that the impact of influence is substantially mediated by the quality of institutions. These observations collectively invite a reconsideration of