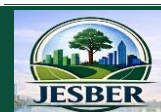


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Research article

ASSESSMENT OF THE PROVISION OF INFRASTRUCTURE DELIVERY IN SOUTHWESTERN NIGERIA: A CASE OF EKITI SOUTH-WEST LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA

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ABSTRACT

The provision of infrastructure in the 21st century is one of the key drivers of economic growth, significant to meet the ever-growing demand of the global urban population. This study aims to assess the existing provision and conditions of the infrastructure delivery in Ekiti South-West Local Government Area (LGA) of Nigeria with a view to enhancing sustainable infrastructural development. The study relied on the administration of structured questionnaires and oral interviews with household heads in Ekiti South-West LGA. A survey research method was adopted for this research, and data were derived from both primary and secondary sources. The population of each ward was used to determine the number of questionnaires that were administered. Those wards include Aaye, Irorin, Okebedo 1, Okebedo 11, Adin, Oke-Emo, Okeloye/Iro/Okepa, Oke-Odo, Oke-Igbara, Ifaki and Okemi. Systematic sampling technique was used to select the units for a detailed survey, which comprised 887 copies of the questionnaire administered to residents in the residential building from a frame of 4437, using a convenient purposive sample. 20% of the total housing units, representing 849 copies (95.7%) of the administered questionnaire were retrieved in usable forms and was deemed adequate. Data collected were processed using SPSS 21 version. Findings, among others, revealed that most infrastructure developed is not in good condition; the water supply, electricity, and healthcare facilities provided for the people are inadequate, and where available, they have not been adequately maintained. The study concluded that adequate infrastructure provision in functional conditions is inevitable in human society. The study recommends that the government and civil society should encourage people/private's participation/involvement from time to time in improving the infrastructural projects developed, which in turn will prolong their durability and efficiency. The need to sensitize the people of ESWLGA on maintenance culture, physical and financial support toward the provision and maintenance of basic amenities was recommended.

KEYWORDS

Basic amenities, Ekiti South West, Infrastructure provision, Participation, Sustainable development

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1 INTRODUCTION

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the sustainable development agenda is a new perspective on issues of inequality, transparency, and effective interface of different stakeholders to overcome common global challenges. Infrastructure delivery plays a key role in achieving sustainable development and has a direct impact on more than 80.0% of the UN-SDG targets. The development of infrastructure is one of the key drivers of economic growth and requires significant provision to meet the ever-growing demand of the population. Nevertheless, to attract infrastructure delivery, new approaches to the construction and operation of infrastructure facilities are required, taking into account social and environmental factors, along with economic efficiency and delivery. Over the years, there has been increasing interest in infrastructural delivery, which brings about development, as a result of rural – urban migration and high population growth (UN, 2013; Jamal, 2017; Okosun, 2023), which has resulted in inadequate supply of physical infrastructure and services, environmental pollution, inadequate sanitation, etc.

According to the United Nations Report in 2013, it was estimated that Africa's urban population in 2025 would be 54 % of the population, while the total African population is projected to be almost two billion by 2040 (UNDP, 2013). Infrastructure development, as reported by Jamal (2017), is an indispensable component of growth for any economy. Therefore, support for the provision of infrastructure in many developing countries, and in Sub-Saharan African (SSA) countries, such as Cameroon, Ethiopia, Rwanda, South Africa, Uganda, and Nigeria, is an essential instrument for countries to get on the path of sustainable economic development.

This implies that infrastructure provision suffuses in all we do and is arguably the world's most talked-about theme, due to the level of complexity associated with how the discourse around infrastructure delivery issues is framed; how the contexts associated with it are imagined; how the challenges associated with it are addressed and grappled with; and how the resources and solutions offered are meaningfully operationalized. The lens through which man views it in Nigeria is seemingly the problem and the solution at the same time, and therein lies the conundrum of infrastructure delivery in Nigeria as an important area of discourse, as it pertains to how we live currently in our communities and future generations. A host of stakeholders have a significant role to play in this regard, not the least of which are governments, practitioners, communities, academics, and users due to increasing population and challenges.

The Nigerian population growth in 2023, according to Okosun et al, (2023), was 223,804.633, a 2.41% increase from 2022. The population of Nigeria in 2022 was 218,541,213, a 2.41% increase from 2021. The urban areas, which may be cities, towns, or conurbations, are growing fast and, consequently, the urban infrastructural facilities have to meet the needs of rapidly increasing users. As revealed by Okosun and Ukoje (2024), Nigerian urban areas are experiencing problems, ranging from a lack of health and educational facilities, inadequate clean water supply, and increasing pollution, and uncoordinated urban development growth leading to traffic congestion and societal restlessness. Thus, by all indicators, Nigeria is the least endowed nation of the world in terms of rank-size (percentage) in infrastructure sufficiency when compared to low-income (LIC) or lower-middle-income economies (LMICs). Moreover, private sector investments in Nigeria's infrastructure remain among the lowest in the world, due to some contributing factors, including low incomes that constrain affordability; weak institutions; and underdeveloped domestic capital markets resulting in relatively poor business environments (Jamal 2017).

Presently in Nigeria, there is a need for adequate infrastructure to cater for the population in order to enhance their standard of living. Closing Nigeria's infrastructure gap requires a multi-track approach to increase all forms of public and private investments and leverage a variety of financial instruments that support the provision and maintenance of facilities.

Several researchers, conferences, and pages of Nigerian newspapers have tried to address infrastructure provision, delivery, and development in Nigeria. According to SDG 11, the existing infrastructure in the country is in a very poor condition, thus has a serious effect on its economy and the quality of life of its inhabitants. Therefore, the extent to which these human resources can be harnessed will be heavily dependent on the adequacy of infrastructural facilities available in good condition. Basic infrastructural facilities such as good roads, clean water supply, health facilities, and communication, etc, have been identified as the main to the well-being of communities (Manggat et al. 2017).

The lack of basic amenities is the main factor that can affect the quality of life of people in urban communities, as well as the factor that can undermine the effort to enhance urban lives and economic transformation (Adeyoye et al., 2011). The poor state of most infrastructural facilities in Nigeria has created social and economic problems (Okosun, 2023). This is due to the high population concentration of people in the urban areas, which at present is beyond the facilities necessary to sustain its growth, and as such has a serious effect on the state (i.e., conditions) of the available infrastructure. The rapid growth in human population in Ekiti State has led to an accelerating unprecedented transformation of its immediate surrounding Local Government Headquarters and towns in the state (Okosun and Olujimi, 2019), of which Ekiti West LGA is one. Consequently, the existing infrastructure provision in the affected towns became grossly inadequate to meet the needs of the dense population. This arguably sets the stage for the eventual urbanization process in Ekiti South West LGA, Southwestern Nigeria. From the foregoing, this study aims to assess the existing provision and conditions of infrastructure in Ekiti South West LGA, with a view to enhancing sustainable infrastructural development in Nigeria. The following objectives are set out to be achieved by this study: i) to examine the socio-economic characteristics of respondents in Ekiti South West Local Government Area; ii) to assess the distribution of community infrastructure delivery in the study area; and; iii) to examine the conditions of the existing basic infrastructure provision in the study area.

In Nigeria, there is increasing interest in the development of infrastructure; several studies have been carried out on the conditions of urban and rural infrastructure planning, which has attracted increased attention in recent years. The study of Edewede (2013) examined the infrastructural conditions in core areas of Benin City, Nigeria, while Okosun and Olujimi (2023) assessed the local government council and community-based development

associations in the provision of educational facilities in Ekiti State. These studies have shown that the development of basic amenities is essential for a better quality of life that would enhance the living standards of urban dwellers (poor and non-poor households). Inefficiencies in the provision of basic infrastructure can affect the quality of life of the people. It is against this background that this study assessed the infrastructure provision in the urban areas to improve their well-being.

According to the United Nations (2013), infrastructure development is an important tool in the socio-economic development of any given society, they promotes urban and rural dwellers' production, distribution, and consumption activities and improves the welfare, standard of living, and social life of the people. In most urban settlements in Nigeria, basic infrastructure is mostly inadequate for any meaningful development; good roads, water, electricity, hospitals/health care centres, and schools are grossly inadequate, and the urban and rural dwellers are living below the living standard (WHO, 2012) because they do not have appropriate access to basic infrastructural facilities. These problems no doubt deprived them of some socio-economic opportunities. This lack of opportunities has translated into increasing poverty and underdevelopment among them.

There is no doubt that infrastructural facility provision/delivery/development plays a major role in promoting development and catering to the welfare of inhabitants in the research locale. However, it is necessary to stress that among the infrastructure in the Ekiti South West LGA, schools (i.e educational facilities), water, healthcare facilities, electricity, markets, town halls, post office, police station, banks and good road network play notable roles in the development of the study area. Egbetokun (2009) carried out a study on the provision of infrastructure in Oyo State of Nigeria and revealed that several gaps exist in infrastructure provision and delivery (roads, markets, schools, healthcare facilities, and water supply). Thus, the focus of this study is on the socio-economic activities of the people for whom the infrastructures are provided, and the conditions of these identified infrastructures; this is because the aforementioned infrastructures are the essential needs of every individual and the community as a whole.

2 REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURES

Infrastructure relates to the aggregate of all facilities that allow a society to function effectively. As stated by Okwakpam (2010), human needs are insatiable, and the government alone cannot meet them. The provision of a good state of infrastructure is an impetus for the socio-economic development of any community or region. These include: roads, potable water supply, health facilities, electricity power supply, effective transportation system, telecommunications, recreational facilities, refuse dump, and sewage management system. Most governments in third-world countries like Nigeria face strong financial problems in providing infrastructure like electricity and potable water supply. In the urban/rural setting, infrastructural facilities are often seen as a non-profit-oriented project; their provision, maintenance, and sustenance are therefore expected to be funded with public funds. In Nigeria, for instance, with an urban population of about 60 million and an urbanization rate of 5.5% (Federal Government of Nigeria, 2004), government efforts at addressing the infrastructure challenges have followed the adoption of several measures, such as the public sector allocation of funds to infrastructure provision. (NISER, 2001; Hall, 2006) and the engagement of reform programmes (Straka & Tuzova, 2016). Therefore, basic infrastructural facilities such as good roads, clean water supply, health facilities, and market, etc, have been identified as the main keys to the wellbeing of communities.

Past studies have established that economic growth can be promoted by adequate accessibility and delivery of essential infrastructures, such as effective feeder roads. Furthermore, studies have shown that the development of basic infrastructures like road infrastructure is essential in order to increase the communities' life well-being through the provision of amenities for community use (Okosun, 2023). However, the study of Straka & Tuzova (2016) observed that the development of infrastructure such as road infrastructure, healthcare, clean water, and electricity enhances human capacities. This implies that economic growth in developing countries can be promoted by adequate accessibility and delivery of essential infrastructure, like road infrastructure, which is essential to increase the well-being of people in communities through the provision of amenities for community use (Rozema and Martens, 2010; Mascarenhas et al., 2010). However, the study of Straka & Tuzova (2016) observed that the development of basic amenities, such as road infrastructure, is important in rural transformation; it aids healthcare services and communication networks. This is in line with the study carried out in Nigeria by Egbetokun (2009), who found that infrastructure delivery in agriculture, education, health, electricity, and water is an integral part of urban and rural sustainability.

Literature also reveals that good transportation infrastructure enhances education and health services and promotes the development of human capacities. In Nigeria, there is increasing interest in infrastructural facilities development and delivery; several studies have been carried out on infrastructure planning, which has attracted increased attention in recent years. The increase in attention stems from various studies which had shown more commitment to the provision of infrastructural facilities development. These studies include Yusuf, (2007), Alaci and Alehegn (2009), who examined the Private Sector, while Olujimi, (2009) carried out a study on evolving planning strategy for managing urban sprawl in Nigerian, Okwakpam (2010), analyzed the activities of community development associations in infrastructure delivery in Emohua town, Edo state, Okosun and Olujimi (2016) carried out a study on the assessment of local government councils and community-based development associations in educational facilities in Ilawe town; they revealed that, basic infrastructure provision enhance the standard of living, health care delivery, education and water supply. From the foregoing, none of these studies has sufficiently looked into the assessment of the infrastructure provision and conditions of basic facilities in Ekiti South West. This has brought about the choice of Ekiti South West LGA with a population above 100,843 inhabitants.

3. MATERIALS AND METHODS

Study Area (Ekiti South West)

Ekiti South West Local Government Area (ESWLGA) is one of the sixteen (16) Local Government Areas in Ekiti State, South-West Nigeria. It was created under the Local Government Edict of 1976, on 1st September, 1976. The Ekiti South West LGA is made up of three major towns, viz: Ilawe, Igbara-Odo and Ogotun, and its headquarters is Ilawe Ekiti. The major's towns like Igbara-Odo and Ogotun are contiguous to one another with a unique topography, except Ilawe-Ekiti, which is characterized by hard rocks and mountains as a common feature. It occupies the area lying approximately within latitude 7.5133° N, 5.0518°E. As at 2016, it has a population of about 165, 277 (National Population Commission, 2006). It is delineated into eleven (11) political wards. The ESWLGA shares boundaries with Ado LGA in the northeast, Ikere LGA in the southwest, Irepodun/Ifelodun LGA in the northwest, Ifedore LGA of Ondo State in the southwest. The ESWLGA lies within the tropical climate with two distinct seasons, the wet and dry seasons. The vegetation of the area lies within the rainforest. Agriculture is a major employment provider, while the people are predominantly farmers. However, they are one of the largest producers of cocoa in Ekiti State. They are popularly known for banana production; others include kolanut, oil palm, and plantain. The people also engage in pretty trading, lumbering, pottery, mat weaving, and many other vocations and trades; civil and public servants are also involved in farming activities in the area.

Methods

A survey research method was adopted for this research and data were obtained from both primary and secondary sources. The target populations for the questionnaire distribution were classified into four (4) groups; Ekiti South West Local Government Area (ESWLGA) Caretaker Chairman, Community Development Unit in-charge of Community Development Projects in ESWLGA, Community-Based Development Associations (CBDAs) and Residents in ESWLGA. English and or Yoruba language was used for communication with the respondents were communication gaps exist. A multiple random sampling techniques approach was employed for use in this study, while Systematic sampling technique was used to select the unit for a detailed survey, which comprises of eight hundred and eighty-seven (887) residential buildings from a frame of 4437 in the identified wards (table 1). In all, 887 copies of questionnaires were administered, based on the number of residential buildings, using a convenient purposive sample. 20% of the total housing units, representing 849 copies (95.7%) of the administrated questionnaire on the residents, were retrieved in usable forms. Thus, the sample of 20% was deemed adequate to avoid repetitions based on homogeneous characteristics of the households in terms of cultural composition, socio-economic classifications, and physical layout characteristics. However, the 20% was used to gain a more in-depth view of their thoughts, beliefs, and opinions regarding the infrastructure situation in Ekiti South West LGA. This helps with the selection of a subset of a population to represent the entire population of interest (Okosun et al. 2023). Data were collected with the aid of a structured multiple-choice questionnaire. In this study, the researchers, in conjunction with the seven (7) field assistants, administered the questionnaires. However, to determine the sample size for this research under study, the population of each of

the entire wards, eleven wards was used to determine the number of questionnaires to be administered. Those wards include Aaye (694), Irorin (249), Okebedo 1 (490), Okebedo 11 (477), Adin (761), Oke-Emo (383), Okeloye/Iro/Okepa (256), Oke-Odo (240), Oke-Igbara (398), Ifaki (233), and Okemi (256) as shown in Table 1. The lists of the Community-Based Development Associations (CBDAs) were obtained from the Community/Quarter-Heads in ESWLGA and through fieldwork.

Table 1. Sampling in Ekiti South West

S/N	Name of Wards	Population as at 2018	No of housing units	Questionnaires Administered (20%)
1	Aaye	13,463	694	139
2	Irorin	7,770	249	50
3	Okebedo 1	9,088	,490	98
4	Okebedo 11	9,344	477	95
5	Adin	13,240	761	152
6	Oke-Emo	10,778	383	77
7	Okeloye/Iro/Okepa	8,125	256	51
8	Oke-Odo	6,703	240	48
9	Oke-Igbara	11,361	398	80
10	Ifaki	5,992	233	47
11	Okemi	4,779	256	51
	Total	100,843	4437	887

From Table 2, there were 71 Community-Based Development Associations in the study area. Thus, the two most active CBDAs in each ward out of were purposely adopted for the administration of the questionnaire. This unit was considered adequate due to accessibility, and the fact that the views of the associations were from the same perceptive. In achieving this, the researcher consulted the Community/Quarter-Heads in the study area. A Community/Quarter-Head each in the entire wards in ESWLGA were interviewed with the aid of an interview guide. They were purposively interviewed because of the relevance of their activities in this study. The other sources of data collection, such as in-situ observations were used to obtain relevant data for this research, all of which were subjected to analyses using the Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) version 21 which was presented using tables and figures.

Table 2. Questionnaire Administered and Retrieved

Sample frame	No of units	Number of questionnaires distributed	Questionnaires Retrieved
Community/Quarter-Heads	11	11	11
Community-Based Development Associations	71	22	22
Residential building (Households)	4437	887	849

Source: Author compilation, 2024

Inferences were made about the general population understudy, based on the findings from the sampled percentage. The inferential analysis that was adopted is the spearman's rank coefficient analysis which was used to determine the level and strength of the relationship between the variables in the hypothesis.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The discussion of the findings was therefore based on the research objectives as follows:

Objective 1: This objective seeks to examine the socio-economic characteristics of the respondent's

On the socio-economic characteristics of Ekiti South West Local Government Area residents, from Table 3, the study reveals that the highest number of respondents interviewed were males, this correlate with study carried out by Violet (2026). The male respondents accounted for 59.6% of the total respondents, while the females represented only 40.4%, indicating the prevalence of male-dominated household heads in the study area. This

may be due to the Nigerian context of household head since men are regarded as the head of the family. The findings show that the females are more accessible than the males in the study area, judging from the small margin (1.2%) noticed, because the males are at an advantage of being interviewed due to the Nigerian context of household head, since men are regarded as the head of the family.

Table 3. Gender of the respondents

Gender composition	No of Respondents	Percentage (%)
Male	430	50.6
Female	419	49.4
Total	849	100.0

Field survey, 2024

Table 4 shows that in the population structure, those between the ages of 31 to 40 years are more in the community. This represents 33.9%. This is followed by those between the ages of 21 to 30 years which represents 29.6%, this set of people formed the youth organization. Those below 20 years constituted 11.8%, while those between 41 years and above represented 24.8%.

Table 4. Age of the respondents

Age	No of Respondents	Percentage (%)
Below 20 years	101	11.8
21-30 years	251	29.6
31-40 years	287	33.9
41 and above	210	24.8
Total	849	100.0

Field survey, 2024

As shown in Table 5, the majority of the respondents were married, thus representing 57.9%, however, the majority of the respondents fall within 31-40 years, 35.2% of the respondents are single, 4.0% are widows, and while the remaining 2.9% are divorced. This may be ascribed to the population structure, ethnicity and tribe.

Table 5. Marital status of the respondents

Status	No of Respondents	Percentage (%)
Single	299	35.2
Married	491	57.9
Widowed	34	4.0
Divorced	25	2.9
Total	849	100.0

Field survey, 2024

Educational attainment is perhaps one of the most important characteristics of members of the household. From the analysis in Table 6, majority of the respondents have primary education, which represents 37.9%. Secondary education represents 35.4%. Tertiary education was 17.0%, while 9.7% of the respondents had never attended school (no formal education). This high percentage of primary-level of education could be connected to the fact that, the entire wards have primary schools. While only a few persons with tertiary education reside in ESWLGA, these categories of people are mostly found in Adin, Okebedo and Oke-Emo. From the breakdown, it is obvious that, most of the residents (90.3%) are literate in a common parlance which sees a literate person as someone who can read and write in simple language (Okosun 2021).

Table 6. Level of education of the respondents

Level of Education	No of Respondents	Percentage (%)
No Formal Education	83	9.7
Primary School	322	37.9
Secondary School	301	35.4
Tertiary Institution	143	17.0

Level of Education	No of Respondents	Percentage (%)
Total	849	100

Field survey, 2024

Figure 2 shows that, business activities are the predominant occupation (46.1%) of the people in Ekiti South West LGA, Farming is the next notable occupation; which represents 23.6%. The implication of this high percentage could be ascribed to poverty. The people engaged in agriculture (i.e farming), some of the cultivated crops include plantain, cassava, and banana. However, the people are popularly known for Banana production in the State. Business in this regard is concerned with buying and selling of provision, petty goods and agricultural products. It can therefore be inferred that, business is the employer of labour in ESWLGA, which confirms the findings of Straka, & Tuzova (2016) which concluded that business is the major service easily accessible for Nigerians to venture into.

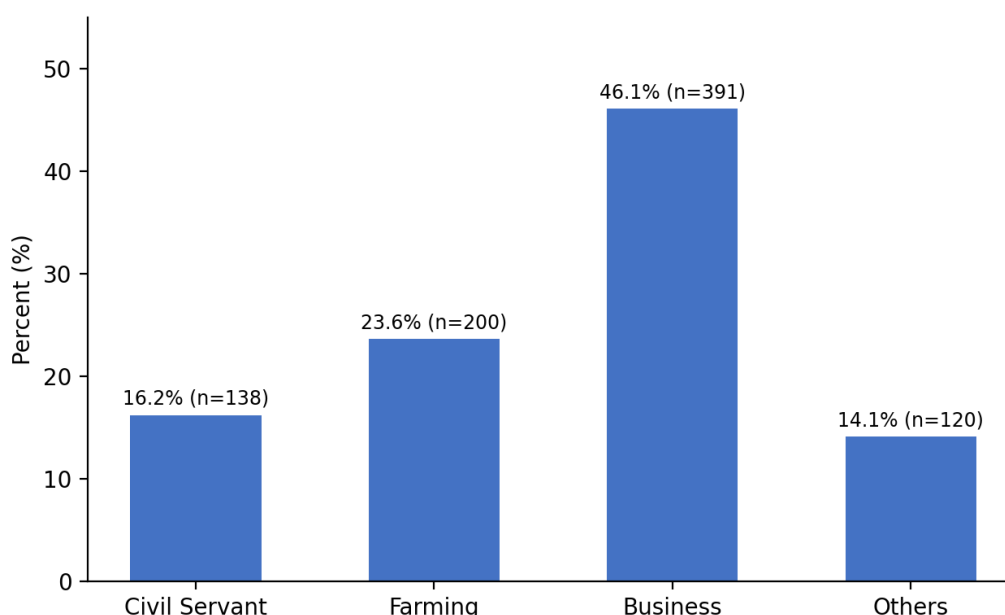


Figure 2. Predominant occupational structure of the respondents

Source: Field survey, 2024

The monthly income of the residents in ESWLGA as shown in Table 7, shows that majority of the people earned less than the new minimum wage of seventy thousand naira (N70,000) as at July 2024 as declared by the federal government. In ESWLGA, there were more dwellers earning less than N20,000 (48.2%), followed by those earning between N20,001 – N30,000 (33.4%) and N30,001 – N40,000 (16.0%), while those earning N40,001 and above (2.4%) accounted for the least. The distribution showed that the respondents mostly earned less than N20, 000 per month (Olujimi, 2009). It can be therefore inferred that the majority of the respondents lived below the international extreme poverty line. The World Bank uses an extreme poverty benchmark of \$2.15 per person per day which translates nominally to approximately N3,225 per day exchange rate during year 2024 calculation. This international baseline surpasses Nigeria's national minimum wage of N70,000 per month (approximately N2,333 per day per person). This indicates that, majority of the residents wallow in abject poverty. Thus, the reasons why people tend to leave the state capital to neighbouring/surrounding towns to settle due to poverty for cheaper and affordable lifestyles. Often times, the residents hold their faith and live with the problems of marginality (challenges in inadequacy of infrastructural facilities that allows a society to function well).

Table 7. Monthly income level of the respondents

Income level	Respondents	Percentage
Less than 20,000	410	48.2
20,001 – 30,000	285	33.4

Income level	Respondents	Percentage
30,001 – 40,000	133	16.0
40,001 and above	21	2.4
Total	849	100

Source: Field survey, 2024

From Table 8, majority of the respondents in ESWLGA are Christians, this represents 62.0%, and this was followed by Muslims, which represents 23.1%, while Traditional believers and others were 8.5% and 6.4% respectively. This situation is connected with the impact of the missionaries and the Islamic Jihad. However, the churches and mosques were built through communal efforts by levies and voluntary donations.

Table 8. Religion of the respondents

Religion	No of Respondents	Percentage (%)
Christianity	526	62.0
Islam	195	23.1
Traditionalist	73	8.5
Others	55	6.4
Total	849	100

Source: Field survey, 2024

The adequacy of infrastructure helps to determine a country's success or failure in diversifying production, coping with population growth, and reducing poverty. In table 9, majority of the respondents expressed that the infrastructure provided in Ekiti South West LGA is not adequate, this represents 86.2%. While 10.1% of the respondents revealed that, adequate provision is made for infrastructure in the LGA. Findings revealed that the infrastructural facilities are grossly inadequate. This implies that the existing infrastructure in the study area will have a serious effect on the economy and quality of life of the inhabitants; therefore, adequacy of basic infrastructural facilities such as good roads, clean water supply, health facilities, and schools in good condition is the main key to the well-being of the dwellers. The government and all stakeholders should join hands together in providing infrastructure that will, in turn, improve the conditions of the infrastructure provided in ESWLGA. In comparison with previous studies (Lawanson 2006; Olujimi, 2009; Okosun and Ukoje 2024), this study strongly agreed that improved income and investment in infrastructure is a measure of sustainable development and growth in urban or rural communities, which could only be enhanced if facilities that could improve quality of life are adequately provided.

Table 9. Adequacy of Infrastructural Facilities in Ekiti South West LGA

Adequacy	Frequency	Percent
Not adequate	732	86.2
Adequate	86	10.1
No option	31	3.7
Total	849	100.0

Source: Field survey, 2024

Objective 2: This objective seeks to assess the distribution of basic infrastructure according to ward/quarters

In Ekiti South West LGA, schools, boreholes (water supply), electricity supply (transformers), healthcare centres, and town halls were found in all wards in the study area. Tarred roads were found in Adin, Okapa/Iro/Okeloye and Oke-Emo, Oke-Odo, Oke-Igbara, Okemi. Road construction was mostly carried out by the government while CBDAs involvement and individual efforts on road construction projects were not reflected. Roads were constructed in Aaye, in 1991; Okebedo I, in 1990; Adin, in 1984; Oke-Emo, in 1990; and Okepa/Iro/Okeloye, in 1985. Findings revealed that in ESWLGA, the Government only embarked on opening up (i.e. bulldozing), rehabilitation/upgrading of roads in the town. Findings further revealed that, the roads lack drainage and are grossly inadequate. Electricity supplies are present in all wards in the town, electricity power supply in the town is unsatisfactory as power outages are frequent and the power sector operates well below its estimated capacity. This has made most residents/industrialists to install their own power generator of which,

very few in the community can afford; this is in line with the findings of Okosun (2021), that a weak relationship exists between public electricity supply and affordability cost, because the situation has worsened poverty. Water was an increasingly important infrastructure in the study area, but unevenly distributed resource in the town. Water supply and quality are constantly challenged by growing population, climate change, pollution, and changes in consumer behaviour and lifestyles. There is present of one general hospital in the entire Ekiti South West LGA. Six markets were provided in the entire local government area. Most of the markets do not have open or lock-up stalls. The findings revealed that, the distribution of those infrastructures has helped in enhancing the living conditions of the people to some extent; those infrastructural facilities include schools, road construction, water supply, electricity power supply, market, bank, and healthcare centres/hospital. These infrastructures have the power to attract investors to the research environment, which in-turns will transform the growth of the area.

Table 10. Distribution of basic infrastructure in Ekiti South West LGA

Ward/Quarters	Sch	Transportation	Water supply	Power Supply	Market	Town hall	Health Centre/Hospital	Police Post
Aaye	5	-	4	3	1	2	1	1
Adin	7	1	5	2	-	2	1	-
Okeloye/Iro/Okepa	10	1	6	5	1	2	3	1
Irorin	5	-	4	3		3	1	-
Oke-Emo	9	1	5	4	-	3	2	-
Oke-bedo 1	8	-	6	3	1	4	2	-
Oke-bedo 11	6	-	3	2	-	3	2	-
Oke-Odo	7	1	5	2	-	4	1	-
Oke-Igbara	8	1	3	1	1	3	1	-
Ifaki	5	1	3	1	1	2	2	-
Okemi	7	1	4	1	-	2	1	1
Total	77	7	48	27	6	30	17	3

Source: Field survey, 2024

Objective 3: This objective seeks to showcase the current state of infrastructure in Ekiti South West LGA

Figure 4 showcased the current condition of the existing infrastructure in Ekiti South West LGA, Finding revealed that, majority of the roads were functional. This represents 65.54%, while those not functional represent 34.46%. The town halls provisions was mainly provided by the CBDAs and were effectively functional, this represents 88.57%. Furthermore, majority of the bore-holes (water supply) were not functioning, due to finance in maintaining them after construction, this represents 69.15%. While those functional represents 30.89%. The study revealed inadequate access to safe drinking water in Aaye, Irorin, Oke-Odo, Oke-Igbara, and Okemi wards/quarters. The implication of this is that, the people will resort to sourcing for their daily water needs from unsafe sources, which could be harmful to their health. The power supply projects are functional, but irregular and sometimes very low to power electrical appliances, this represents 60.07% of the total population, while 39.93% were of the opinion that they are not non-functional. The schools and markets are functional, this represents 79.15% and 59.59% respectively.

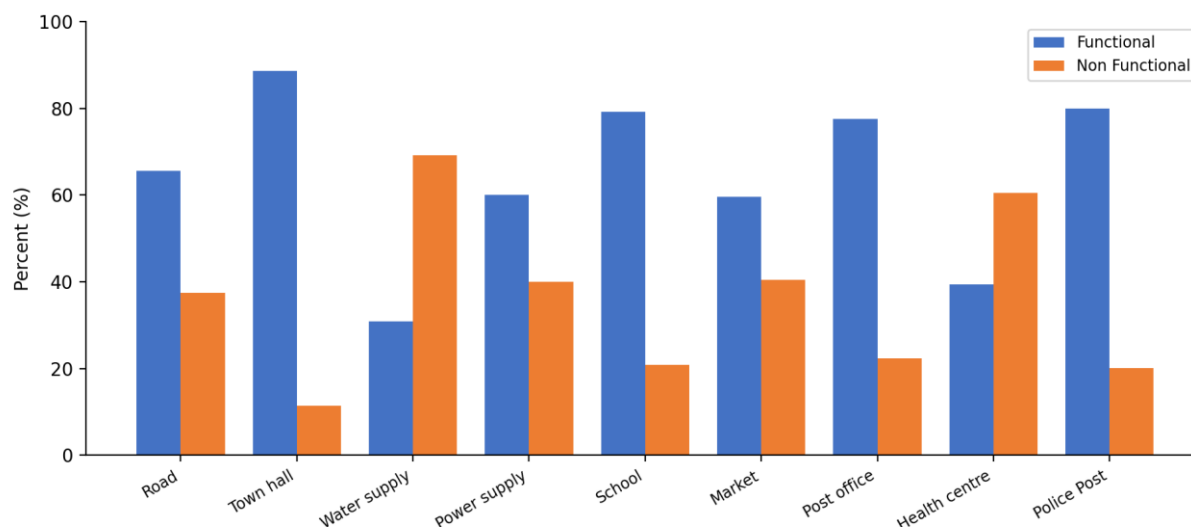


Figure 3. The existing condition of basic infrastructure provision in Ekiti South West LGA

Source: Fieldwork, 2024

5 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The study was limited to the existing current infrastructures (road, school, health care/Hospital, water supply and market) in Ekiti South West LGA, Southwestern Nigeria and concluded that business activities are the predominant occupation of the people in Ekiti South West LGA, while the majority of the respondents lived below the poverty level daily per person, thus a hindrance to living standard and good quality of life. The study recommend the need to develop basic amenities as part of an overall development which will include economic growth, access and increase in the health services, improvement in good road network for community social and economic development. The study further recommends that, a) The government and civil society should encourage people/private's participation and involvements from time to time, in improving the infrastructural projects developed; which in-turn will prolong its durability and efficiency. b) The need to sensitize the people of ESWLGA on maintenance culture, physical and financial support toward the provision and maintenance of basic amenities. Government at all levels should involve religious groups in the provision and maintenance of infrastructural development and during the implementation stage. Infrastructure needs to be adequately maintained as this will prolong its durability and efficiency. Thus will help to improve and ensure sustainable infrastructures, because; they have proved to be useful tools in the development process; c) The State Government should intensify programme of environmental awareness through the use of community/quarters-heads to complement efforts of the Community-Based Development Associations in the protection and monitoring of infrastructure such as schools, primary healthcare centres, market and roads, d) Investment in infrastructure provisions.

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