

Intergovernmental Fiscal Relations and Service Delivery in Local Government Areas in Yobe State

Mohammed Ali ^a, Mudi Bashir ^{b,1} and Ali Abiso ^c

^a *Department of Public Administration, College of Administration, Management and Technology Potiskum*

^{b,c} *Department of Public Administration, University of Maiduguri*

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Corresponding author: mudibashir111@gmail.com

1.0 INTRODUCTION

Finance is very important in bringing about any kind of development in any political entity. What is needed is the proper intergovernmental fiscal relations that will bring about socio-economic development at the community level. Over the years, there has been huge amount of revenue allocation from federation account to the states and local governments' accounts which aimed at serving the rural populace effectively by bringing rapid and sustainable development. In 2014, Bade, Damaturu and Potiskum received an annual revenue allocation of ₦1.891bn, ₦1.742bn and ₦2.097bn respectively. This was similar with 2015, 2016, and 2017. In the first quarter of 2018, Bade had received ₦470 million, while Damaturu ₦432 million and Potiskum ₦522 million, (FAAC REPORT 2018 p184), since the return of democratic governance in 1999, the performance remained below expectation. This situation was prompted by the nature of intergovernmental fiscal relations which assumed principal/agent model of relations in Yobe State, thereby depriving the local governments of their financial autonomy as enshrined in the 1999 constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (as amended).

Several studies have been conducted in the field of intergovernmental relations. For example Paul (2013) examines the impact of existing intergovernmental fiscal relations on effective service delivery at the grassroots in Nigeria, by showing number of ways the relationship can be improved. Shaibu (2013) in his study titled "inter-governmental Fiscal Relations and its Implication on Local Government in Nigeria" determined the level of intergovernmental fiscal relations among the three tiers of government and its impact on the local councils. Furthermore, Silas (2014) assesses the intergovernmental relations in the implementation of the Universal Basic Education (UBE) Scheme among North East States of Nigeria. The above studies either looked at intergovernmental fiscal relations from wider perspectives (Paul, 2013; Shaibu 2013; Sials, 2014) or focused on states order than Yobe State without considering such variables as availability of Water, Health and educational facilities. This study filled the gap in terms of scope and methodology. Therefore, the study examines the effect of Intergovernmental Fiscal Relations on service delivery in Local Government Areas of Yobe State.

1.1 Objectives of the Study

The main objective of the study is to assess the effect of intergovernmental fiscal relations on Service Delivery in Local Government Areas in Yobe State. The specific objectives are to:

1. assess the effect of intergovernmental fiscal relations on availability of water;

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