



**Gulbarga**

**University**

**THE ROLE OF LOCAL SELF GOVERNMENT IN RURAL  
DEVELOPMENT**

A FIELD PROJECT SUBMITTED TO THE GULBARGA UNIVERSITY IN  
PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF THE REQUIREMENT OF THE DEGREE OF

**BACHELOR OF ARTS**

**5<sup>th</sup> SEMESTER**

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**SHAHABAD- 585228 KALABURAGI DISTRICT.**

**2024**

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## CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that, the Field Project entitled, "The Role of Local Self Government in Rural Development", submitted by Krishna,Aishwarya,Rahul,Sunita and MD.Rafiq, (B.A 5<sup>th</sup> Semester) and is independent work carried out by all the students in the Department of Political Science during the year 2023-24, under my supervision. The same or the part of work has not been presented by any Degree or Diploma at any University or Institution.

Shahabad

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## DECLARATION

We are hereby declare that, the Field Project work entitled "The Role of Local Self Government in Rural Development", submitted to the Gulbarga university for the award of Bachelor degree carried under the supervision of Dr.Venkantesh G., Assistant Professor & Head, Department of Political Science, H.K.E.Society's, S.S.Margol College of Arts, Science And Commerce, Shahabad-585228 Kalaburagi Dist. It has not been submitted elsewhere for any Degree or Diploma either in part or in full.

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**Krishna, Aishwarya, Rahul, Sunita and MD.Rafiq**  
**(B.A 5<sup>th</sup> Semester)**

*Dedicated To*

*Our lovely Parents &*

*Our lovely Teachers*

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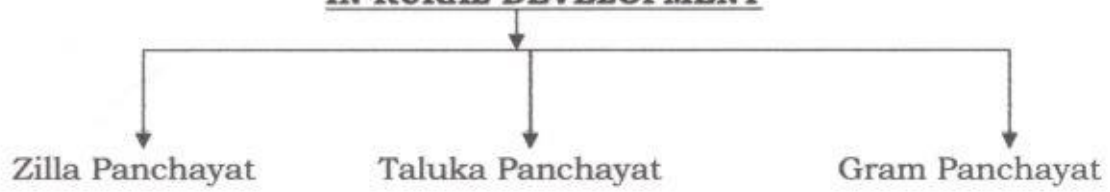
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I. Introduction

In the Urban areas, that is, Cities and towns local self-governments is carried out by municipalities and corporations. In the rural areas, that is in Vill and rural Settlements are the people who elect local councils and their heads authorising them to solve the important issues.

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**THE ROLE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT IN RURAL DEVELOPMENT**

**INTRODUCTION:**

**1.1 BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY**

A political subdivision of a nation or (in a federal system) state, which is constituted by law and has substantial control of local affairs, including the powers to impose taxes or to exact labour for prescribed purposes. The governing body of such an entity is elected or otherwise locally selected. Local government as a means for grass roots and national development has persisted in spite of modern achievements in the fields of politics, economics, technology, communication, transportation etc. the increasing demand for local government in every part of the world is being motivated by the desire of the rural populace to contribute directly in the affairs of their communities. In fact, local government is as old as mankind; because it is the only form of human's administration that has existed from the history of man. The theory of human society is shrouded with the necessity of community development through a recognized local administrative structure that culminated into local government administration.

The 1976 local government reforms in India saw local government as the government at local level exercised through representative councils established by law to exercise specific powers within defined area. These powers should give the council substantial control over local affairs as well as the staff, institutional and financial powers to initiate and direct the provision of services. it also exists to determine and implement projects so as to complement the activities of the state and federal government in their areas, which is to be achieved through the active participation of the people and their traditional institutions, so that local initiative and response to local needs and conditions are maximized.

The United Nations office for public administration states that local governments should have control over local affairs which will include the powers to impose taxes or to exact labour for prescribed purposes. It states further that those who are to govern such entity should be elected or locally selected. The local government must also be constituted by law.



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Local government is any form of administration that is found at the grass roots level with the primary objective of integrating the rural populace into the decision making process of the state (Gowon, 1990).

"Local government is the third-tier of government in India vested with the responsibility of transforming various communities into effective socio-economic and political advanced structures for national development that is the improvement of the quality of life of communities". Therefore, local government system is an administration of the rural areas by people who know their community needs. This type of administration is informed by the idea that since the people know the needs of their community, they would do everything within available resources to develop the area.

Local government is an agent of grass roots development because of its indispensable role in mobilizing local resources for meaningful socio-economic and political changes in the rural areas. The contribution of local government in the development of the rural areas. The contribution of local government in the development of the rural areas can be dated back to the period of community-based efforts of developing the individual societies where local authorities are used to mobilize all resources for development . Therefore, every government seeks to affect the lives of its citizens by the way they handle their welfare and total well being through economic, social and political development initiatives. This, according to early scholars forms the basis of cooperation and reciprocity between government and the society, which engenders the maintenance of the well being of that society. When members of the society pool their efforts and resources together, they realize their collective goals better. The basis of legitimacy must therefore, emanate from the ability of government or the political institutions to discharge such basis responsibility as provision of amenities and security to government.

Every government owes it citizens the duty to develop them through the provision of portable water, health care, education, roads, food, shelter, and any socio-economic variables. Such provision must also include framework that will enable them to have a say on what they get and how they get it. It is in this respect that the members of the society can be expected to discharge their own civic responsibilities to the government and the society at large. Legitimacy involves the capacity of the system to engender and maintain the belief that the existing political institutions are the most appropriate for the growth and

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development of the society. Groups regard a political system as legitimate or illegitimate according to way in which its values fit with theirs .

The existence of the three tiers of government in India is therefore, expected to respond to these functions or responsibilities. While the three tiers have varied geopolitical boundaries of authority, they all have certain common responsibilities towards the development of the country in general and in particular their individual areas of influences. As for the level of human materials and financial resources available to them, the federal government is the richest, followed by the state, leaving the local governments as the poorest. Yet the latter is the closest to the majority of the people of the country, most especially to those living in the rural areas. The local government administration is most suited for the development of the rural communities, which are very remote from both the state and central government.

The Federal government said through:

*"In embarking on these reforms, the federal military government was essentially motivated by the necessity to stabilize and rationalize government at the local level. This must of necessity entail the decentralization of some significant functions of the state government to local in order to harness local resources for rapid development. The federal military government has therefore decided to recognize local governments as the third tier of governmental activity in the nation"*

Local government should do precisely what the word government implies that is government at the grass roots or local level. He went further to say that, the reforms are intended to entrust political responsibility to where it is most crucial and most beneficial, that is, to the people. These local governments have remained integral parts of the administration of the country from the colonial times and have continued to remind the people of the state and central government. Most times they have always been composed of local people who the members of the society can identify and relate with, culturally. This explains the constant clamour for their creations by rural communities. There are no institutions in this country, which are potentially more capable and including physical infrastructural facilities that local government councils. Local government represents the generally accepted fact of political life that all the functions of government cannot be run on the basis central administration alone. It consequently represent the need for political

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participation and for convenience (Hashim, 1981). This is true in recognizing the fact that apart from bringing the government closer to the people which a popular cliché often used by government officials, local government are better positioned to understand the development needs of the communities.

In spite of the existence of local government administration in Nigeria, development in the rural areas has continued to remain a mirage. In almost every rural community, there is dearth of portable water, health care delivery facilities, accessible roads and good schools, among others and also infant mortality rate and maternal deaths are on the rampage.

Mensah opined that the rural areas in the third world countries have remained backward and static at a time when the global economy has experience and is still experiencing tremendous forward movement. Indeed, it is poverty level of the rural communities occasioned by this lack of development that has earned India a place among the world's poorest nations in spite of our huge materials and human resources. The United Nations through its human development index (HDI) has consistently rated Nigeria among the poorest nations of the world. This poor state of the nation, emanated essentially, from the rural communities where over 85% of the population resides in the rural areas (Avichi, 1995), states that it was estimated by World Bank (1990) that over 1.15 billion people in developing countries were living below the poverty line (US \$350 per annum) and majority of these dwell in rural areas which constitute about 80% of their national populations.

Ijere (1989), observed that, Nigeria's rural poor constitute the other India with poverty linked characteristics, lacking purchasing power enough to maintain a minimum standard of living and they are the victims of collective poverty in contrast to pockets or "Islands" of underdevelopment, the American Style which are surrounded by regions of abundances. This situation clearly generates apathy towards government as in number of rural communities, quite a sizeable percentage of the population do not bother about government and issues emanating from official quarters. The level of mobilization is low and there is little or no consolation with the communities on any issues. This trend to question the rationality of the establishment of local government administration, which

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should act as a medium for rural development. An examination of the existence of local government administration from colonial times reveal that successive government have handled the issue of rural development with less than piquant approach. Local governments instead of being used as tools for effective rural transformation, tend to be used for purposes other than social development. Some reasons that can be advanced for this sad development is the fact that Before (1976), no properly articulated rural development policies have always been introduced on the communities by government officials without their sustainability being covered. The essence of this study was to establish the role local government on rural development in Jos South Local Government Council It has been observed that the way to have good and safe government is not to trust it all to one, but to divide it among many, distributing to every one exactly the function he is competent to. This is why local government as the third tier of government is very important. In recent times, local governments in India have been assigned specific development roles by the constitution. But this should not be taken to suggest that in the past local governments did not contribute to economic development. For example, between 1955 and 1965, local governments were responsible for an average of 12% of total public expenditure in the country. A local government may be defined as government at the local level established by law to perform specific function within defined areas. Local government is vested with substantial powers to take control over local affairs. It is the integration agent, indeed, the tendon that joints the rural people, their problems, aspirations and progress, to the central government. Local Government, "simply and precisely, is the government at the local level." Put in another way, Local Government is a system of devolution of power to the local authority to provide services of a 1961 nature. It is an autonomous or independent body created by law and charged with the responsibility of administering and dealing with matters of local importance within the area defined by that law. Today however, the local government is constitutionally recognized as the third tier of government.

In order to leave no doubt as to what our central concern in this work is all about, it is important to start by defining local government. The United Nations Office for Public Administration define local government as: A political subdivision of a nation or (in a

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federal system) state, which is constituted by law and has substantial control of local affairs, including the powers to impose taxes or to exact labour for prescribed purposes. The governing body of such an entity is elected or otherwise locally selected.

### **Local government in Rural development:-**

Local government in India could have been said to have started when politicians assumed leadership role of regional legislators under colonial reforms. That gradually led to regional self-government in the early 1950s. Before this, under the native system, indirect rule was introduced. Indirect rule sought to rule the local people through their local chiefs. India's rural area have for many decades remained backward and static, especially at a time when global economy is experiencing tremendous change. This is more evidence after the country's civil war (1967-70) featuring others. Upsurge petroleum revenue, the consequent ability of government to finance large construction prove of in urban Centre, as well as unprecedented migration of able bodied youth from rural urban center, all combine to force a decline in rural area development.

The essence of creating local government any where in the world stems form the need to facilitate development of the grassroots. Local government councils are constantly structuring to improve the effectiveness and efficiency service delivery. Most especially, in the area of health care and education services, local government in Indians are striving to ensure that priorities are not misplaced in this country India in the provision of service delivery to their rural area or rural dwellers .

Local government in its real sense, is very vital in the socio-economy polity of India, this is so because it is the nearest form of government to the common man in the observed rural settings everywhere. However, not every or much has been achieved by the way of development of rural area. Largely due to lack of focus administration of local government councils, if any are is in doubt of this assertion, then such a person perhaps may not have paused to ask for reason why almost rural villages lack good roads, electricity, school, health care centers and social amenities in which local government is not left out. What happen to all the resources been allocated to these local government areas?

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Local government are expected to carry out regional policies with respect to ameliorate poverty, unemployment etc. In the 21st century you may wish to imagine that living in most rural India is traumatic, if you care to observe, you will see men and women, boys and girls pursuing menial activity or task just to survive. Local government has undergone very numerous and constant reforms aimed at evolving a viable system that could serve the purpose of which local government is created. In essence, local government should be machinery for rural development and transformation, but research findings and empirical evidence have shown that most local government activities have not adequately mobilized the people for rural development activities.

The year 1976 was never a product of many years of socio-economic and political changes. It further makes a watershed when the whole country acquired a uniform provision in its local government system. Hence, policies and strategies are made for implementation as a means to an end. Therefore, local government administration should be a strategy for socio-economic and political development. From below show that all resources at the disposal of the country can be effectively and efficiently tapped to achieve and accelerate basic needs. It is through this system that basic and necessary facilities are provided which are geared towards improving and changing living conditions in the rural areas. In fact, majority of the population are left disorganized.

Consequently, local government is a form of devolution of power of state. It is the government of the grass root which is designed to set up as an instrument to rural development or transformation. From ideological perspective, local government foster the principle of democracy as local government brings government nearer to the people and if properly designed it goes to mass participation of people in the process of government.

Thus, local government is designed to achieve its goals, that is, multi-dimensional goals of economic, social and political development. For local government to achieve its goals, it should be appropriately organized/structured, adequately funded and sufficiently staffed with well qualified and consciously trained and motivated, competent and educated personnel.

Furthermore, local government in India started when her politician assumed leadership of regional legislative under colonial reforms that's led to regional self-

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government in the 1950. The instituted reform that gradually transformed local government authority from traditional rulers to elected representatives in the process; they created vacuum and space for political participation for local elites especially western educated elites who hither to played little or no role in local governance.

In addition to this, local governments in India have undergone very numerous and constant reforms aimed at evolving a viable system that could suit the purpose of which local government is created. Before the advent of colonial administration various traditional political communities in Indian were governed through the instrumentalities of their traditional political institution. In the Northern part of Indian, the Hausa/Fulani operated as highly centralized hierarch leally organized authoritarian large Feale state and were ruled by powerful Emirs. The Yoruba of the western India had centralized freedom in which the who played constitutional role. The Igbo have fragmented and diffused autonomous local government, the council of elders shared in political authority with the Chief of the community.

In the light of this, local government should be a machinery tools for rural development, but research finding and empirical evidence seems to have shown that, most local government have not adequately mobilized the people for rural development activities. Consequently, this study will like to stress out the impact of local government on rural development and the way forward.

Similarly, the expediency of local government everywhere in the world stems from the need to facilitate development at the grassroots. The important of local government is a function of its ability to generate sense of belonging, safety and satisfaction among its populace. All forms of government regimes or political systems for ensuring national administration development and political efficiency are found in the concept and practice of local government. Whatever is the mode of government, integration, administration and development.

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### **What are some of the challenges faced by local government bodies?**

In India, though political decentralization has been successfully achieved through the establishment of local government bodies, the actual transfer of functions, finances, and functionaries to these institutions remains incomplete. This weakens the system and inhibits its proper functioning.

A Devolution Report, published by the Ministry of Panchayati Raj in 2015-2016 estimates the extent to which states have devolved functions, finances, and functionaries. It concludes that while certain states such as Kerala, Karnataka, and Maharashtra have transferred relatively more power to local bodies, real decentralization has a long way to go in India.

**Functional challenges:** The power to devolve functions to local governments rests with the state government. For a variety of reasons, states do not devolve adequate functions to local government bodies, severely affecting the system's efficiency and effectiveness. For instance, state governments have been known to create parallel structures for the implementation of projects around agriculture, health, and education—undermining areas for which local bodies are constitutionally responsible.

Additionally, many local bodies lack the support systems necessary to carry out their mandates. The 74th amendment requires a District Planning Committee to be set up in each district; so that the development plans prepared by the panchayats and urban local bodies can be consolidated and integrated. However, it was seen that District Planning Committees are non-functional in nine states, and failed to prepare integrated plans in 15 states.

**Financial challenges:** Devolving functions is meaningless without providing adequate funds to carry out said functions. After nearly 25 years of decentralization, local government expenditure as a percentage of GDP is only two percent—a number that is extremely low when compared to other major emerging economies such as China (11 percent) and Brazil (seven percent).

Most local bodies, both rural and urban are unable to generate adequate funds from their internal sources, and are therefore extremely dependent on external sources for



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funding. Studies show that around 80 percent to 95 percent of revenue is obtained from external sources, particularly state and central government loans and grants.

- State governments have not devolved enough taxation powers. Most states only permit local bodies to collect property taxes and water tariffs, but not land tax or tolls, which can provide more substantial revenues.

1. **Functionary challenges:** The capacity of local bodies to carry out their mandate is often circumscribed by the state government officials. Additionally, the secretariats of local governments are grossly under-staffed and under-skilled, and therefore unable to provide the required support to the elected body. Their capacities need to be further strengthened through training of existing personnel and the recruitment of new staff. Though local bodies are authorized to recruit staff, this is prevented by limited funding. India's local governance system needs to be empowered in all three areas to ensure that power truly rests with the people, not just on paper, but also in practice.

### 1.3. STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

The argument for giving increased attention to the problem of rural areas is pioneer and widely acceptable by scholars. It has become a tremendous and pretentious phenomenon in local government, since the government was expected to serve as effective instrument of rural development.

However, the level of effectiveness of local government in rural development would be affected try the following variables, finance, inadequacy of skilled workers, problems of participation and involvement.

Many people in the rural live on miserable low income; as a result, their standard of living is very poor. Apart from this, they do not have access to social amenities and other basic necessity of life such as water, electricity, roads, health care services etc.

Secondly, a low level of participation by the poor, even though the ultimate shareholders in the rural development efforts are the rural poor, all often they are derived a voice in the formulation, implementation and management of rural development programmes.

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Fourthly, absent of thorough knowledge of local system and the needs of rural people as well as grass root action research and service programme designed primarily to test how to plan and implement rural development programmes within the co-operation of recipient often made governments rural development efforts to fail.

Fifthly, the lack of political will and stability, there has been no continuity in rural development efforts in Nigeria state since independence. Each successive regime introduced its rural development programmes. Such programmes ends with the termination of the regime introduced it.

In addition, the rural areas are lacking so many things among which are good roads, good educations, good water supply and good health care system etc. these problems lootings about rural-urban drift which had created a myriad of socio-economy problems for both rural and urban centers. As a result of rural-urban migration, rural areas have been deprived of human resources, engage mostly in the agricultural sector, and have the low level of productivity. The aftermath of this scenario includes housing problems in cities, unemployment and increase in crime rate.

Furthermore, inadequacy of skilled workers is another major obstacle confronting much local government, same form few local council in Lagos state and perhaps, some Southern states, local government generally has experiencing death of skilled, technical and professional staff like qualified Engineers, medical Doctors, Accountants, Town planners, to mention but a few.

In the same vein, problem of participation and involvement is another obstacle of local government. For the past decades, more euphemistic phrases have been employed to justify people's participations at the grass roots. They includes: "Development from below", Bottom-up approach to the development", popular participation", bringing government closer to the people's etc. train all indication and corrections, research and physical observation have shown that there has been more hue and cry than action.

Similarly, misplaced priority poses another problem. Hardened and limited resources accrued to and raised by local government are always mismanaged. Priorities are misplaced, projects are done not accordingly or as demanded by the people but regrettably

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in line with selfish and agreement of the political leadership in collaboration with the senior bureaucratic at the local government level of administration.

The degree of external influence and intrusion in local government affairs by higher level of government is worrisome and needs to re-valuation. Situation where the state governor unconstitutionally dissolved the entire elected council's officers without proper investigation on spurious allegation is not good for the future of the local government administration in the country.

- a. Can embezzlement or misappropriation of funds by the official of the rural people contribute to the rural development of their areas?
  - b. Can the inflow of the rural people to the urban centers because of lack of social amenities bring about rural development?
  - c. How to carry the rural dwellers along with the modern trends of the development?
  - d. How to ensure full utilization of resources available to the local government?
- This research has the above as the statement of the problem. Majority of Indians live in the rural communities, which have failed to witness any significant development, despite the strategic positions the local governments occupy in the scheme of affairs. Poverty is endemic and a stark reality that people die from unpreventable ailment. Farming and tin mining, the main occupations of the people is declining and, the quality of primary education has fallen, health care delivery and access roads are in deplorable conditions.

Local government autonomy means that the local government is elected at the local level and operated independently of the state and federal government. The local government is no longer an appendage or field office of the state government. But in India today, local government lack autonomy as a result of interferences by both the state and the federal governments. They lack the freedom to make their own laws, rules and regulations, formulate, execute and evaluate their own plans and the right to recruit, promote, develop and discipline its own affairs.

Over the years efforts have been made to reform the local government system and to increase the participation of the people. Despite these reforms there are problems with the local government system. However, some of the problems associated with Jos South

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Local Government Area are peculiar to some of the problems of local government in India. These problems include among other things like insufficient funding or poor financial base to exercise complete independence in the provision of social services, lack of adequate human, material and financial resources both in terms of quantity and quality to carry out its own activities, corruption and poverty mismanagement of funds and lack of autonomy. In spite of development place India which dates back as far as 1946, local governments in India are still underdeveloped.

### **1.4. RESEARCH QUESTIONS**

In order to achieve meaningful result from this research, the following research questions have been formulated as a guide to the research and shall be examined:

- a. Does the performance of Local Government Area in the field of rural development measures up to its legal responsibilities?
- b. Does weak financial base, limits the capacity of Local Government Area to meet its goal in rural development?
- c. Does morale among the staff of Local Government Area militates against the realization of its rural development responsibilities?

### **1.5 OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY**

- a. To know the performance of Local Government Area in the field of rural development.
- b. To improve the weak financial base which limits the capacity of Local Government Area to meet its goal of rural development?
- c. To see how Local Government Area has helped in economic development. Since it is conviction of the Federal Military Government as emphasized in the guidelines for the Local Government, the objective of this study is also based on Federal Government Objectives. The study sought to investigate the roles and functions of Jos South Local Government Area in the development of rural areas and to identify and proffer solutions to some of the fundamental problems challenging the development of rural areas

Specifically, the study intends to achieve the following aims and objectives:

1. To evaluate the role of Jos South Local Government Area in rural development.
2. To examine the organic relationship between local government and rural development.

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3. To make a critical appraisal of the performance of Jos South local government council between 2008-2014 in relation to rural transformation.
4. To identify the constraints militating against the performances of Local Government in the development of rural areas.
5. To analyze the prospect for Indian local government in the light of this investigation and coherently recommend ways for more effective and vibrant administration and management of local government in India.

The result of such an empirical research would place us in advantageous position to inquire whether the Local Government has achieved any significant level of economic development at the grassroots level of development. We will look into the problem hindering such goal attainment.

This research is to find out the performance of the Local Government in the surprised role which it should play, e.g building of roads, maintenance of maternity home and markets etc.

### **1.6 SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY**

The significance of this research is for its outcome to throw more light on the problem facing Local Government in the area of economic growth:

- a. To ascertain solution to these problems. We also hope that the result will be of interest to policy makers on the country.
- b. It is also intended to be beneficial to the residents and indigence of Indian Local Government who are the target group of the economic development activities of the Local Government, who may be ignorant of the problems facing the Local Government.
- c. Finally, a critical and careful observation into this research work will further help disclose the factors responsible for a go slow in rural development in Indian Local Government and possible ways of tackling such problems. The important aspect of this research work is that, local governments in India today has failed in diverse ways in the provision of social services to the local people thereby rendering the development of rural

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areas impossible. However, the essence of this research work is to provide enlightenment and to educate the people on the need for rural development. The study will help immensely in guiding the local government policy makers to make better decisions for rural development in rural areas.

Thereafter, this study is to provide an insight in which local people will be able to participate in the politics of their communities and to educate the people on the roles and duties they should play in the development of their locality. Thereafter, this research is beneficial to the researchers, students, Jos South LGC.

This work is important due to the fact that it will go a long way to provide literature material and propel further research in relation to the problems of local government and rural development in India.

### **1.7 SCOPE OF THE STUDY**

The area to be covered by this research work is limited to Indian Local Government with its headquarters at Kings Square, Benin City.

The research intends to critically examine the role of the Local Government in rural development of in the local area as well as Edo state at large.

### **1.8 LIMITATION OF THE STUDY**

During the conduct of this research work, some factors posed as constraints to the determined efforts of the research to carry out the research study to such a depth and in such a manner that it ought to have been carried out judging from its relevance to management, such factors include:

- a. **Management Restriction:** management more often than now allow access to information that are considered very confidential in nature like detail information of organization of the organizational corporate profile. As a result of the restrictions the author was able to work with only the information that he has access to.

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- b. **Time Constraint:** Time is also another factor that acts as hindrances in carrying out this research study. This is as a result of the fact that other things were still being attended to in the course of carrying out this research work.
  
- c. **Financial Constraint:** money also acts as a problem in the conduct of the research work. Traveling expenses were incurred in getting the materials for the research work. Also incurred, were expenses for the typing and distribution, building and a lot of other expenses.