

PUBLIC POLICY AND INFRASTRUCTURAL DEVELOPMENT IN ANAMBRA STATE: A STUDY OF OBIANO ADMINISTRATION 2014 - 2020

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ABSTRACT

Despite Anambra State witnessing so many administrations thus, their policies in various sectors have had poor implementation and investment in some areas of infrastructural development which could be a bane of the vision of the state to achieve development and better the living standard for the people. Therefore, it is against this backdrop, that this study investigates the “Public Policy and Infrastructural Development in Anambra State, a study of Obiano Administration”. The study adopted Systems Theory by David Easton, as the theoretical framework of analysis. Descriptive survey research design was used. The study used both primary and secondary sources of data collection while; questionnaires, observation, textbooks, journals, newspapers among others were the instruments used for data collection. The findings of the study revealed that public policy has enhanced infrastructural development but not in all sectors; and poor cross sectoral policy integration, institutional weakness; political instability; lack of professionals; bribery and corruption among others are the identified factors impeding the effective implementation of public policy on infrastructural development in Anambra state. The study concluded that the effective implementation of public policy has enhanced the infrastructural development in some, instead of all sectors of development; the infrastructural development has only improved in areas like road and transport, education and health sectors in the state but, has done little or nothing in environmental protection, sanitation, general security and protection of lives and properties in Anambra state under Obiano administration. The study recommended among others that good governance help to ensure economic and political stability in the state; ensuring project and programme continuity; recruitment of professionals and qualified policy makers; establishment of appropriate institutions and agencies to execute/implement development policies and programmes among others in the state.



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1. INTRODUCTION

Public policy most often, are either meant to fail from the beginning or failed midway for so many reasons. Thus, public policy is not only the question of how and whether these infrastructural development should be able contribute to the well-being of the wider society (in addition to its expected economic benefit), but also the questions of the purpose and the scope of such policy. Governments however face a major challenge ensuring that public sector projects are in line with public policy. This is because more than often, an assessment of public policy is not based on any clear commercially oriented transactional exchange between the government and the public. The public policy test examines whether the objectives of such projects will meet or contribute to societal needs. Underlying this ‘public policy’ consideration is not only the question of how and whether these projects should be able contribute to the well-being of the wider society (in addition to its expected economic benefit), but also the questions of the purpose and the scope of such policy. Infrastructure development projects are increasing being assessed as to whether they are in line with the needs, aspirations and priorities

of the public. Infrastructure development can be achieved by mobilizing the pace of natural, social and human resources management. The contribution of infrastructure to an economy, especially its road, health education and environment etc. cannot be over-emphasized.

Public policy failures have affected the infrastructure development in Anambra state despite the enormous material resources at her disposal to become a great and prosperous state. For quite some time, so many administrative policies and programmes, enunciated by the past administration, failed to achieve the desired objectives. Many times, the policies and programmes are either never executed half way or are jettisoned due to 'inbuilt failure' or by sheer deliberate failure. As a result, the citizens and the entire state suffer from the policy failures to the detriment of the general infrastructural development in the state. However, the deplorable situation of most of the infrastructural facilities as well as their lack of maintenance tend to go against these values of infrastructure, mostly due to inadequate funding from government for maintenance of these facilities, careless use, vandalization, corruption, and delays in construction. Poor infrastructure leads to underdevelopment and low productivity. Thus, this systematic decay in the infrastructure sectors in Anambra State is contributory to the instability and poor growth in the state economy. Critical infrastructures; road, education, health, power, environment have posed great challenges in the state. The lack of these basic amenities also has a direct impact on the daily activities of people. While attempts have been made to resuscitate these sectors, much success has not been achieved and these attempts have not reflected positively on the state. Regardless of whose responsibility to provide infrastructure services and to fund the infrastructure development, it becomes a priority for the state government to encourage infrastructural development in different sector.

The past administrations in Anambra state has embarked on all kind infrastructural development strategies in various sectors across the state. These attempts are usually marred by non-implementation, mismanagement, corruption, illegal award of contracts and contract cancellations by governments all of which constitute the basis of the problem of lack of basic infrastructure in the state. The gaps between policies and their implementation can be huge, with vast informal economies in many developing countries providing the most palpable evidence. Governments need to bridge these gaps and address deeper sources of policy failure that can undermine a sustainable infrastructural development. Lack of basic infrastructural facilities shows that a country or state can be categorized as underdeveloped or left behind by progress and modernization. Over the years, the Anambra state government policies on infrastructural development have been embattled with so many problems. These problems are encountered even from the policy formulation stage to the implementation stage. The implementation of public policies has been the major problem of various or successive administration. This could be attributed to the inability of the government to produce adequate number of policy scientists and policy professionals needed to improve the quality of policy making and implementation in Nigeria. Many public policies are either poorly or not fully implemented and as such the desired impact on the lives of the people are not created and felt.

However, Obiano administration has suffered a severe blow, the roads in the state have become death traps, old roads are not maintained and new ones are not constructed, at a time in recent past. Many hospitals, especially the primary health centres, and the General Hospitals were seen not to be beautifully performing their medical functions to the good people of Anambra state, i.e. most of the hospitals and primary health centres have become shadows of their usual selves. Thus, the schools in the state are in poor conditions because of lack of learning materials and facilities which is affecting the teaching and learning across the higher institutions, secondary and primary schools in the state. This is a result of dearth of skilled manpower, political rivalry, insufficient/unreliable data, and institutional weakness, lack of project continuity/control, inadequate definition of goals, lack of consultation, bribery and corruption among other problems that impedes the effective implementation of public policy in general. Therefore, it is based on the above stated problems that the study examines public policy and infrastructural development in Anambra state with a focus on Obiano administration between 2014 to 2020.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Public Policy and Infrastructural Development Examined

Exploring what precisely is meant by the concept of "Public policy" according to scholarly perspectives (Fimyar, 2014; Plunkett, 2016) posit that public policy justifies the transfer of what should be the public sectors infrastructure provision responsibility to the people and private sector. 'Public policy' is characterized by ambiguity (Gibson, 2008; Hollander, 2016). What is meant by public policy has not only historically been unclear but continues to remain so (Hollander, 2016). In general usage, the term policy designates the behaviour of some actor or set of actors, such as an official governmental agency, or a legislature, in an area of activity such as public transportation or consumer protection. Public policy also may be viewed as whatever governments choose to do or not to do. Public policy has variously been described in western legal circles as an unruly 'horse' (Arfazadeh, 2002). Ikelegbe (2006) opined that a policy is "a course of action or a programme of actions, which is chosen from among several alternatives by certain actors in response to certain problems".

In the Middle East, it has been described as an unruly camel (Blanke, 2012). As a concept, public policy is not a determinate single phenomenon, but reflects a process with numerous decision points and participants (Greenberg et al. 1977). In the United Arab Emirates (UAE Federal Law 11 of 1992), public policy is defined as matter “relating to personal status such as marriage, inheritance, and lineage, and matters relating to systems of government, freedom of trade, the circulation of wealth, rules of individuals ownership and the other rules and foundations upon which society is based, in such a manner as not to conflict with the definitive provisions and fundamental principles of the Islamic Sharia”. This definition gives the appearance that matters deemed to engage UAE public policy are wide and varied (Almutawa & Maniruzzaman 2014). For this reason, public policy is impacted by a wide range of economic, social and political factors (Burstein, 2018).

On the other hand, infrastructure development has become a much debated concept since scholars from various countries have utilized the aspect of infrastructure development as a parameter and index to measure the ability of each country to complete globally. Thus, “infrastructure” is the combination of two word ‘infra’ mean below ‘Structure’ mean form and development means to bring the change of structure. This French word mainly has been used in English science at least 1927. It means “sub-grade” (the native material underneath a constructed pavement or railway). NATO has been used this word science 1940s and was then adopted by urban planner in its modern civilization. So infrastructure development means to bring the change social organizational, personal or natural into modern facilities. The word infrastructure has been used in English since at least 1927 according to Online Etymology Dictionary (2012), originally meaning “The installations that form the basis for any operation or system”. Infrastructure in developing countries connotes roads and transport infrastructures. The advent of telecommunication infrastructure in Nigeria brought infrastructure to the front seat as the products and services necessary for the performance of an entity (Sijapati, 2007).

It can be generally defined as the set of interconnected structure elements that provide supporting frameworks an entire structure of development. It is important key for checking a country, district, state and regions development. The term refers to the structure that supports a society development, Such as transportations, household, electricity, micro-industry, drinking water supplier’s project and communication. It also refers the physical components of interrelated systems that provide commodities and services access to enable, sustains or reachable to the societal living conditions. Infrastructure can be described generally as the set of interconnected structural elements that provide framework supporting an entire structure of development. It is the means of achieving an objective or set of objectives and also includes the objectives. It is an important term for judging a country, region or state’s and individual’s developments/status. The term typically refers to the technical structures that support a society, such as roads, water supply, sewers, electrical national grids, telecommunications, and so forth, and can be defined as “the physical components of interrelated systems providing commodities and services essential to enable, sustain, or enhance societal living conditions” (Fulmer, 2009).

2.1.1 Overview of Obiano Infrastructural Development in Anambra State

Obiano administration was inaugurated in the State on 17 March 2014. His administrative plan has been to follow the vision and mission which provides the direction for effective public policy and strategies to be implemented for infrastructural and socio-economic development of the State over the period of his administration. He also communicates to the general public, the private sector and international development partners the direction of development as proposed by the government, the potentials of Anambra economy and society and the role all stakeholders could play to participate in the development process. Hence, in seven years and some months Obiano has constructed roads and bridges that seemed impossible due to erosion and poor geographical locations. He has empowered and continues to finance the Anambra Road Maintenance Agency (ARMA) and they have been busy fixing roads across the state. Apart from the three flyovers in Awka, the government has equally completed many bridges, including Nengom Odene, Iyiora, Umueje, SARS-Nando, Nzam Aguleri Uno to Aguleri Otu among others.

However, Obiano administration through the activities of Anambra State Community and Social Development Agency (AN-CSDA) has implemented and executed so many projects and programmes in the state which have a great impact and have raised the peoples’ standard of living through constructions of both minor and major projects. The AN-CSDA is a Federal Government of Nigeria and Anambra state established agency in collaboration with the World Bank. This is in the quest towards achieving Sustainable Development (SDGs 2030). However, as contained in the Anambra State Development Plan (ANS DP), this is a blueprint for the economic, social, physical and financial transformation of the State. The section on delivering public goods describes the policy thrusts in the major sectors in the State, the expected outcomes and the targets to be delivered. The overarching goal of the plan is to ensure broad based wealth creation and employment generation in order to achieve sustainable infrastructural development, poverty reduction through the enhancement of human capacities and livelihood. Therefore, the main thrust of Obiano administration policy on infrastructural development will be assessed under this vital sectors of development i.e. roads and transports, health, education and environment among others.

2.1.1.1 Road and Transportation

Although the primary responsibility of every government is the safeguard of people and property within the geopolitical enclave under its authority, the top prominence of road infrastructure in the indices for measuring development and good governance is undebatable. This is more so in our politico-economic clime where the heavy clamour for roads as civilizing agents makes a huge demand on the government. It is commonly held that Anambra posts the best spread of paved road network in the country. Obiano administration has creditably demonstrated responsiveness to the people's yearnings for good roads. In his determination to expand the frontiers of good governance in the state therefore, the governor, recognizing the efforts of his immediate predecessors to serviceable roads in the state, set out early to raise the stake. A close look at Obiano's pattern of intervention on roads shows a strategic deployment of energies in the different sections of the road and ecological needs of the state. The governor deploys enormous energy in the maintenance of virtually all of the already existing roads and bridges some of whose fast rate of deterioration if left unchecked would have easily reversed the tale of good roads in state. While the Anambra Road Maintenance Agency, ARMA, busies itself with the huge demands of road maintenance, filling potholes and effecting patches across the state. Some of the projects that make the list of Gov Obiano's strategic roads are actually virgin roads that tear through fields, thick bushes and across rivers to connect some Anambra communities at the extremities of the state which, before the road projects found them, had minimal or no contact with civilization.

The main thrust of policy on road infrastructure is to improve the roads network in the state through continued construction of new roads and bridges and rehabilitation of existing ones as well. Therefore, there is need for increased accessible road network across the State for inter-city and intra-community transportation and access to major economic investments; improved facilities for water transportation; the construction of Anambra state cargo airport. Airport and air transportation facilities developed to support strategic economic (ANSDP, 2020). The 43 kilometre road stretching from Aguleri-Uno to Aguleri-Otu to Mkpu-Nando exemplifies such critical interventions. This project includes a long completed 280 meter bridge that crosses Omambala River. Added to this critical intervention on road is the 11.2 kilometer road, with a completed bridge, from Umueje in Ayamelum to the oil fields in Aguleri-Otu. The Umueje and the Aguleri-Uno to Aguleri-Otu bridges are most significant as they provide easy access through Anambra State to the oil fields in the state which hitherto could only be accessed through Enugu and Kogi States. These bridges and roads save the state the erstwhile burden of explaining why the other states who provided access to the states wealth should not be partakers in harnessing it. Some other roads meant to locate farmers and other economic interests as to propagate civilizing culture and modernity in the hard to reach areas like Ifite-Ogwari, Omor to Umumbo, Ogwuaniocha, Oroma-Etiti to Onono, Mmiata to Nzam, Achina to Onne etc. Some of these communities were easier accessed by water through Delta, Kogi and River States.

The administration has completed the six bridges it inherited from the past administration; it awarded 20 bridges out of which 8 have been completed and 12 are ongoing. The administration has 77 roads in Anambra North Senatorial Zone, 72 in Anambra Central and 53 in Anambra South, a good number of which are completed while some others are ongoing. Many of the ongoing road projects have their drainages, culverts and greater percentage of the work already in place. Rehabilitation of washed off Federal roads. This is exemplified in the Okija section of the Onitsha-Owerri Road that was almost cut off by very deep gully erosion, and the timely intervention that saved the flyover at New Tarzan, Nkpor with the neighborhood from caving in to the ravages of gully erosion. Suffice this to the most recent intervention at the 100 foot road, Nnewi where an angry 35 meter gully wrecking the road and neighbourhood attracted the State Government's saving response. The Minaj, Obosi as well as the Onitsha Aroli-Obeleagu gully erosion devastations and the Government's quick salvaging presence is instructive. The State Government, using the Nigerian Army Engineers, is again rehabilitating the failed portion of the Federal road from Igbariam junction in Anambra East Local Government to Anaku in Ayamelum Local Government Area. The State Government is equally gradually addressing the Federal Government road to Ogwuikpele in Ogbaru Local Government Area. Apart from notable long stretches of intercity and inter community roads, equally of note are the many ancillary roads the administration has made in Awka, Onitsha, Nnewi, Ekwulobia, Nanka, Amichi, Ogidi, Abatete, Aguleri, Ichida, Adazi-Nnukwu, Agulu, Nnokwa, Nnobi, Azigbo, Ogbunike and indeed in most of the towns spread across the three Senatorial Zones of the state (The Nigerian Voice, 2020).

2.1.1.2 Education

Obiano administration has recorded impressive feats in education having built and equipped many schools and offered scholarships to students, recruited over 1000 new teachers, and introduced teaching-on-air programmes to contain the spread of Corona-Virus (Covid-19). The focus of policy on education is to continue to improve the quality of education at all levels to citizens to produce articulate and skilled manpower necessary for economic transformation of the State. The learning needs of all segments of society will be met through equitable access to appropriate Information, Communication Technology (ICT) skills, learning and life-skills programmes. This is to enable Anambra to retain its status as the state with the lowest illiteracy rate in Nigeria. Outcomes efforts of Obiano administrative policy on education will be directed at delivering an increased literacy rate; increased quality of early child care and education; improved quality of basic (primary and junior secondary schools) education; reduced boy-child school drop-out rate; increased

quality of science, technical and vocational education; increased ICT skills and knowledge; and increased quality of tertiary education (ANSDP, 2020).

Obiano administration has sustained capacity building in the education sector of the state. Obiano administration has provided the enabling environment as well as financial resources for capacity training of teachers in the state to equip them with the requisite skills for a 21st century technology as he was commended by UNIDO (Punch, 2019). Obiano administration has provided financial support worth about N714 million to Catholic and Anglican missions, to reconstruct and upgrade of the schools. A total of 733 mission schools spread across the state would benefit, which Catholic missions had 433 institutions, while the Anglicans had 300 schools. Apparently, in his commitment to upgrading facilities in all schools in the state, the Basilica of the Most Holy Trinity Catholic Church, Onitsha, and St. Andrew's Anglican Church, Nnewi on their schools were the beneficiaries. This was in line with the execution of projects under the Universal Basic Education, UBE 2015 Action Plan in the schools handed back over to the Catholic Church. Moreover, Obiano further presented a cheque for the sum of N150 million to the Church of Nigeria, Anglican Communion, for the upgrading, renovation, maintenance and equipping of Schools earlier handed back over to the mission by the state government. He made the presentation at the Cathedral Church of St John, Ekwulobia, Aguata Council of the state. The funds which is part of his administration's practical support towards its partnership with the Church in rebuilding mission schools, is for the execution of projects under the Universal Basic Education, UBE 2015 Action Plan. Obiano administration also disbursed N1.5 billion to other schools, including Public and select Private Schools across the state for the same purpose (National Daily, 2019).

Obiano had through a three point thrust in education- infrastructure, teachers' and students' welfare, given education in the state the best attention. Obiano administration has excelled in education, the governor has renovated schools, both at the primary and junior secondary levels and over a thousand classroom blocks have been provided across the 21 local government areas in the state. There has been increased in teachers' welfare packages like; increase in teachers' salary, paying of 20% of basic salary to teachers who are posted and retained in some difficult-to-access areas of the state, and also giving of stipends as incentives to teachers who teach core subjects. The clearing of the backlog of salaries, arrears and pensions owed teachers. Capacity building has been done for the teachers example of which is the Singapore trip where 23 teachers were selected to learn the Singaporean model of education. The case of medical students of Chukwuemeka Odumegwu Ojukwu University who had been there for 10 years, after graduation were given automatic employment (Vanguard News, 2016).

Under Obiano administration, it has been a silent revolution in the field of education anchored on improving education infrastructure, teachers' welfare, as well as students' well-being. In 2015 alone, barely one year plus into Obiano's first term in office as governor, over 1000 classroom blocks were renovated in the state. In 2016, Obiano administration embarked on massive renovation and rehabilitation programmes in 80 schools across the 21 Local Government Areas in the state. Obiano invested in 60 state-of-the-art science laboratories in secondary schools to facilitate studies across the state in the sciences and constructed over 720 classroom blocks in government-owned primary schools across all 21 LGs. This was aside other investments in the field of education, including the welfare of teachers and students. The government sustained the provision of incentives to teachers of the core subjects of Mathematics, Sciences and Igbo Language; and teachers that reside in hard-to-reach areas received 20% of their basic salaries as incentives. Similar incentives were also extended to teachers handling government-owned schools for the physically challenged in the state.

On assumption of office, none of the 11 technical colleges in the state had any sort of accreditation. But by 2016, the government pressed for and successfully secured National Board for Technical Education's (NBTE's) accreditation in nine key subjects in three of the state's 11 Government Technical Colleges (GTCs) located at Umueri, Nkpor and Umuchu, respectively. The government voted N3.48 billion for the education sector in 2017 to support the improvement of the welfare of teachers and students, as well as educational infrastructure. It continued to build on its record of the previous years to incentivize and deploy teachers to rural/hard-to-reach areas, finalized the retooling of Special Education Centres as well as provided grants and scholarships to exceptional students. Besides, the government had embarked on perimeter fencing of all public schools, beginning with Girls' schools to ensure adequate security. Speed boats and eight ambulances had been procured in river-line areas, with additional emoluments for teachers serving in those axes. Obiano built 80 free room blocks in seven communities for those teachers and encourage Girl-child education in Ayamelum, Anambra East, Anambra West and Ogbaru. To achieve this, we are building migrant schools in those areas, giving incentives to encourage their girls to go to school (The Sun, 2018).

2.1.1.3 Health

Although, the organization of health sector in Anambra is complex in nature, the State under the administration of Obiano has continued to lead in healthcare delivery which makes Anambra to be declared the most efficient State for healthcare. At the inception Obiano's government, He carried out strategic interventions that have pronounced the State as a leader in healthcare delivery, in the country. The effective community healthcare delivery and sustainable health system are among his priorities. The state having identified the challenges poised with inefficient health sector, it's funding

and development, has experienced a tremendous health growth under this administration. The major thrust of health policy is to improve access to healthcare and improve the efficiency of the healthcare delivery system. Obiano administrations provide community-oriented primary healthcare services and ensure the improvement of all health indicators in the State. This government has embarked on improved community health system with special attention to: reduced infant mortality rate; reduced maternal mortality rate; reduced prevalence rate of preventable diseases; reduced prevalence rate of HIV/AIDS; increased life expectancy rate; increased surveillance and prevention of deadly diseases, such as Ebola virus, Corona virus (Covid-19) etc. (ANSDP, 2020).

However, Obiano administration leave a legacy on health reforms in the State to reduce poverty among the people especially the poor and vulnerable while providing financial risk protection on health. He launched first Mobile Technology Health Insurance Platform (MTHIP) and Data Operations Centre (DOC) in Nigeria with funding from European Union and technical support from the World Health Organization. The highlight of the launch was the renewal of enrollment of Anambra State Governor, Chief Willie Obiano into the Anambra State Health Insurance Scheme (ANSHIS) and adoption of over 1,200 poor and vulnerable community members in different categories into the scheme by dignitaries, of which 355 came from the United Nations. (WHO, 2021). According to ASPHCDA (2021), Anambra State has achieved a lot in the health sector under Obiano administration. Thus, Obiano's Legacy in Anambra State Primary Healthcare Development Agency includes:

- a. The ASPHCDA has overseen the functionality of the 726 Primary Health centres across the state which won the state the World Bank Assessment Award for Nigeria on the best in Immunization in 2018.
- b. In line with the agenda of keeping the objectives of Primary Healthcare Under One Roof (PHCUOR) Policy of the Federal Government, Anambra State qualified for the Basic Health Care Provision Fund (BHCPF). This is 1% of the consolidated revenue of the federation to be shared among states and the agency, which has disbursed funds to 176 health facilities across the State for basic facility upgrade, procurement of medical and safety equipment, provision of essential drugs and consumables.
- c. The State Government through the Agency renovated and equipped 63 Primary Health Centres (3 per local government) in 2018. These facilities were given medical equipments, basic hospital furniture, Tricycle Ambulances, power generators and refrigerators.
- d. The Agency in collaboration with WHO and UNICEF were committed to Polio Eradication in the state which had an outbreak in February 21, 2020 with rapid response tagged "Outbreak Response Zero" for Onitsha South and Anambra East LGAs.
- e. In partnership with WHO and UNICEF, the Agency has successfully introduced Measles' second dose vaccination into Routine Immunization (RI).
- f. The Agency in order to ensure the state's readiness for further eventuality and response to the global Covid-19 pandemic, has sponsored the routine medical training of health workers at Primary healthcare and community levels.
- g. The Agency in collaboration with partner Agencies has successfully flagged off the modified Integrated Medical Outreach Program (mI-MOP). Thus, the Agency in collaboration with partner Agencies has continued to fight against Yellow fever.
- h. In order to ensure a total eradication of infant mortality and infectious diseases, the state has also launched the inclusion of Men A vaccine into routine immunization in order to prevent Meningitis infection in children under 5.
- i. In order to attain high level of satisfaction with quality of maternal health care among women utilizing maternal services and the need to strengthen interventions, the Agency has increased uptake of maternal health care services.

Obiano administration had on 18th December, 2018, signed the Disability Rights Bill into law, which was to protect PWDs against all forms of discrimination, intimidation and marginalization; appointed about seven persons with disabilities in the state into his cabinet, created an office for disability matters and appointed a special adviser on disability matters, as well as employed over 200 qualified PWDs into the state civil service in 2017 and 2020 respectively. "The inclusion of persons with disabilities in your 2021 budget speech and increasing budget provision to take care of the needs of persons with disabilities was deliberate not for any political reason. Obiano administration set up an approval for the Anambra State Disabilities Rights Law implementation Committee. Celebrating the people's major demand on this special is the establishment of Anambra Disabilities Rights Commission. This is to guarantee full implementation of the Anambra Disabilities rights Law 2018".

2.1.1.4 Environment

In other areas of infrastructural development that Obiano administration has recorded huge success was on environment. The focus of policy on environment is to ensure sustainable use of the environment and continuous management of environmental challenges such as pollution, degradation and gully erosion. Over the plan period, Obiano administration strive to mitigate potential environmental challenges from increased oil and gas and industrialization

activities as well as introduce and sustain new approaches to waste management and climate change mitigation activities, including control of deforestation activities and substantial afforestation initiatives. Generally, the environment infrastructural development is aimed at improved sustainability in the use of the environment; reduced environmental pollution and degradation; increased control of gully erosion; improved waste management system; improved sanitation system, improved access of electricity for industrial and household use as well as to rural communities in the State; reduced power outage through increased peak load; investments in the State; Improved facilities for fire-fighting services for commercial and industrial use and to ensure fire safety for residential, commercial and industrial premises among others. (ANSDP, 2020).

Obiano was first governor in the South East to sign into law, Open Government Partnership (OGP), a transparency and accountability threshold, which according to him, earned the administration humongous financial leap through the World Bank's States Fiscal Transparency, Accountability and Sustainability (SFTAS), and program-for-Results (PforR). Obiano administration attracted citing of Appeal Court at Awka, installation of CCTV at major towns across the state, established socio-economic outfit like the Anambra State Investment Promotion and Protection Agency, ANSIPPA and Anambra State Small Business Agency, ASBA; grew the state internally generated revenue, increased the workers' salaries, and enhanced agriculture. However, Obiano administration has allocated N20 million for Community Choose-Your-Project (an initiative aimed at citing choice infrastructural development across the 181 communities in the state), and introduction of Anambra State Community and Social Development Project (ANCSDA), a World Bank assisted initiative, which has delivered some micro infrastructure projects across the state. Generally, AN-CSDA has a total of sixty-two (62) beneficiary communities; seventeen (17) beneficiary Vulnerable Groups (VGs); fifty-nine (59) facilitated Community Development Plans (CDPs); eighteen (18) facilitated Group Development Plans (GDPs); two hundred and fifty (250) supported micro projects; two hundred and fifty (250) completed and functional micro projects; an estimated two million, five hundred and seventy-nine thousand, four hundred and fourty (2,579,440) beneficiary population which include nine hundred and fifty-seven, six hundred five direct beneficiaries (957,605); eighty-one (81) permanent jobs created and, three thousand six hundred temporary jobs (AN-CSDA-AF, 2021).

2.2 Theoretical Framework

This study adopted Systems Theory as the framework of analysis. The systems theory in political science owes its origin to David Easton, who is reputed to be the scholar that attempted to analyze politics from the perspective of systems, in his famous work, "Political system that appeared in 1953. His work, which was regarded as the foundation of the behaviorist revolution in political science outlined eight (8) major characteristics, which he described as the "intellectual foundation stones" of behaviouralism that include regularities, verification, techniques, quantification, values, systemization, pure science and integration. In disruptive change in notions of disruption, dissolution, breakdown systemic stress and strain over load or decay can be used (Verma, 1975). According to Dahl (1991) any collection of elements that interact in some way with one another can be considered a system, a galaxy, a football team, a legislature, a political party. David Easton in his believes that while the political system receives inputs from the environment in the form of demand and supports, it also produces outputs.

The ideological underpinning of this theory is that every system including political system, has subsystems which makes up the entire system and public policy is the output of the political system i.e. a political system is that system of interactions in any society through which binding or authoritative allocations are made and implemented in the form of policies and decisions. The output flows back into the environment through a feedback mechanism giving rise to fresh demands. Demands are the raw materials from which finished products (decisions) are manufactured. Supports are the energy in the forms of actions or orientations enabling the political system to convert the demands into authoritative decisions and policies. However, forces generated in the environment which affect the political system is seen as the inputs. The environment in any condition is defined as external to the boundary of the political system. On the other hand, outputs of the political system are authoritative value allocation of the system, and then allocations constitute public policy. The input and output analysis of any political system is of the essence. Therefore, a political system is said to obtain its inputs (demands, supports, liberty or autonomy, cooperation, criticisms, resources, information, direct labour etc.) from the environment. These inputs are what the subsystems employ to discharge their responsibilities, so that the political system can send out its outputs into the environment and obtain further inputs for its operations.

There is a feedback mechanism through which the political system gets information about state of things in the system from the environment and structures of the system. This feedback could lead to future modification of the system. Thus, going by the concept of the feedback mechanism, public policies (outputs) can sometimes alter the environment and the demand generated therein as well as the character of the political system itself. The political system ideally should use demands as a guide towards decisions on policies and programmes while supports enable it to achieve its goals. However, since, the system cannot contain all types of demands, so as to prevent over load and stress, the structural mechanisms like political parties and pressure groups assumes the role of gate keepers who distill and allow only legitimate demands to enter the system. Secondly, cultural mechanisms will ensure that only the right type of demands that enjoy social approval will be encouraged. Thirdly, communication channels can be increased to ensure a smooth flow of excessive demands

into the system. Fourthly, demands may be controlled in the conversion process itself through the legislative, executive and administrative organs of government that are responsible for processing demands. When a system can no longer contain stress and it gets to a critical stage and remains at that level for some time, it may precipitate changes in the form of a revolution and it may lead to a destruction of the entire political system.

System theory has some shortcomings that gave room for its criticism. First, even though it talks about input-output, it does not explain what goes on in the conversion process. An analyst may want to know, the forces or factors that are at play in the political black box so as to explain the underlying reasons behind particular policies. The theory offers very limited theoretical explanations in this regard. Also, by trying to make public policies a response to demands by the people, it tends to obscure the fact that most public policies are made to favour the elites instead of on a better infrastructural development facilities that will benefit the people (group). In fact, the elites on some occasions manipulate public opinion to reflect their interest, while making it appear to be the opinion of the generality of people.

2.3 Theory Application

From the systematic theory point of view, it is advisable to distinguish between the effects public policy and the determinants of infrastructure development, specifying each approach by the category of infrastructure under investigation. The effects of an infrastructure category, for instance material infrastructure, refer to its impacts on demographic and economic variables. Within this framework, it would lead too far to discuss in detail the effects and the determinants of institutional, personal and material infrastructure. However, provision of institutional infrastructure is considered to be a task of the state. Thus, private agents or organizations, in principle, are taken to be responsible for supplying personal infrastructure and material infrastructure.

The systems theory has been found useful in the study of public policies. First, it tends to show that public policies are not made from the vacuum, that they are products of the demands from the environment. Thus, it tends to situate environmental factors as being very important in the policy process. The theory is also very useful in comparative analysis, as it helps to compare the policy making process in different countries in terms of the response of the political system to the demand of its environment. We can then be in a better position to understand the difference between developing and developed nations in terms of the public policy process. Also, an adequate understanding of the concepts developed under the general systems theory, enriches our study of not only public policy analysis but of political science in general.

The theory is relevant to this study because it creates an understanding in explaining how every social system works and thus on the public policy and infrastructural development in Anambra state under Obiano administration. Organizations or social systems are made up of several interdependent and interrelated parts which works together to accomplish a set goal. Every organization or social group has certain basic needs or requirements which must be provided for their peaceful co-existence and survival. In this case, Anambra state as a political system under the administrative policies of Obiano administration demands good public policies that are geared towards achieving not only infrastructural development but a sustainable one in all sectors of development within the state. It is expected that when there is adequate provision of infrastructural development (output) in Anambra state, which is as a result of peoples demand (input), that's when to applaud the effective implementation of the Obiano administration. However, the systems theory is seen to be very relevant because it helps in governance and policy administration towards achieving or providing a good conducive environment by implementation and execution of programmes and projects that will bring infrastructural development in the state. It also helps administration to envisage the boundaries of their organizations and the ways in which sub-systems within a system interact with one another.

3. SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

The study shows that; public policy implementation of public policy has played significant roles on the enhancement of infrastructural development with policies on; integrating the already existing infrastructures and encouraged new social policies to secure adequate housing, health care, good and quality education, public transport facilities etc; attracted donor and foreign aid from developed countries, international organizations, federal government and private investors to stimulate economic growth and employment; addressed the politico-administrative issues to improve the relations with citizens, with better and more efficient services, securing integrity and transparency through good governance in the state; and made an optimal balance for political and economic case by initiating a long term public and private organization involvement in infrastructural development in Anambra state under Obiano administration. Thus, the public policy has not enhanced infrastructural development in the areas of making cross-sectoral policy integration that aimed at achieving environmental sustainability through regular sanitation, protection and securing the responsible use the state natural resources and internal generated revenue and on policy that defends, promote security of lives, secure public and private properties, fight crime, secure law and order in Anambra state under Obiano administration. Therefore, it means that not all the public policy has been effectively implemented towards the enhancement of infrastructural development in Anambra state under Obiano administration i.e. some of the policies made has a significant impact while some policies failed to make a significant impact on infrastructural development in Anambra state under Obiano administration.

However, the study also shows that; road infrastructural development has improved standard of living on transport facilities through continued construction and maintenance of new road networks, bridges, culverts and rehabilitation of the existing ones, provided buses for easy transport as well building airport in the state; sustained capacity building in the education sector by providing enabling environment for teaching and learning, equipped schools, provided technical and vocational education, offer scholarship, recruit and train qualified teachers and improved community health system to reduce the infant and maternal mortality; prevalence rate of preventable diseases like malaria, polio, HIV/AIDS, Corona virus (Covid-19) etc. Thus, the infrastructural development has not improved the standard of living on the environmental sustainability by reducing the rate of pollution and degradation; increased control of gully erosion; improved waste management and sanitation system, provided facilities for fire-fighting services and equipped and maintained a good, strong and vibrant vigilante group and other national security bodies like police to fight and reduce crime rate to ensure public and private safety of lives and properties in Anambra state under Obiano administration. Therefore, it implies that; the infrastructural development has improved in areas like road and transport, education and health sectors in the state but, has done little or nothing in environmental protection, sanitation, general security and protection of lives and properties in Anambra state under Obiano administration. Finally, the findings of the study indicated that, poor cross sectoral policy integration and managing interdependencies; poor coordination, programming and management across levels of government and institutional weakness; lack of continuity and integration of existing infrastructure as a result of political instability; lack of professionals and skilled policy making officers; bribery and corruption as a result of embezzlement and misappropriation of funds impedes the effective implementation of public policy on infrastructural development in Anambra state.

4. CONCLUSION

Public policy failures are hindrances to the progress of the country. Policies need to be properly formulated and must as well be properly monitored so as to avoid failures. This is because the failure of public policies, to a large extent, is a failure of government and governance. The people's welfare ought to be anchored on public policies in order to improve on their standard of living. Thus, good and high standard of living is one of the essences of human existence and the existence and purpose of government at all levels. The failure of public policies to achieve good sustainable and infrastructural development speaks volumes of government, especially on the negative aspect. Proper care should be taken to avoid policy failures; else the government would never gain the trust of the people because government exists for the people. Public policy implementation is always the problem of the Anambra state government and other state government across the country.

Infrastructure development is the basis of measuring the performance of any democratic leader and it is the foundation of good democratic governance. Infrastructure is the medium, the tools and techniques of a project or programme or strategy. Demand for infrastructural development is higher and resources used in provision of infrastructure are limited. The challenges are many but any serious government can overcome them as a result of good policy, incessant research and development in infrastructure development worldwide. The challenges of infrastructure development in Anambra state are many as the demand surpasses the supply and finance that will stimulate rapid provision is not there. Due to wide gap between provision and needs, the leadership classes are in arrears in all sectors. The political and economic situation is not quite encouraging to foreign investors. The state has a good environment and resources to spread out and connect with the people of Nigeria with roads, National Grid and potable water will be tasking. High cost of materials for infrastructure development is also a challenge. The local content of production of goods and services must be increased to reduce production cost.

Corruption level in Anambra state and Nigeria as a whole is too high and allows incompetent hands to handle contracts. Professionals are not allowed to handle projects due to corruption. The cost of governance and recurrent expenditure are so high leaving little for capital expenditure. The high level of unemployment is a dis-incentive to market and to capital development. Finally, though the impact of public policy on infrastructure development in Anambra state. It has been found very significant under Obiano administration; it has revealed the very fact that Anambra state should adopt a critical attitude on it. Infrastructure development moves any state or society forward and plays a vital role for the socio-economic development of a state.

Therefore, this study concluded that the effective implementation of public policy has enhanced the infrastructural development in some, instead of all sectors of development in Anambra state under Obiano administration. Thus, the infrastructural development has only improved in areas like road and transport, education and health sectors in the state but, has done little or nothing in environmental protection, sanitation, general security and protection of lives and properties in Anambra state under Obiano administration. Finally, poor cross sectoral policy integration and managing interdependencies; poor coordination, programming and management across levels of government and institutional weakness; lack of continuity and integration of existing infrastructure as a result of political instability; lack of professionals and skilled policy making officers; bribery and corruption as a result of embezzlement and misappropriation of funds are the identified factors that impedes the effective implementation of public policy on infrastructural development in Anambra state.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

Therefore, on the basis of the research findings, the study made the following recommendations that;

Over the years, various governors have managed the state affairs with different policies, Obiano administration have proffered different solutions on how to improve the infrastructure development of the state economy. As earlier stated, most of the solutions are similar; rather the problem is usually with implementation rather than the knowledge of the issues and recommendations as to what to do. Hence, most of the suggested recommendations for the present and upcoming administration have also been put forward by this study including the policy advocacy department of the Nigerian Investment Promotion Commission, the Bureau of Public Enterprises as well as the National Planning Commission.

However, the state government does not set the priority right in formulating public policies on infrastructure development. Thus, projects are supposed to meet objectives, but in most cases, projects embarked upon are huge and unrealistic projects. Therefore good governance will be the only antidote that can bridge the wide gap. As good governance will help to promote accountability, transparency, reduces corruption and therefore minimizes resource wastage through inefficiency. Good governance will also help to ensure stability (economic and political) and reduces the level of risk associated with large and lumpy infrastructure investments in the state. This in turn facilitates the mobilization of both public and private sector financing resources that are critical for infrastructure development. There is need to ensure a must continuity policy on the already existing benefiting projects and programmes. Periodical change in regime and administration should never be allowed to affect public policy and development projects and programmes or else it would be a barrier to the improvement of the standard of living or lives of the people. Government is a continuum therefore; there is need for the integration and continuation with the already existing infrastructure.

Nevertheless, there is need for the Anambra State Government and policy making experts/professionals to avoid any form of nepotism, favoritism, parochial and primordial interests when making and implementing development policies and programmes in the state. This is one of the bane of policy failures in the state. Government should be involved the regular monitoring and evaluation in road and transportation, education, health, environment among other sector, with private sector to encourage the investment in the infrastructure development activities in the state. Local environment should be protected and a better microclimate situation should be created within the study area. Locally available natural resources and manpower that are available in community area within the state should be mobilized and utilized more efficiently and effectively.

The Anambra State Government should make adequate, proper structures and, ensure the recruitment of qualified professional machineries i.e., policy making experts should always be put in place to ensure proper implementation of policies in the state while, ensuring maximum utilization of the local resources and manpower in the infrastructure development sector. Thus, there is need for the establishment of appropriate institutions and agencies to implement development policies and programmes. Policies must always be properly funded for successful implementation. There should be a proper accountability, transparency and participatory governance in the administrative system and practices i.e. people should be engaged in the participation, maintenance, control and use of the public projects for longevity. Therefore, there should be a uniform and unbiased formulation and implementation of policies and programmes that will be geared towards attaining infrastructural development in the state especially in the post Obiano administration (i.e. upcoming administration).

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