
Examining local government service performance: an experiential observation of public health sector in Nigeria & England

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Keywords

Local Government Councils, Nigeria, England, Service Performance.

Abstract

The purpose of this paper is to examine Local Government Service performance in Nigeria in comparism with England, specifically in its public health sector. The study sampled 5 health care centers in Rivers State of Nigeria and West Yorkshire of England. The study found that local government service effectiveness in Nigeria is hindered by factors such as corruption; the political dynamics; local government dependency; Lack of qualified health workers and poor health education. These factors have hindered the third tier of government in Nigeria from delivering quality health care services to its citizenry when compared with the effectiveness of Local government performance in the England where free medical care is provided by the local councils which has helped in eliminating mortality rate; polio and other related health diseases in keeping with MDG's. Furthermore, the study found certain factors that has empowered Local councils in England to deliver optimally, this include local council autonomy through the UK Act of Parliament; which empowers the Councils to generate and appropriate its resources to carter for the health need of its citizens, etc. Consequently, the study concludes that Local government councils in Nigeria have failed in the health care sector when compared to their counterparts in England. Therefore it is recommended for the Nigerian parliament to enact a law granting autonomy to the Local Government Council and increase its funding, so that they can develop policies and programs that will affect the people positively. If implemented Nigeria will be on the pathway to attaining the long evangelized MDG as well as reduction of corruption.
