

THE PROBLEMATIC OF PUBLIC POLICY IMPLEMENTATION IN DELTA STATE

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ABSTRACT

The study investigated the interplay between public policy and its implementation in Delta State. The descriptive survey design was used for the study. The structured questionnaire was used as the main instrument of data collection. A sample of four hundred (400) was drawn for the study using simple random and convenience sampling technique. The method of data analysis included the use of mean and standard deviation and Student T-Test statistical techniques. The study found out that there is a significant difference between public policy and implementation in Delta State. It was recommended that the government should make concerted efforts to ensure that social empowerment programmes benefit the masses for which they were intended. This is through ensuring that they are handled in ways that make it difficult for elites to have access to them. Also, it was recommended amongst others that there should be a policy framework to tackle issues of pro-rich approach in order to ensure that wealthy people do not circumvent due process and hijack supposedly pro-poor programmes. This is by making the process transparent and objective for the common man to participate. Also, there should be specific targets and means of actualizing these targets so that the programmes can be void of corruption.

Keywords: Public Policy, Policy Formulation, Policy Evaluation, and Policy Implementation.

INTRODUCTION

Generally, policy which is a proposed course of action of individuals, groups, institutions or government as well as overall programmes of action aimed at realizing specific goals or objectives has become indispensably part of society in both the developed and developing world (Birkland, 2017). At the multi-layered levels of government, the above conception holds true largely because the government is the primary organ that serves the needs and satisfies the yearnings and aspirations of the public (Oloye, 2018). This explains why public policy as the sum of government activities and programmes is expectedly designed to impact on the socio-economic lives of citizens. This brings into fore the importance of government policy as the cornerstone of governance because of the useful purposes it serves in virtually all sectors of the economy and society as Stone (2016) rightly articulated. No wonder, Parsons (2020) opined that government policy does not only shape the society for its betterment, it improves the democratic and political capacities of the people, enhances the efficiency and effectiveness of service delivery and helps in the socio-economic development of nations. Policy encapsulates a process which begins with problem identification before agenda setting and building that requires problem analysis and decision-making on issues around the problem as well as the different alternatives that present possible ways through which the government can address the identified problem (Chakrabarty & Chand, 2020). The process proceeds further with the selection of the appropriate and best alternative and the development of the policy proposals to resolve the identified issues and provide

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solutions to the problem before choosing the specific proposal and developing political support for it and enacting same into law through legislation. Thereafter, the formulated policy that may take the form of programmes and projects is carried out through the implementation process (Gerston, 1974).

Policy implementation after the policy formulation process involving official policy actors and unofficial participants in the political environment does not only seek to translate policy mandates into concrete action as well as goals into results and reality (Ball, 2018), it brings beneficiaries and passive people together so that the implementation could be effectively channelized, deals with the problem of control and accountability in administration and involves the synergistic efforts and mutual understanding of sundry agencies in the policy execution (Peary, 2019). The implementation process also captures the implementing agencies, the environment, the targeted beneficiaries, the policy objectives and resources as well as the implementation strategies. Specifically, the actualization of policy objectives and their outlined programmes which depends on genuine and proper implementation requires the establishment of a set of activities that will culminate in the results intended by the policy decision as well as the true commitment and support by the sundry policy-implementing agencies and actors, particularly the bureaucracy who are in a better position to implement public policy in an efficient, effective and result-oriented manner by mobilizing, organizing and managing the resources necessary to execute the policies (William, 2020). On this note, this study analysed politics of empowerment and social empowerment programmes in Delta State from 2015-2023.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Public Policy Analysis

Analysis used to determine and evaluate various aspects of a public policy in a partner nation or area is known as public policy analysis. Understanding how a government or sector evaluates present opportunities and needs and plans to address them is made easier with the help of public policy analysis. It is a collection of methods and standards used to assess potential public policy initiatives and justify the choice between developing and implementing the policy. Different academics have defined public policy analysis in different ways.

As per Kent (2021), public strategy investigation is a foundational scientific and imaginative method for concentrating on the motivation behind an activity from the public authority and its offices. Considering this, it demonstrates that approach examination is an enquiry towards understanding the motivation behind choice taken by the power. Then again, it is an interpretive instrument to comprehend dynamic cycle. Quade (1975), sees public strategy examination as "an investigation that produces and presents data so as to work on the reason for strategy creators to practice their judgment". Chandler and Plano, (1988) set that arrangement examination includes "methodical and information based option in contrast to natural decisions about the impacts of strategy or strategy choices". Ikelegbe (1994) characterizes it as the investigation of the causes, processes, arrangement, execution and results of public strategy. Color (1972) likewise characterizes strategy examination as figuring out what states do, why they make it happen and what improvement it makes. He marks strategy examination as the "believing man's reaction" to requests. He sees that explicitly open examination includes an essential worry with clarifications instead of remedy, a thorough quest for the causes and results of public

strategies; and a work to create and test general suggestions about the causes and outcomes of public strategy and to collect dependable exploration discoveries of general importance.

Policy analysis is a method that also uses data to make decisions about how to measure and estimate the effects of public policy. It serves two purposes, primarily because it offers the most information at the lowest possible cost regarding the potential effects of suggested policies as well as the real effects of policies that have already been enacted. During implementation, public policy analysis is also essential for monitoring developments, identifying hazards, and assisting in maintaining the intervention's relevance and focus on results. The study of public policy formation, implementation, and evaluation, policy makers' values, the framework of the policy-making system, the cost of alternative policies, and the study of policies for improving policy-making (meta-policy) can all be considered aspects of public policy analysis. In addition to producing pertinent data required to address social issues, its objective is to strengthen the foundation for public policymaking. For the purposes of this study, public policy analysis is a synthetic, eclectic, and comprehensive process that entails a careful analysis of various policy options in order to deliberately reach a decision that will suitably address any current public issue or concern. This definition implies that it cyclically captures the three stages of the policy-making process: formulation, execution, and evaluation.

Public Policy Formulation

Public strategy definition is a course of creating, examining and settling the methodology and objectives of an approach. It is accordingly one of the main pieces of the arranging system as it mirrors the arrangement of values the general public has towards the situation with public approaches to be set up. It is a significant stage committed to 'producing choices about what to do about a public issue' (Howlett, 2011), and is inborn to the vast majority of types of policymaking. If the plan setting stage in the notable strategy cycle is basically worried about distinguishing where to go, the approach detailing stage is about how to arrive (Slope, 2009). In the event that strategy plan is 'a course of distinguishing and addressing potential answers for strategy issues or, to put it another way, investigating the different choices or options accessible for resolving an issue', then creating as well as utilizing strategy definition devices is a crucial piece of that cycle (Howlett, 2011). It is exceptionally difficult to imagine strategy detailing not to mention as expected concentrate on it - without thinking regarding instruments. In light of Dunn (2004), these incorporate devices for anticipating and investigating future issues using situations, apparatuses for distinguishing and suggesting strategy choices (for instance, money saving advantage, cost-adequacy and multi-measures examinations) and instruments for investigating issue organizing or outlining (for instance, conceptualizing, limit investigation and argumentation planning).

Strategy detailing is a powerful interaction. It endeavors to answer the requests made by individuals. Various entertainers and political organizations partake in this cycle. Preceding the activity of formal power by a regulative body, the chief or the legal executive, a few kinds of exercises by open and confidential people shape the rise and improvement of strategy choices. Anderson (1997) portrays the four phases inside the arrangement development process. These are: distinguishing public issues, putting public issues on approach plan; figuring out strategy recommendations to take special care of the issues and going with strategy choices. Public strategies spring from issues that inconvenience a section or fragments of society with the end result of making moves. A public issue

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requiring government reaction is more unavoidable than a confidential trouble, and consequently the worry of huge number of people with a similar issue might change that inquiry into a public strategy issue. ID of public issues' is that the beginning stage for public strategy questions. Gerston (1974) distinguishes four setting off factors which assume a significant part in recognizing and explaining arising issues for public arrangement: to be specific degree, power, time and assets. The essential step of a public strategy question focuses on the extent of the issue, which alludes to the quantity of people who are associated with the issue. It educates us much concerning the all-inclusiveness of an issue.

Generally, individuals in dynamic positions are exceptionally delicate to scope and without this minimum amount; the trouble stays a confidential issue for a couple of concerned people. The second setting off part focuses on force or the degree to which people feel mentally impacted by the issue. A third component, time, focuses on the length of your time that an issue has irritated individuals. The more extended an issue draws in light of a legitimate concern for an impacted populace, the more probable the sizable quantities of that gathering will request change from strategy creators. In the event that an issue turns into a longstanding piece of the public plan, strategy producers feel developing strain to deal with it. The fourth setting off system is asset, which focuses on what and how much is in question with the development of a potential public strategy issue. The above addresses the primary stage in the strategy definition process.

The second stage inside the strategy detailing process is setting an arrangement plan. Of the huge number of requests made upon government, just a little piece will get serious consideration from public strategy creators. Those requests that arrangement producers either pick or feel a sense of urgency to impact comprise the strategy plan. A few matters are viewed as open issues requiring activity. Truman (1952) declared that to deal with them in a condition of sensible balance, and on the off chance that anything compromises this condition, they respond in like manner. Political authority could likewise be a significant consider plan setting. Political pioneers, whether persuaded by contemplations of political benefit, worry for the overall population interest or both, may take advantage of specific issues, announce them and propose arrangements. Fight movement including savagery, is one more method by which issues could likewise be brought to the consideration of strategy creators and put on the arrangement plan.

The third stage is the detailing of strategy proposition. Strategy detailing includes the age of relevant and acknowledged proposed courses of activities for managing public issues. The public authority is the significant wellspring of drive in the advancement of strategy recommendations. Numerous arrangement recommendations are created by the public organization. The law-making body assumes an essential part in strategy development. During authoritative hearings and examinations through contacts with different managerial authorities and agents of various vested parties and based on their own advantages and movement, administrators get ideas for activity on issues and form proposed courses of activities. At long last, vested parties at times visit the law-making body with explicit recommendations for council or line up with regulative and chief authorities for the authorization of proposed approaches with potential alterations to suit their inclinations. Contending proposition for dealing with a given issue might come from these sources. The resultant impact might be the reception of some trade off game-plan in light of the above proposition. The association of both public authorities and individual vested parties and reception of compromised proposition are the essential qualities of strategy plan in the vast majority of the political frameworks.

The last stage in the approach making process is strategy detailing. Strategy detailing is, practically speaking regularly mixed with the approach choice phase of the arrangement interaction. Plan is coordinated towards winning endorsement of a favoured strategy option and strategy choice includes activity by an authority people or body to support, change or reject a favoured approach elective. Albeit confidential people and associations additionally partake in settling on arrangement choices, the conventional power rests with public authorities' officials, chief, executives and judges. In majority rule governments, the errand of making strategy choices is generally firmly related to the assembly, which is intended to address the interests of the general population. Strategy choices made by the law-making body are normally acknowledged as authentic, as being made inside the legitimate way and thus restricting on totally concerned. The strategy detailing technique is finished solely after the satisfactory authority has acknowledged the arrangement.

Public Policy Implementation

Strategy examiners concentrated completely on approach execution part of the arrangement interaction essentially on the grounds that it was seen as an augmentation of the cycle. By the mid-1970s, it had been found that numerous approaches had not performed well since it became obvious that arrangement making in various regions, for example, wellbeing, training, populace and horticulture had not accomplished its ideal objectives (Presman, 2017). Basically, execution is the errand of trying formed arrangements. It consequently follows that it addresses the cognizant transformation of strategy plans into substantial reality. It is additionally the completion part of the public strategy making interaction and it uncovers the qualities and shortcomings of the decision making process. Similarly, strategy execution is the most common way of relocating strategy orders right into it, remedy into results and objectives into the real world (Andrea, 2021). It likewise alludes to the cycles and exercises engaged with the application, effectuation and overseeing of a strategy. It is the moves made to carryout achieve and satisfy the purposes, goals and anticipated results of public strategies.

What can be called 'public strategy', and accordingly must be carried out, is the result of what has occurred in the prior phases of the approach cycle. By and by, the substance of that strategy, and its effect on those impacted, might be considerably changed, expounded or even nullified during the execution stage. As Anderson (1975) calls attention to, 'strategy is made as it is endlessly managed as it is being made'. However execution is an isolated thing from strategy development. Truth be told, very only from time to time are choices self-executing, suggesting that there is no different execution stage. In the event that by and large there is such a phase, there is likewise a decent case for the examination of that piece of the strategy cycle. 'Much that happens at this stage might appear right away to be dreary or commonplace, yet its ramifications for the substance of strategy might be very significant'.

One of the most persuasive meanings of execution is that formed by Mazmanian and Sabatier (2022) which underlined that execution is the doing of an essential strategy choice, generally consolidated in a rule yet which can likewise appear as significant chief orders or court choices. In a perfect world, that choice distinguishes the problem(s) to be tended to, specifies the objective(s) to be sought after, and in different ways, 'structures' the execution cycle. The cycle typically goes through various stages starting with entry of the essential resolution, trailed by the approach yields (choices) of the carrying out offices, the consistence of target bunches with those choices, the genuine effects both expected and accidental of those results, the apparent effects of organization choices,

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lastly, significant updates (or endeavored corrections) in the fundamental rule (Wood, 2021) Likewise Pressman and Wildavsky characterized execution as a convoluted cycle, or rather sub-process. In this manner much can turn out badly. 'The more drawn out the chain of causality, the more various the complementary connections among the connections and the more complicated execution becomes'. By and by, it is inescapable that this chain is generally lengthy. In the reasoning of Pressman and Wildavsky (2020), execution is the transmission of strategy into a progression of noteworthy activities', however an approach activity relationship. The last option rather 'should be viewed as a course of communication and exchange, occurring over the long run, between those looking to place strategy into impact and those upon whom activity depends' (Barrett and Fudge, 2021). Numerous execution researchers somehow allude to what Barrett and Fudge call the 'approach activity continuum'. For Dunsire (2018), approach execution is viewed as pragmatization, while John (2019) thought about arrangement execution as the post-regulative phases of direction and the stage in the strategy cycle worried about transforming strategy goals right into it. As per O'Toole (2022), the focal inquiry in execution occurs between the foundation of strategy and its effect in the realm of activity or what creates between the foundation of an obvious expectation with respect to government to follow through with something, or quit following through with something, and a definitive effect in the realm of activity. Strategy execution is hence the association between the statement of legislative aim and genuine outcomes and minimal in excess of a correlation of the normal versus the accomplished as DeLeon (2021) properly expressed.

While some conflict exists over the components that make execution, for execution to happen, there should be an element with adequate assets relegated to hold out the execution task, the carrying out organization should be prepared to make an interpretation of products into a functional structure and the substance appointed the carrying out task should follow through on its task and be responsible for its activities. The execution interaction includes the continuation of the political cycle which had really created the arrangement. This is in many cases the justification for why legislatures which have formed a specific strategy find it more straightforward to carry out it as opposed to the states which acquire the undertaking of execution from the past legislatures.

Public Policy Evaluation

The term assessment embraces a large number of exercises. Assessments are embraced in all circles of life, in casual or formal ways. A qualification is made between the exercises of examination, observing and assessment. 'Assessment' is a more methodical and logical endeavor with accentuation on effects and proficiency, viability, pertinence, unwavering quality and maintainability. Rossi and Freeman (2022) determine it as a deliberate utilization of social exploration methodology for surveying the conceptualisation, plan, execution, and utility of social mediation programs. Public strategy assessment can be momentarily portrayed as a method that evaluates the advantage of a strategy, and thinks about the extraordinary setting and political and financial factors of the circumstance. For instance, assessment exploration might pinpoint the degree to which the objectives of a strategy are accomplished other than recognizing the requirements related with it. Unfortunate outcomes clearly suggest absence of viability and effectiveness. In any case, strategy assessment might propose changes in approach to get wanted results.

Assessment research likewise accepts that the program can be rejected, on the off chance that it isn't viable. For a strategy creator, strategy assessment is a method for getting the important data and information with respect to strategy issues, the viability of past and winning procedures for decreasing or taking out the issues to work on the adequacy of explicit approaches. Subsequently, vulnerability and hazard in arrangement making are decreased due to such information and data, regulatory responsibility is improved, and authoritative command over approach is properly expanded. Strategy assessment, subsequently, assumes a critical part that starts right from the recognizable proof of different arrangement issues and choosing of the best course out of the different other options. Throughout the long term, public approach assessment has become more complex. From straightforward investigation of the results and money saving advantage examination, it has fostered its own approach.

Based on the fundamental standards of boosting pay short expenses, new strategy is additionally zeroing in on non-financial approach results, estimating hindering variables, value, adequacy, hierarchical and human factors, etc. Strategy assessment has likewise become more proactive instead of receptive. In some cases, it is past time to sit tight for the result of approaches after their execution. Accordingly, there is a rising pattern towards utilizing pre-reception projections or logical demonstrating as opposed to simply post-reception when investigation. Besides, strategy assessment is turning out to be progressively between disciplinary, drawing on various disciplinary hotspots for thoughts as to means or arrangements for accomplishing given objectives. Strategy assessment is progressively utilizing the parts of political theory, financial aspects, social science, brain research, regulation, policy implementation, business organization, insights, social work, etc. This makes sense of why there has been a rising utilization of conduct sciences as well as innovation.

Theoretical Framework

This study hinged on elite theory of public policy.

Elite Theory Public Policy

This theory views public policy as a reflection of the interests, preferences and values of the governing elite. It believes that the masses are passive, apathetic and ill-informed about public policy. It therefore follows that the initiative for public policy does not originate from masses. The elite actually shape mass opinion into a policy question and as a result public policy is pellucid a product of the preferences of elites. The contention of this theory is that public officials and administrators merely endorse the policies decided by the elite. This theory also posits that policies flow downward from the elites to the masses instead of arising from mass demands. The elite theory bears semblance with the group theory as both refer to policy generation through pressures from specific interests in the society. A point of departure however, while the group theory is pluralistic, elite theory is essentially monistic. All the same, both of them reflect the realistic nature of policy formation in society. The credit for the elite theory primarily goes to Pareto, Mosca and Michels. Pareto (1968) has propounded the idea of 'The Law of Circulation of Elites'. He says that folks are always governed by elites except for short periods of time. He rejects a linear progressive evolutionary interpretation of history and social change. For him, "History of men is that the history of the continuous replacement of certain elites as one ascends another descends. Pareto classifies social classes by taking elites as a stick yard. According to the theory, the elites represent the upper stratum, the others, namely non-elites occupy

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the lower stratum. By implication, the most strata in elite stratum are (a) governing elite that consists of the rest of the individuals who directly or indirectly have a considerable role in government, (b) non-governing elite that consists of rest within the elite stratum and (c) political elite that exercise political power effectively and particularly.

Pareto (1968) believes that elites and non-elites are not stable; rather, they are subject to change because new elites rise and take the place of old elites. This change is called the law of circulation of elites by Pareto. He also noted that the upper class adopt various ways to protect itself from the threats of non-elites in the form of force, death, execution and financial ruin, exclusion from public offices, exile and ostracism. On the opposite hand, the upper class recruits the individuals from lower strata in order to fulfil its gap in both Class I and Class II residues and also eliminates the individuals who are a potential threat for the ruling class itself. Considering the means to regulate the subject classes, Pareto (1968) divides political elites into two groups (a) foxes who are strong in school I residues and (b) lions that are strong in Class II residues. Pareto believes that regardless of the form of government, men holding power have, as a rule, a specific inclination to use that power to keep them in the saddle, and to abuse it to secure personal gains and advantages.

Mosca (1969), another elite theorist, who has propounded the idea of 'The Ruling Class' also believes that in any type of society, at any point of history, there are two classes of people, a class that rules and a category that is ruled. The previous contains a small number of people and possesses all political power and privileges, whereas the latter consists of an outsized number of people who are subjected to the rule of the former and provides essential instrument for political organization. He opines that because the minority is usually organized; it has the ability to overcome the majority. On the opposite hand, the bulk of the masses is unorganized and ineffective, thus governed by the elites.

Michels (1979) is another important elite theorist who is understood for his popular 'Iron Law of Oligarchy'. He believes that organizations are the sole means for the creation of a collective will and it is the organization which gives birth to the domination of the elected over electors. The successful leaders of an upper class also possess some personal qualities, like the force of will, knowledge, strength of conviction, self-sufficiency, goodness of heart and disinterestedness. It is evident from the above discussion that elites dominate the masses as they are organized and effective. Policies framed for the masses are initiated by the elites and public policies are apparently the preferences of elites. Force, punishment and financial fear are the major instruments which elites utilize to stay in power.

The elite theory has been criticized for neglecting the needs of the masses and their domination of the non-elites. Another criticism is that policy-making power in the political system is highly centralized in the hands of governing elite. Public policy, therefore, reflects their choices and preferences and any change within the system is highly opposed. The theory has equally been criticized because the elites believe that they, instead of the masses, have the power to determine the policies for public welfare, a technique that neglects the wishes of the masses and reflects the domination of elite over public policy process. The choice of the Elite and System theories in this study was dictated by their utilitarian value in explaining the dominant role of the elites in determining the direction and eventual policy decisions in the political system as well as the competition amongst the elite groups for purpose of influencing the policy-making process. A blend of the above theories will therefore be highly beneficial as far as this study is concerned.

RESEARCH METHOD

The descriptive survey design was used in this investigation. The population of the study comprised of all management and senior staff from the Ministries of Agriculture and Natural Resources, Commerce and Industry as well as Finance that have jurisdiction relating to job creation and empowerment in Delta State, the Desk Officers in all the twenty five (25) Local Government Areas (LGA) in Delta State as well as the beneficiaries in the various LGAs. Sixty (60) management and senior staff from the Ministries Agriculture and Natural Resources, Commerce and Industry, Finance that have jurisdiction relating to job creation and empowerment in Delta State, the Desk Officers in six (6) Local Government Areas (LGA) in Delta State as well as three hundred and sixty (360) beneficiaries in six local government areas in Delta State made up the study's sample. That is, twenty (20) management and senior staff from each sampled ministry and sixty (60) beneficiaries from each sampled local government area including the six (6) Desk Officers in those six local government areas across the three senatorial districts in the state. In choosing the above sample for the study, the multi-stage sampling technique was employed which involved the use of simple random technique and convenience or opportunity sampling technique.

The simple random technique was used in selecting the six local government areas across the three senatorial districts, while convenience or opportunity sampling technique was used in selecting the management and senior staff of the three ministries as well as the three hundred and sixty (360) beneficiaries of the Delta State Social Empowerment Programmes. The use of simple random technique is evident to the fact that all the twenty-five (25) local government areas in Delta State have equal chance of being selected. The use of convenience or opportunity sampling technique is based on the fact that the researcher selected whatever sampling units that are conveniently available in each of the sampled local government areas who are willing and ready to attend to the questionnaire items. Only two sources were used in this study to gather data. These sources are both primary and secondary. Three specialists from the Department of Political Science, Novena University, Ogburn evaluated the instrument's face, content, and construct validity.

Cronbach Alpha base test was used to assess the instrument's dependability. Using Cronbach's alpha (CA) based test, the instrument dependability was measured and evaluated. CA offers an estimate of the indicator inter-correlations; a value of 0.7 or greater is considered acceptable, while a value of less than 0.7 denotes low dependability or reliability (Seckaran, 2013). The result from the Cronbach alpha was 0.82. This study employed the mean and standard deviation, and all the null hypothesis developed for the study were evaluated for significance using Student T test to determine the mean difference of the set of scores. The replies were graded using a Likert scale of 4, 3, 2, and 1 for Strongly Agreed (SA), Agreed (A), Disagreed (D), and Strongly Disagreed (SD) respectively. Data obtained from the field were numerically coded and sorted. Student T test were utilized since it is equally effective when there are two quantitative variables and because it may be used to determine whether there is a significant difference between the mean of two variables.

DATA PRESENTATION, ANALYSIS AND RESULT

This chapter focuses on the researcher's presentation and interpretation of data gathered during fieldwork. Although 398 questionnaires were sent, only 377 copies of the administered questionnaires were recovered, with 21 missing. This indicates that 95% of the questionnaires were recovered, whereas 5% were lost, which is sufficient for analysis.

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As a result, this figure served as the basis for data analysis. The information provided here includes descriptive statistics as well as the hypotheses that were tested.

Analysis of Socio-Demographic Characteristics of Respondents

Table 1: Socio-Demographic Characteristics of the Respondents

		Frequency	Percentage
Sex	Male	154	40.0
	Females	223	60.0
	Total	377	100.0
Educational Qualification	OND	123	32.6
	HND/B.A./B.Sc.	121	32.1
	M.A./M.Sc.	107	28.4
	PhD.	26	6.9
	Total	377	100.0
Ministry/Department/Agency	Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources	122	32.4
	Ministry of Commerce and Industry	185	49.1
	Ministry of Finance	70	18.5
	Total	377	100.0

Source: Fieldwork, 2023

Table 1 shows the socio-demographic characteristics of the respondents that participated in the survey. On sex distribution, majority of the respondents are females with 60.0% and males with 40.0%. Educational qualification distribution of the respondents revealed that majority of the respondents are OND holders with 32.6%, HND/B.A./B.Sc. had 32.1%, those who are M.A./M.Sc. holders had 28.4% and those with PhD. had 6.9%. Ministry/Department/Agency distribution shows that majority of them work in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry with 49.1%. Others work in the Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources with 32.4% and Ministry of Finance with 18.5%.

Presentation of Analysis based on Research Questions Answered

Research Question 1: To what extent as the public policy affected its implementation in Delta State?

Table 2: Respondents' responses on the public policy affected its implementation in Delta State

S/N	ITEMS	Mean	Standard Deviation	Remark
1	Policy implementation in Delta state has been plagued by the politic of empowerment.	2.62	.72	+
2	The implementation of social empowerment programmes in Delta state has been bedeviled by the politics of empowerment.	2.51	.70	+
3	The quality of social empowerment programmes in Delta state has been affected by the politics of empowerment.	2.59	.75	+
4	The efficacy of social empowerment programmes in Delta state has been undermined by the politics of empowerment.	2.65	.80	+

Source: Fieldwork, 2023, Note: + means affirmative response and – means a negative response

Table 4.3 shows the mean and standard deviation scores on the public politics of empowerment and how it affects its implementation in Delta state. Data from the table indicates that respondents were positive that policy implementation in Delta state have been plagued by the politic of empowerment. This is attested to with the mean value of 2.62 that is above the benchmark mean value of 2.50. Also, respondents stated that the

implementation of social empowerment programmes in Delta state has been bedeviled by the politics of empowerment. The mean score of 2.51 obtained for this item indicates a positive response from the respondents. Furthermore, respondents affirmed that the quality of social empowerment programmes in Delta state has been affected by the politics of empowerment. This is given with the mean score of 2.59 that is above the benchmark mean value of 2.50. Data from the table also show that respondents agree to the fact that the efficacy of social empowerment programmes in Delta state has been undermined by politics of empowerment. This is given with a mean score of 2.65 which is above the adopted mean score of 2.50 for the study. The standard deviation scores of 0.72, 0.70, 0.75 and 0.80 help to explain the opinion of the respondents in relation to whether they all agree to the issues raised or they disagree. The scores show that respondents have similar opinion in respect of the issues raised in the table.

Hypothesis One

Ho1: There is no significant difference between public policy and its implementation in Delta State.

Table 4.3: T-Test Analysis for hypothesis one

Test Value = 0						95% Interval Difference	Confidence of the
	T cal	Df	T crit	Sig. (2-tailed)	Mean Difference	Lower	Upper
Public policy	47.646	376	0.1946	.000	2.06593	1.9807	2.1512
implementation in Delta State		376		.000	1.89286	1.8243	1.9615

Source: Fieldwork, 2023

Table 4.3 shows that the T test calculated value is 47.7, the T test critical value is 0.19 and the difference of freedom is 376 with a probability value of 0.000 that shows the significance of the values obtained under a two tailed test. From the scores obtained, it is seen that the T test calculated value of 47.7 is greater than the T test critical value of 0.19. Also, the probability value of 0.000 shows that a significant difference in the mean score at 0.05 level of significance. This means that there is a significant difference between public policy and its implementation in Delta State.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the finding of this study, the researchers concluded that, there is a significant relationship between public policy and implementation in Delta State. As such, the following recommendations have been outlined:

1. The government should make concerted efforts to ensure that social empowerment programmes benefit the masses for which they were intended. This can be achieved by ensuring that they are handled in ways that make it difficult for elites to have access to them. This can be most effectively done through proper monitoring right from the selection stage down to the implementation stage.
2. There should be a policy framework to tackle issues of pro-rich approach in order to make such that wealthy people do not circumvent due process and hijack these

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supposedly pro-poor programmes. This can be practicable by making the process transparent and objective for the needy and down-trodden to participate.

3. Also, there should be specific targets and means of actualizing these targets so that the programmes can be void of corruption. If the programmes are designed for youths, the categories should be spelt and how to get to such categories should be devised.

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