

Local Government Administrative System in Russia and Former Soviet Republic: Grassroot Participation and Their Role in the War between Russia Federation and Ukraine

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Article History

Received: 14 / 09 / 2025

Accepted: 01 / 10 / 2025

Published: 07 / 10 / 2025

Abstract: Local government has a special place in the democratic mechanism of governing society and a state. The modernization of local self-government in post-Soviet Russia is at its early stage. Today we can only talk about some positive trends in this process. First of all, it should be noted that local self-government has both a special subject, which is the population, citizens and a special object of management: issues of local importance. Besides, one of the basic concepts that characterize the essence of local self-government as a form of organization and exercise of power is independence. Like any other form of social self-government, local government is a powerful means of activating a political system, democratic institutions, individual citizens, and of combating bureaucracy and formalism in the work of state governing bodies. Every country at peace has the potential to be at war; likewise, countries at war (cold or hot) have the potential to experience peace. Either way, public administration appears to be the only constant factor; hence the main aim of examining its role in managing the war between Russia and Ukraine. The study was anchored on the theory of administrative behaviour. A qualitative research design was adopted in this study. Data for the study were obtained from secondary sources. The research objectives were to: establish the role of public administration in the management of war; and compare how public administration has shaped the management of war in Ukraine and Russia. Findings from this study revealed among others, that public administration in wartime plays a role in entrenching a harmonious society by taking advantage of the opportunities to create a stable social environment. For instance, while public administration in Russia plays the role of justifying the invasion of Ukraine and causing war, it plays the role of justifying defence in Ukraine and showing citizens the efforts of the government in ensuring they are safe amid 'instability'. To this end, the study recommends that countries or nations of the world should not only learn from this war but strengthen their respective public administration institutions for effective and efficient service utilization.

Keywords: local government, administrative system, Russia, grassroot participation, war, Ukraine, governance, democracy and federation.

How to Cite in APA format: PILLAH, T. P. & Hassan, F. (2025). Local Government Administrative System in Russia and Former Soviet Republic: Grassroot Participation and Their Role in the War between Russia Federation and Ukraine. *IRASS Journal of Multidisciplinary Studies*, 2(9)63-77.

Introduction

Between a state and society, local government occupies a "central position." This socio-political institution is crucial to maintaining and bolstering statehood because of its location. Local self-government is by definition a far more complicated phenomena than its official legal position. According to the Russian Constitution, local self-government is a democratic political institution.

Since Kyiv's collapse to Russian forces during the full-scale invasion on February 24, 2022, was widely portrayed as certain in a matter of hours, politicians, analysts, and the general people around the world were taken aback by Ukraine's tenacity against Russia's campaign of aggression. Resilience at the level of territorial hromadas (territorial communities) is becoming a more prominent issue in this debate, even though many academics highlight the importance of national unity and the national government's resilience (Ibid). One It might be argued that the decentralization reform that has been in place since 2014, which aimed to increase the financial and technical capabilities of hromadas and expand their scope of operations, is what has led to their resilience (Brik & Murtazashvili, 2022). Yet we know little

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about specific factors that determine the resilience of hromadas on or near the frontline and others affected by the war to a wide range of risks affected by the invasion.

The history of self-government in Russia is lengthy and challenging. The ancient cities of Pskov and Novgorod, which were renowned for their high degree of self-government principles, possessed self-government institutions with rather broad powers throughout the period when the Russian statehood was being formed. The guilds, which were local self-government organizations under the Charter of Yaroslav the Wise, were in charge of things like paved road layout and city fortification maintenance (Martysevich, 1951, p. 37). The management by the ends (parts) of Novgorod includes urban improvement, upholding the city's order, resolving internal conflicts, carrying out various responsibilities, exercising judicial functions, and, if required, organizing the militia (Martyshin, 1992, p.73).

The first quarter of the seventeenth century saw a major reorganization of the nation's government. Cities were the first local authority to undergo change. The Burmister Chamber, named after the German Bürgermeister, burghermeister, or mayor,

was created to oversee the suburban population in every city. Russia has been divided into eight provinces (Guberniya, from Latin gubernator) since 1708. The governors, who held judicial, administrative, and military authority, were in charge of the provinces. The state aimed to subjugate governors to the local aristocracy. Governors have appointed magistrates from among the local nobility. The commandants presided over the "uezds," or counties, that made up the provinces. City administration was governed by the regulations of the Chief Magistrate in 1721 and the Instruction of the city magistrate in 1724.

The hierarchy of urban and rural towns did not differ significantly in pre-Peter Russia. Peter I's installation of Zemsky huts and elected burghermasters in the cities marked the beginning of municipal organization. In a letter to the cities in 1785, Catherine II made the first significant attempt to establish a solid foundation for the municipal economy. The management of the cities started to submit to the governors and voivodes (military governors) after Peter I's successors removed the magistrates. Paul I eventually abolished city self-government in the years that followed.

After city governments were reinstated under Alexander I, municipal governments mostly remained unchanged throughout the first part of the nineteenth century. The Ministry of Internal Affairs of Russia was established in 1802, and among its responsibilities were the execution of royal decrees, the welfare of the populace in a given territory, and the Imperial Russian Philanthropic Society, a civil society movement "from below" that was founded on the development of support and welfare for the impoverished and disabled. The Regulation of 1861 states that the volost (district) rights became the foundation of social order in rural areas following the abolition of serfdom. A volost assembly, a volost master with a volost administration, and a volost peasant court made up the volost administration. A rise in political and public activity, as well as retaliation from the administrative apparatus, open struggle, and opposition at all levels of government, including the government and the imperial court, were caused by the peasants' widespread dissatisfaction with their position and the local nobility's awareness of the terrible situation in the provinces. As a result of the compromise, Alexander II approved the Regulations on Zemstvo Institutions, which were issued on January 1, 1864, and then expanded to include 34 European Russian regions over a number of years. Beginning in February 1865, zemstvo institutions were implemented in most provinces by 1867. A specially appointed panel drafted preliminary and final regulations for Zemstvo institutions in March 1863 (Lapteva, 1993, p. 52).

With the consent of City Provision, Alexander II announced one of the most revolutionary reforms on June 16, 1870: the reform of municipal government. This provision gave all city dwellers, regardless of their affiliation, the ability to vote, both actively and passively. According to this clause, a resident had to be a Russian national, be at least 25 years old, possess some real estate in the city, or pay a fee to the city because of his industrial, wholesale merchant, retail trade license, or other certificate.

The years of the Alexander III reign were the counter-reforms period. It brought to the political arena the idea of centralizing and strengthening autocracy. "Russian autocracy," wrote M.N. Katkov, - "cannot and should not tolerate any power in the country that disobeys or not subordinates to the central

authority or not comes from it; no state could be in the state... The most important thing is to arrange the zemstvo and the local governments in the right attitude to the central government" (Tvardovskaya, 1978, p.137).

Alexander III authorized new regulations on Zemstvo institutions, which were published on June 12, 1890. Due to a change in qualifications, it further enhanced the representation of the nobility and restored the stratification of electoral groups. According to the new circumstances, peasants made up the third electoral category, followed by other voters and legal entities, and nobles by birth and personal nobles in the first. As before, the provincial councilors were chosen at the Zemstvo county assembly. Since 1890, the provincial authorities had to include all district council chairmen and county marshals of nobility. The nobles gained complete control after the 1890 reform. As a result, the 1887 provincial councilor composition was as follows: 89.5% were noblemen and officials, 8.7% were raznochintsy (commoners or intellectuals), and 1.8% were peasants. However, the new regulation simultaneously decreased the overall number of councilors by over 30% by raising the number of aristocratic councilors. In order to do this, each county's councilor count was lowered by one, and each county was required to have a minimum of two provincial councilors.

The fate of Zemstvo institutions depended on the city administrations in 1892. The Regulations on Cities of 1892 drastically curtailed people's voting rights, resulting in a 6–8-fold drop in the number of voters. The reform (or counter-reform) of 1890–1892 threw the Russian local government system back a long way. If the 1870 Regulations on towns were similar to the order in Western European towns in many respects, then the 1890–1892 regulations that restricted voting rights and interfered with the central government were something that no civilized states were aware of at the time. As a result, by the end of the 19th century, the anxieties of the "vague" 60s–80s were forgotten, the formal zemstvo demonstrated "loyalty", and the peasant world led by local district 356 chiefs, who replaced the village self-government in 1889, was relieved of "severities" of the unattached democracy.

Unexpected to the authorities, the popular uproar in 1904–05 prompted the question of whether the entire state system should be changed in accordance with the constitution. The Statute on the Legislative Assembly of the State Duma was published on August 6, 1905. Nicholas II's Highest manifesto, which was released on October 17, gave the government the mandate "to establish as an inviolable right that no law could take power without the approval of the State Duma, and that the election of the people would ensure the possibility of actual participation in the supervision of the regularity of actions set by us, authorities."

However, due to their early dissolution, neither the first nor the second Duma had time to discuss the Zemstvo and City reforms. However, the Cadets brought up the issue of Zemstvo councilor elections, and the state government presented a draft regulation on township and volost administration to the Second Duma. A general land reform proposal was also being prepared by the Ministry of the Interior for submission to the Duma. The necessity of creating a fundamental territorial zemstvo unit for its inclusion in the self-government of the majority of Russian Empire inhabitants was the commonality throughout all the schemes.

The Provisional Government made the final attempt to expand the role of self-government in the nation prior to October. The Declaration, which was adopted on March 3, 1917, placed the reform of local self-government based on universal suffrage at the forefront of the impending reforms. Zemstvo was granted all of the authority of local government, which gave it a new position and significance within the overall framework of state administration. But by July 1918, city self-government and all Zemstvo organizations had been abolished. Issues of local life organization were taken up by the Soviets. Furthermore, it should be mentioned that the Soviet Union's brief coexistence with the municipal and local elected institutions demonstrated the latter's professional superiority in resolving local problems.

Until the end of the 1930s, one of the world-leading schools of municipal government existed and developed in the USSR (Velikhov, 1928, p.48).

Centralist tendencies dominated the political landscape during the advent of war communism, particularly following the shift from NEP to directed planning. There is no room for local government sovereignty in the context of public ownership and a uniform ideology. Following the formation of the Soviet government's ideology, the Soviets established a structure in which its links were subordinated from the bottom up. The executive committees of local councils were also local governments and were a part of the government system; the councils operated on centrist principles.

Statement of the Problem

At the grassroots level The central idea and most important element of democracy and good government is political engagement. This idea is essential to the grassroots democracy's continued existence. The fundamental goal of grassroots governance is defeated in the absence of widespread political engagement at the local level. Furthermore, a political system may not be considered democratic if it is divorced from the elements of popular participation. This is due to the fact that political involvement ensures equitable representation and accountability, well-informed policymaking and decision-making, the legitimacy of government, and grassroots community development.

In reality, no society can attain meaningful development without active political participation of the people in governance as there is high tendency of leaders abusing power in office. The age-long saying that "the power in the people is greater than the people in power" is indicative of the fact that the people remain the "Alpha and Omega" of every democratic dispensation.

Yet, in reality is the opposite. The country's political landscape has been dominated by the few elites for so long that it now appears odd for the masses to demand their rightful place in the polity. The situation, of course, is due to many factors, prominent among which is voters' apathy, voters' intimidation, electoral rigging, assassination, ballots box snatching, state government interference. To this extent, this research seeks to investigate the impact of political participation on grassroots governance in Russia with specific focus on Local Government in Russia federating units within the state.

Objectives of the Study

- To examine the extent of citizens participation in grassroots governance of their Local Government.

- To investigate the benefits of political participation on grassroots governance in Local Government.
- To identify factors militating against effective citizens' political participation in grassroots governance in Local Government.
- To proffer solutions to the problems of political participation in Local Government.

Scope of and Limitation of the Study

The scope of this study will be restricted to political involvement in the republic's local government administration of Russia. analyzing their assistance in the conflict with the Ukrainian Federation.

Throughout the investigation, the researcher ran across a number of issues. These issues included financial limitations because the researcher is a student and no additional outside funding was available for this project.

Additionally, because of the prison's bureaucratic procedures, it took time to obtain permission from the caretaker center management to conduct study on their institution. However, the aforementioned restrictions do not hinder the research work's outcome.

Operational Clarification of Terms

- **Political Participation:** This is referring to the several formal and informal processes and structures through which the citizens get involve in public policy making as well as electing those that will represent them in government.
- **Grassroots Democracy:** This refers to shifting democratic traditions to the periphery level through people's mobilization and electoral participation in determining who is to govern them.
- **Governance:** This is the manner in which power is exercised in the management of a country's economic and social resources for development.
- **Local Government:** local government is the institution created by law to provide public services according to local peculiarities through the involvement of the people and to ensure maximum efficiency in the administration and provision of such public services to guarantee grassroots development.

Review of Related Literature

Conceptual Clarification

This section of the research is focused on reviewing existing literature connected to the topic under study. This section is divided into conceptual framework, theoretical framework, empirical literature and contents of the study.

Concept of Local Government

According to Dumadu (2008), the idea of local government entails a philosophical dedication to democratic involvement in the process of governance at the local level. This means that a higher level of government will legally and administratively transfer authority, power, and personnel to a community that has its own will and can carry out certain tasks just like the rest of the country. According to Ezeani (2006), there are several definitions of local government held by academics, practitioners, and administrators.

According to Agagu (2017), a local government is an administration at the grassroots level that is designed to address the unique needs of the populace. According to Appadorai (2015), it is a government run by popularly elected bodies that are tasked with executive and administrative responsibilities for issues pertaining to the residents of a specific district or location. According to Lawal (2000), local government is the level of government that is closest to the people and has the authority to regulate the activities of the people living within its borders. According to Olisa et al. (2010), a local government is a governmental unit that is subordinate to the federal, state, or regional government and is legally created to exercise political authority through a representative council in a specific territory.

Local government, according to the United Nations Office for Public Administration (2016), is a legally recognized political subdivision of a country or, in a federal system, a state, with significant authority over local affairs, including the ability to levy taxes and perform labor for designated purposes. Such an organization's governing body is chosen locally through elections or other means.

Poor management has caused local governments to operate below expectations, claims Ojo (2009). Without a doubt, the foundation of local government's efficient operation is finance and its careful administration. In light of this, Tonwe (2015, cited in Ojo 2009) contends that in order for local governments to carry out their mandated duties, they need funding. The local government's capacity to accomplish this is mostly reliant on funding availability and effective management, which together provide the essential impetus for development projects to be carried out on schedule and completed. However, Tonwe (2015) raises some concerns. For example, he points out that in recent years, a lack of funding has frequently been cited as the main issue that has prevented numerous projects at the local government level from being carried out effectively and successfully.

However, experience has shown the contrary that poor finance management, rather inadequate finance is the bane of local governments' inability to achieve substantial development in their domain (2015, Cited I Ojo, 2009).

Local government is a kind of grassroots governance. Ojofeitiimi claims that the term "local" implies that councils are intended for small communities, while the term "government" indicates that they possess some characteristics of a government. Therefore, local government can be described as a legally established political subdivision of a country (or, in a federal system, a state) that has significant authority over local affairs, including the ability to collect taxes or demand labor for specified objectives. (Ojo, 2009: 37 cites Ojofeitiimi, 2000).

In order to oversee the political administration of an area or a local unit within a state, the central government or an act of parliament established a sub-governmental organization known as local government. "A political subdivision of a nation (in a federal system, a state) that is constituted by law and has substantial control over local affairs, including the powers to impose taxes or to exact labor for prescribed purposes," is how the United Nations Department of Public Administration (2011) defines local government. Such an organization's governing body is chosen locally through elections or other means.

In Nigeria, local government dates back to the colonial era. According to the records that are now available, the Native Administration law No. 4 of 1916 was the first local administration law. It was created to replace Nigeria's outdated institutions with the most appropriate form of government based on the customs, prestige, and thought patterns of the populace (Bello-Imam 2010). The colonial rulers used these local administrations to run the eastern, western, and northern areas.

In the north, where government was highly centralized, the indirect method worked well, while in the west, it had some success. However, indirect governance failed because the eastern region lacked a cohesive administrative structure. Since then, Nigerian local governments have undergone numerous reforms aimed at increasing their revenue streams and improving their service delivery efficiency.

According to Adedokun (2004), the Macpherson constitution of 1948 brought about some notable changes. In the 1950s, the regions implemented reforms in their local administrations with the goal of improving performance. The regions retained overall control over the taxes, even if the reforms provided local administrations the authority to charge income taxes and collect rates and levy pools to fund their operations. The absence of self-determination in local governance resulted in insufficient resources.

Though, the local authorities were partially successfully in the North but unsuccessfully in the Eastern and Western regions. Adedeji (2010) blames the ineffectiveness of local administration on the following reasons;

- Lack of mission or lack of comprehensive functional role
- Lack of proper structure (i.e. the role of local governments in the development process was not known).
- Low quality of staff; and
- Low funding.

The definition of local government, as stated by Hickey in Egomnwan (2001), is "the management of services and regulation of functions by a locally elected council which is officially responsible to them under statutory and inspectorial supervision of central legislative and executive but with enough financial and other independence to admit of a fair degree of initiative and policy making."

According to Montague Haris in Basride (2018), local government is governed by freely elected local bodies that are subject to the national (or state) government's supremacy. These bodies are given some degree of authority, discretion, and responsibility, which they can use without the higher authority controlling their choices.

Local government is a political subdivision of a country or state that is established by law and has significant control over local affairs, including the authority to impose taxes or at least exert labor for the prescribed purposes. The governing body of such an entity is elected or otherwise chosen locally, according to the United Nations Officer for Public Administration.

Local government is defined by the 1976 Guidelines to Local Government Reforms as local government carried out by a representative council created by law to exercise particular functions within designated boundaries. These powers would give

the council significant authority over local affairs, as well as the staff, institutional, and financial resources to plan and direct service delivery, decide on projects, and carry them out in a way that complements the state and federal government's activities in their respective regions. They would also guarantee that local initiative and response to local needs and conditions are maximized through the dedication of functions to these councils.

Local Government is also defined as the authority to determine and execute matters within a restricted area inside and smaller than that in a whole state.

Although the idea of local governance has existed for as long as humanity, it has only just gained widespread acceptance in scholarly and applied literature (Shah, 2006). This idea has generated enthusiasm in the academic and professional realms of administration. Numerous academics have taken notice of it and thoroughly examined its significance, origins, and necessity in every political system in the globe (Akindele et al. 2000). Consequently, there isn't a single, widely accepted definition of municipal government among academics.

The term local government has been defined variously by different scholars. In the view of a scholar like Wraith, local government refers to locally elected councils whose main purpose is to provide or administer services with as great degree of independence as modern circumstance allow (Wraith, 1964. For Golding, local government is the management of their own affairs by the people of their locality (Golding, 2019).

The definitions provided above have been sought to be expanded upon and possibly given more expression by other scholars. According to Sorka, local government refers to the decentralization or dispersion of authoritative decision-making, whereby the power to make decisions is moved outward from geographical locations or downward from distant points close to the top administration, bringing authority closer to the people it affects (Sorka, 2018). Similar to this, Oyediran views local government as the spread of political processes on an area-by-area basis. This includes local self-government and the incorporation of the admirable principles of integrity, impartiality, and minority rights protection, all of which are thought to be crucial to the development of a liberal democratic society (Oyediran, 2009).

Whatever else that may be said, it is clear from the above definitions that a local government in any system is assumed to possess the following characteristics.

- A given territory and population,
- An institutional structure for legislative purpose,
- A separate legal entity, a range of power and functions authorised by delegation from the appropriate central or intermediate legislation,
- Within the Anglo-America tradition, autonomy is limited to common law such as the test of reasonableness (Williams, 2018).

However, Appadorai (2004) defines local government as government by popularly elected bodies' charges with administration and executive duties in matters concerning the inhabitants of a particular district or place.

According to Etuk-udo (2013), revenue is the sum of the income from current and fixed assets. According to Etuk-Udo (2013), a current asset is one that lasts less than a year and can be turned into cash right away. He goes on to define a fixed asset as one that is anticipated to last longer than a year and is for future benefit.

According to the 2015 Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English, revenue is the sum of money received over time by a company or organization, particularly from the sale of goods or services. Revenue was also defined as the sum of money obtained by the government from taxes.

According to the 2012 Advance Learning Dictionary of Current English, revenue is the total amount of money the state receives each year for public use. It went on to define it as revenue obtained through taxes.

Revenue, according to Oladimeji (2015), is the entire amount of money received by the federal, state, and municipal governments. He went on to say that the revenue sharing viewpoints are what distinguish local governance as a constitutional subject.

According to Hepworth (2016), revenue is the amount of money raised to cover expenses. He went on to say that income helps to raise the funds required to deliver government services. He added that income and expenditure are the two facets of finance. Stated differently, the funding and utilization sources.

Taxes, rates, fees, fines, charges, penalties, rents, dues, profits, and other government receipts to which the legislature has the authority of appropriation are all considered forms of revenue, according to Fayemi (2011). He also distinguished between two types of government revenue: capital revenue and recurring revenue.

According to Agagu (2017), a local government is an administration at the grassroots level that is designed to address the unique needs of the populace. According to Appadorai (2004), it is described as "government by the popularly elected bodies charged with administrative and executive duties in matters concerning the inhabitants of a particular district or place."

The level of government closest to the people, known as local government, "has the authority to exert control over the affairs of people within its jurisdiction" (Lawal, 2000:60). "The division of a nation into smaller units or localities for the purpose of administration in which the inhabitants of the various units or localities concerned play a direct and full role through their elected representatives who exercise power and undertake functions under the general authority of the national or state government" is how Akpan (2012) defined local government.

Local government is "that unit of administration with defined territory and powers as well as administrative authority with relative autonomy," according to Bello in Akhakpe (2011). According to Dumadu (2008), there is a philosophical commitment to grassroots democratic engagement in the political process. This means that higher level government personnel, authority, and power are legally and administratively decentralized to a community that has its own will and may carry out certain tasks just like the rest of the country. Local government is defined as "a political subdivision of a nation or (in a federal system) state, which is constituted by law and has substantial control of local

affairs, including the powers to impose taxes or to exert labor for prescribed purpose," according to Ola Tonwe (2009), cited by the United Nations Office for Public Administration. The governing body of such an entity is elected or otherwise locally selected".

Barber (2019), defined Local government as authority to determine and execute matters within a restricted area. It becomes clear from the above that the purpose of establishing a local government is to ensure appropriate services and development activities responsible to local wishes and initiatives. Local government operates at the lowest level of society.

According to Bandhu (2017), local government is an entity established by state legislation in a village, district, city, or metropolitan area to manage services in contrast to state and central services. It is representative of the local populace and has a more or less autonomous character. A local government's duties are related to providing civic amenities to the people who live in that area, and its jurisdiction is restricted to a particular city, town, or territory. A "local government appears to be that part of the government of a nation or state which deals mainly with such matters as concern the inhabitants of particular district or place," according to Clarke (2018).

"That part of the government which deals mainly with local affairs, administered by authorities subordinate to the state government but elected independently of the state authority by the qualified residents," is what Rao (2015) defines as local government. "Local government may be said to involve the conception of territorial, non-sovereign community possessing the legal right and the necessary organization to regulate its own affairs," according to Robson (2019), in a comprehensive definition. This in turn assumes that the local community is involved in running its own affairs and that there is a local authority with the authority to act without interference from other parties.

Gokhale (2012) provides a straightforward description of local governance. "The government of a specific locality by the local people through the representatives elected by them is known as local self-government," he states. According to Venkatarangaiya and Pattabhiram (2019), local government is the management of a locality, village, town, city, or any other smaller state by a body made up of local residents. It has a fair amount of power, collects at least some of its revenue through local taxes, and uses that money for services that are considered local and, thus, separate from state and central services. It is required of a local government to coordinate development initiatives at the local level and advance democratic values in society. It is also expected to serve as the basis of socio-economic development in the locality. An analysis of the above definitions reveals certain essential characteristics of local governments. These are:

- **Local Area:** A local government has to operate in a geographical area
- **Statutory Status:** The local government enjoys statutory status i.e it is created by a specific law or statute.
- **Autonomous Status:** Autonomy of the local governments is the natural consequence of their statutory status. Since the local governments are created by an act of the legislature, that Act lays down their powers,

functions and relationship with central or state government.

- **Local Participation:** Participation of the local people in decision making and administration of the local authority is important that is what gives it the character of self – government.
- **Local Accountability:** Since local government provides services of local nature called civil amenities like sanitation, education, transport etc. to the people of the area, it is appropriate that it is accountable to the local people.
- **Local Finances:** Local governments have two main sources of finances: (1) grants-in-aid given by the central or state government and (2) taxes and levies imposed by the local governments themselves.
- **Social Services for the Local People:** The main objective of the local government is to provide certain civic amenities to the people of its area at their door – step. The provision of these services ensures healthy living of local community.

Grassroots participation

Simply put, grassroots participation refers to political engagement that primarily occurs at the local or grassroots level and is characterized by passive citizens, limited information availability, and the inability of local residents to hold elected local representatives accountable. It involves the participation of citizens at the local level in governmental operations. According to the United Nations (1981), grassroots involvement is the process of creating chances for all community people to actively participate in, influence, and fairly share in the outcomes of development. Since grassroots involvement in government is a complicated process, there isn't really a single template for how it should be created. As a result, the demographics and dynamics of each location vary. When it comes to meaningful engagement, grassroots participation strategies are essential (Nekwaya, 2007). Democratic approaches to public policy, community planning, and development—which presume that individuals have the right to make decisions that impact their lives—are the foundation of grassroots engagement (Bakare, 2016). According to Oakley and Marsden (1984), there are two primary ways to put this idea of participation into practice: (1) community development programs that prepared the rural populace to work with government development plans, and (2) the creation of formal organizations (cooperatives, farmers associations, etc.) that were supposed to give the rural people a way to interact with and have a say in development programs. Thus, participation is an indispensable element of democratic governance, such that meaningful and functional democracy depends solely on the participation of the people at the rural community (Bakare & Raji, 2019). Therefore, the conclusion can be drawn to the effect that meaningful participation of the rural poor in development is concerned with direct access to the resources necessary for development, and some active involvement and influence in the decisions affecting those resources (Burkey, 2000).

Political Participation at local government level

Political participation is a wide phrase that has been defined in a variety of ways. According to Dungse, Mato, Makinde, and Chidozie (2018), it is viewed as a citizen action or act intended to affect political results. It may refer to a number of

official and informal procedures and frameworks that allow citizens to participate in the formulation of public policy and choose representatives for them in the legislature (Paki & Inokoba, 2008; Preye & Samuel, 2018).

According to Falada (2014), political participation is the process by which a person participates in the political life of his society and has the chance to help determine what the society's common goals are and how best to achieve them. Therefore, political participation may refer to either direct or indirect voluntary involvement in the establishment and operations of the government. In essence, political involvement is any activity taken by regular citizens with the intention of influencing certain political outcomes, such as the allocation of social goods and norms (Rosenstone & Hansen, 2003). It primarily concerns citizens and their efforts to impact government politics and policy (Segesten & Bossetta, 2017).

Influencing government creation, acts, and inactions directly or indirectly by individuals or citizens is the essence of political engagement. Political participation encompasses a wide range of topics, from traditional involvement, such as voting procedures, to non-traditional involvement, such as protests, rallies, and movements. (de Zúñiga, Jung & Valenzuela, 2012; Gibson & Cantijoch, 2013) It includes a variety of forms, including traditional ones like voting, petitioning governments, contacting elected representatives, and participating in demonstrations, as well as unconventional ones carried out through digital technologies that seem to be more focused on expressing a viewpoint, whether supportive or not, than influencing decision-makers.

Participation is a basic democratic ideal that serves as the primary mechanism for granting or withdrawing permission and holding the governing class accountable. It also serves as a tool for achieving the democratic goal of granting citizens equality and autonomy in running their own affairs. Therefore, democracy would be a hollow masquerade if citizens did not actively and effectively participate in the selection of public policies and government officials.

Governance at local government

Due to its intricate interweaving of the "economic, political, and social aspects of a Nation" (Shehu, 1999), the idea of governance, like others of its sort, has proven difficult to define simply. To put it another way, the idea has not been an exception to the social science fields' well-known eclecticism and instability when it comes to conceptualizing fundamental problems. This explains why "no two political scientists would agree on what the concept of governance is, or what it means," according to Esman (1997). Indeed, as Hyden (1999) once observed, "the concept of governance has been defined by only a few authors for analytical purposes." Therefore, until it recently gained popularity, "governance as a concept has not been extensively used (or defined) in the political literature" (Nkom & Sorkaa, 1996). Governance, according to the World Bank (1989), is "the exercise of power in the management of a country's economic and social resources for development." "The nature of political regimes; the exercise of authority in the management of social and economic resources; and, the capacity of government to design and implement policy and to discharge its functions" are the three elements of governance, according to the World Bank (1993). These dimensions were specifically identified and concretely

elucidated by Olowu and Erero (1997) who conceptualize governance in terms of "rule-ruler-ruled relationship".

Despite the fact that the term "governance" has many different definitions and applications, most academics who use it tend to agree on a few essential components (Turnhout & van der Zouwen, 2010). The decentralization of decision-making, the rise of new central authority guiding mechanisms, and the expanded participation of non-state players are these crucial components. These components are employed both descriptively, as empirical representations of a shifting political environment and of the new ways that societies are governed, and prescriptively, as means of achieving good governance. As a result, they can be used as analytical ideas to explain governance as well as as policy tools to accomplish democratic standards.

Democratic administration, according to Kura (2006), is the science of arranging government at all levels and the process of directing the direct involvement of the general public in matters pertaining to their overall well-being. Therefore, it goes without saying that the democratic method of governance includes elections for different government posts, public involvement in selecting political leaders, and the protection of human rights. A democracy that has a good impact on people's social and economic well-being is one that they find meaningful. These social and economic effects thus point to the importance of the political goals of the entire democratization process. However, to ensure broad participation of the people and attach legitimacy, democratic principles and procedures, as well as protection of human rights, are essential ingredients for genuine and transparent democratic governance.

Models of governance at grassroot level of government

Numerous participatory government models have been proposed in the literature. According to Waheduzzaman (2010), the Authoritarian Model develops when people's involvement stays at stage 1, or the information level. People are viewed as passive recipients in this scenario, where choices and resources are made at the highest levels and programs are primarily carried out by local agency officials according to strict guidelines.

Bureaucratic Model evolves when people's participation level remains at Stage 2 or the consultation stage. According to this model, governing bodies communicate with the public and utilize their resources, but they do not share authority when it comes to making decisions or establishing policies. There is room for corruption in this paradigm because there is not enough involvement to let everyone know about the resources. When the level of participation reaches the stage of involvement, the political model changes. According to this approach, the local population has the same expertise, resources, and decision-making power as the governing body when it comes to carrying out the project. Furthermore, this model creates a more cooperative network for the development of any program by having people and agencies work together to build a sort of coalition where both parties share histories, customs, beliefs, and other shared interests.

Democratic Model emerges gradually as peoples' participation attains the stage of empowerment. This model allows developing a partnership with people, delegating authority to make decisions and implementing programmes with the sharing of local knowledge, resources and values. This model allows participatory planning and strategic decision making, which facilitates the

development of common vision, articulation of needs, effective, efficient and transparent management that facilitate a joint working environment. This is the most rational model when people are considered as stewards or navigators. But authorities need to be flexible and open to encourage the development of this model.

Democracy at grassroots level

The Greek terms *demos*, which means people, and *kratos*, which means rule, are the roots of the English word democracy. Democracy literally translates to "rule by the people." Democracy, according to Appadorai (2004), is a form of government in which the people themselves, or representatives they elect on a regular basis, exercise their ruling authority. Due to the ease with which all adult members of the community could participate in decision-making, direct democracy was feasible in the ancient states. In the contemporary political system, direct democracy is no longer feasible due to population increase and the enlargement of political borders. For this reason, in certain regions of the world, representative democracy has supplanted direct democracy. Representative democracy is an indirect democracy in which the representatives of the people hold the reins of power. Watter Lanqueur, mentioned in Idowu (1998), said that democracy still emphasizes the rule of the people even when the circumstances of the modern state prevent direct participation of all citizens in state governance. Through a system of representation, the people indirectly wield that sovereign power. As a result, a basic prerequisite for representative democracy is political engagement, especially during the election process. This is why Appadorai (2004) contended that democracy cannot be claimed to exist in situations where people do not feel free to discuss or vote due to an environment of fear and compulsion, even while they are exercising their other political rights.

Requirements of Democratic Rule

According to Sovereignty (2010), democratic rule must include at least two parties to allow for freedom of choice, periodic elections based on universal adult suffrage, and free and fair elections to enable the political party with the majority's support to control the government apparatus and civil liberties like freedom of association, freedom of religion, freedom of speech, and freedom from arbitrary arrest.

The foundation of representative democracy is the belief that citizens are capable of civic engagement. Three attributes are involved in these civic capacities: conscience, self-control, and intelligence. According to Appadorai (2004), citizens must be able to comprehend the community's interests, submit their personal

will to the collective will, feel a sense of duty to the community, and be ready to vote in its favor. On the contrary, political apathy, indifference, and laziness have hampered Nigeria's representative democracy's establishment and maintenance. According to Falade and Orungbemi (2010), Nigeria and many other African countries lack true democratic governance. Intolerance, intimidation, thuggery, assassination, resentment, indifference, indolence, money, and ethnic politics are all features of Nigerian politics. As a result of this, the ingredients of democracy have not been able to thrive after many years of political independence in Nigeria.

Grassroots Democracy

Participation in elections, governance, and decision-making that is driven by the people or community is a variation of democracy. Sunday and Chinedum (2014) define grassroots democracy as a propensity to create political procedures that transfer as much decision-making power as is feasible to the lowest tier of government. Grassroots democracy is the process of bringing democratic traditions to the margins by allowing citizens to organize and vote to choose their own representatives. The local people will choose a political representative who lives among them rather than being governed from a distance, which better explains the government of the people that democracy foreshadows. This is why democracy is sustained at the grassroots level. Therefore, grassroots democracy refers to political procedures that are led by a group of regular citizens rather than those that are controlled by wealthy, powerful people with vested interests. The phrase is typically used in everyday political practice to describe regular town hall meetings, bottom-up consensus decision making, consensus policy development, and strong local citizen participation in elections where the political elites respect and view their choices as sacred. In essence, grassroots democracy is local government carried out by legally mandated representative councils with specific authority within predetermined boundaries. Through the devolution of functions to these councils and the active participation of the people and their traditional institutions, it should be possible to maximize local initiatives and responses to local needs and conditions. These powers should also give the council significant control over local affairs, as well as the staff and institutional financial power to initiate and direct the provision of services and to determine and implement projects in order to complement the activities of the state and federal governments in their respective areas. In essence, grassroots democracy is a democratic process that is owned and operated by the vast majority of Nigerians who reside in the local communities that comprise the system of local government.

Conceptual Framework A Conceptual Discourse:

Local Government System In The Russia Federation

The Russia Federation:

RUSSIA

Capital and largest city	Moscow  55°45'21"N 37°37'02"E
Official and national language	Russian
Recognised regional languages	35 regional official languages
Ethnic groups (2021; including Russia and Crimea)	71.7% Russian 3.2% Tatar 1.1% Bashkir 1.1% Chechen 11.3% other 11.6% not reported
Religion (2024)	<div> <div>64.4% Christianity</div> <div> <div>■</div> <div>Orthodoxy</div> <div>■</div> <div>other Christian</div> </div> <div>21.2% no religion</div> <div>9.5% Islam</div> <div>1.4% other (including Buddhism)^[6]</div> <div>3.5% undeclared</div> </div> <div>61.8% Russian</div> <div>2.6%</div>
Demonym(s)	Russian
Government	Federal semi-presidential republic under an authoritarian dictatorship
President	Vladimir Putin
Prime Minister	Mikhail Mishustin
Legislature	Federal Assembly
Upper house	Federation Council
Lower house	State Duma
Formation	
Kievan Rus'	882
Vladimir-Suzdal	1157
Principality of Moscow	1282
Tsardom of Russia	16 January 1547
Russian Empire	2 November 1721
Monarchy abolished	15 March 1917
Soviet Union	30 December 1922
Declaration of State Sovereignty	12 June 1990
Russian Federation	12 December 1991

Current constitution	12 December 1993
Union State formed	8 December 1999
Area	
Total	17,098,246 km ² (6,601,670 sq mi) (within internationally recognised borders)
Water (%)	13 (including swamps)
Population	
2022 estimate	▼ 147,182,123 (2021 Census) (including Crimea) ▼ 144,699,673 (excluding Crimea) (9th)
Density	8.4/km ² (21.8/sq mi) (187th)
GDP (PPP)	
Total	2024 estimate ▲ \$5.473 trillion (6th)
Per capita	▲ \$38,292 (60th)
GDP (nominal)	
Total	2024 estimate ▲ \$2.057 trillion (11th)
Per capita	▲ \$14,391 (65th)
Gini (2020)	▼ 36.0 medium
HDI (2022)	▲ 0.821 very high (56th)
Currency	Ruble (₽) (RUB)
Time zone	UTC+2 to +12
Driving side	Right
Calling code	+7
ISO 3166 code	RU
Internet TLD	.ru .рф

Russia is a transcontinental country, which means it spans across two continents - Europe and Asia.

Russia's western region—which includes the region surrounding the capital, Moscow—is regarded as belonging to Europe. Most people call this part of Russia that is in Europe "European Russia." Siberia and the Russian Far East are included in the eastern section of Russia, which is seen as belonging to Asia. Siberia or Asian Russia are other names for this part of Russia that is in Asia.

The Soviet Era

The establishment of a centralized government structure during the Soviet Union occurred when Russia and its allies first adopted a local government system. A number of Soviet

constitutions (1918, 1924, 1936, and 1977) governed the Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic (the R.S.F.S.R.), which was ostensibly a sovereign socialist state inside a federal framework after 1936. However, the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, whose head was the nation's de facto leader, controlled the government at all levels until the late 1980s. In fact, there was only one slate of candidates in the elections that were held, and the vast majority of them were actually selected by the Communist Party.

The Soviet Union's political system and government structures underwent significant changes from the late 1980s to 1991, during which time Mikhail Gorbachev implemented reform policies known as perestroika ("restructuring"), glasnost ("openness"), and demokratizatsiya ("democratization"). These

changes affected the status and powers of the individual republics as well as the nature of the Soviet federal state. The Soviet Congress of People's Deputies was founded in 1988, and each republic had its own Congress of People's Deputies. Although the Communist Party remained in control of the system, elections to these bodies offered voters a choice of candidates for the first time, including noncommunists.

After that, the rate of change quickened. The Russian Congress declared in June 1990 that Russian law superseded Soviet law, and the following year Boris Yeltsin was elected as the country's first democratic president. Hardliners opposed to Gorbachev's reforms attempted an unsuccessful coup in August 1991, which resulted in the disintegration of the Communist Party, the elimination of the party's dominant position in government, and the collapse of the majority of Soviet government institutions. With the official dissolution of the Soviet Union in December, Russia became an independent nation when republic after republic proclaimed their "sovereignty."

The rate of change then accelerated. In June 1990, Boris Yeltsin was elected as the nation's first democratic president after the Russian Congress proclaimed that Russian law superseded Soviet law. The Communist Party disintegrated, the party's hegemonic position in government was removed, and most Soviet government institutions collapsed as a result of the hardliners' failed August 1991 coup attempt against Gorbachev's reforms. After the Soviet Union was formally dissolved in December, Russia gained its independence when several republics declared their "sovereignty."

Significant political and administrative reforms were implemented in the Russian Federation following the disintegration of the Soviet Union in 1991. Russia enacted a new constitution in 1993 that acknowledged local self-government as a crucial component of the political system and established a federal structure. The existence of municipalities, city districts, and urban settlements—each with differing levels of autonomy and responsibility—defines the system. Although there are still issues with implementation, the changes sought to strike a balance between the power of the national government and local autonomy. Russia and its allies made the shift to a more decentralized government following the fall of the Soviet Union in 1991. This gave towns and regions greater control over governance and decision-making.

Local Government System in the Russia Federation

The 89 constituent territories of the Russian Federation are referred to as Subjects of the Federation. The regions are divided into 12 economic zones for statistical reporting purposes, and seven federal districts have recently been established for political and administrative control purposes. These districts will probably soon take the place of the previous division into 12 economic zones. The magnitude of regional differences in demographics and economics is enormous. Twenty-one republics, six krais, forty-nine oblasts, two federal cities, one autonomous oblast, and ten autonomous districts are all subjects of the Russian Federation. Although the Federative Treaty, which is an essential component of the Constitution, permits bilateral agreements between the federal center and member regions that provide for special rights and obligations of the regions that are parties to such agreements, the 1993 Constitution of the Russian Federation maintains that all

subjects of the Federation have equal status despite this diversity of categories. In actuality, 51 areas have signed 47 agreements with the central government as of October 2000. It is crucial to emphasize that a region's classification as a republic, krai, or oblast does not by itself reveal much about its particular status. More than anything else, these differences in names are explained by historic reasons, even though among the regions that concluded bilateral agreements with the center the majority were republics.

Functions of Local Government:

The local government system in Russia plays an important role in the country's governance and administration. Here are some of the key functions of the local government system in Russia:

Administrative Divisions:

- Russia is divided into administrative units such as oblasts (regions), krais (territories), federal cities, autonomous oblasts, and autonomous okrugs.
- Local governments are responsible for the administration and management of these subnational units.

Public Services Provision:

- Local governments are responsible for providing basic public services to the population, such as education, healthcare, housing, utilities, and infrastructure.
- They manage local budgets, allocate resources, and oversee the delivery of these public services.

Urban and Rural Development:

- Local governments are responsible for urban planning, land use management, and the development of cities, towns, and rural areas within their jurisdiction.
- They oversee zoning, construction, and the maintenance of local infrastructure and facilities.

Social Welfare:

- Local governments play a role in the provision of social welfare services, such as social assistance, child welfare, and support for vulnerable groups.

Local Taxation and Revenue:

- Local governments have the authority to levy certain taxes and collect revenues to fund their activities and public services.

Local Democracy and Representation:

- Local elections are held to choose local government officials, such as mayors, city council members, and regional governors.
- These elected officials represent the interests of the local population in the decision-making process.

Coordination with Higher Levels of Government:

- Local governments work in coordination with the federal and regional governments to implement national policies and programs at the local level.

In Russia, the local government system is composed of various levels, including municipalities, districts, and regions. The heads of these regions are typically called governors or mayors, depending

on the level of government. As for the years and specific presidents, here are a few notable ones:

- Boris Yeltsin served as the President of Russia from 1991 to 1999. During his presidency, significant political and economic reforms took place, including the devolution of power to local governments.
- Vladimir Putin became the President of Russia in 2000 and served until 2008. He then became Prime Minister and returned as President in 2012. Putin has had a significant impact on the political landscape of Russia, including aspects of the local government system.
- Dmitry Medvedev served as the President of Russia from 2008 to 2012. His presidency marked a period of modernization and technological advancements in the country.

Over all Local government system in the Russia federation aims to ensure the provision of public service, uphold local interest and facilitates citizen participation in decision making process at the local level

Review of Empirical Literature

In a 2019 study titled "Political Participation and Grassroots Democracy in Nigeria," Inokoba and Kalagbor's main goal was to investigate how much local government involvement there is among the populace and how this has affected grassroots democracy, specifically in the state Local Government Area of the Russian Federation. The study collected, interpreted, and analyzed data using both qualitative and quantitative methods. Questionnaires, stakeholder oral interviews, and data or information from secondary sources were all used in this process. The research's conclusions indicate that low levels of public participation at the local level have a crippling impact on grassroots democracy. On the basis of the findings of the study, it is recommended that there is urgent need for actionable informal and informal approaches to political education of Nigerians at the grassroots.

The study "Grassroots' Participation and Democratic Governance in Nigeria: Osun State in Focus" was conducted by Bakare in 2021. Using a survey research approach, the study used primary data collected through in-depth interviews and questionnaire administration. For the study, a proportionate sample of 382 respondents was chosen, including traditional chiefs, community development associations, civil society organizations, semi-formal organizations, and executive members of political parties. With the use of SPSS, descriptive analysis was used to examine the data. The study found that low grassroots participation in state governance is largely caused by a lack of government responsiveness and accommodation, a lack of information about government programs, a lack of trust in political office holders, and a low level of public awareness of their roles in governance. These factors, as revealed, have led to the reduction of the legitimacy and peoples' trust in the government of the State. Thus, more fora such as town hall meetings must be provided by the government and there should be a law for mandatory public hearing and consultation in the State.

"Local Government and Grassroots Political Participation: Analysis of Isi Uzo Local Government Area, Enugu State, Nigeria, 1999 to 2019" is the title of another paper by Namchi and Nnamani

(2020). As the theoretical framework, the study used David Easton's System theory, which holds that the political system is the fundamental unit of analysis in comprehending the dynamic interactions and consequences of all political players. The idea states that the system and its surroundings are implicitly interdependent, and that changes to one have an impact on the others. The study's primary sources of data were interviews, observations, focus group discussions (FGD), and questionnaires; secondary sources included textbooks, journals, and online resources. T-test statistical analysis and content analyses were used to examine the required data. The study found out that people do not participate effectively in governance in Isi Uzo LGA. The researcher however recommended credible elections at the grassroots and community involvement in governmental decision making process.

Political Participation in Nigerian Democracy: An Examination of Selected Local Government Areas in Ondo State, Nigeria was the subject of a study conducted by Falade (2014). The study looked at the level of political participation among the populace. The study collected data using both qualitative and quantitative methods. The study's quantitative tool was a questionnaire called the Political Participation Attitude Scale (PPAS). Qualitative information was gathered using the Focus Group Guide on Political Participation (FGGPP). The study posed and addressed three research topics. According to the study's findings, 57% of participants did not actively participate in political activities. Gender also has an impact on political engagement. The percentage of men and women who were heavily involved in politics was 30% and 13%, respectively. Additionally, 38% of males and 12% of females consistently participated in voting. Furthermore, the poll found that the majority of respondents (53%) lacked faith in their political leaders. Based on the study's findings, it was suggested that Nigeria urgently needs both formal and informal political education methods. The Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) should also set up procedures to guarantee that a large number of Nigerians will vote in the upcoming general election in 2015.

Adesiyani (2020) conducted research on grassroots development and local government management in Nigeria. The study looks at the role that local government plays in the push for grassroots development in areas that exhibit underdevelopment indicators such as poverty, a high death rate, illnesses, and deteriorating infrastructure. Although it is clear that local government plays a crucial role in grassroots transformation, its effectiveness is lacking. This is caused, among other things, by the undemocratic culture of local administration, the overwhelming power of state governments, corruption, and a shortage of qualified staff. These impediments must be addressed with the necessary patriotic fervor if local government is to realize the manifest destiny of grassroots development.

The study "Democracy, political participation, and good governance in Nigeria" was conducted by Arowolo and Aluko (2012). The study used elite theory to support its claim that Nigeria's governance failure is a reflection of the political actors' vacuous role. The data collection method used in the paper was content analysis. It focused a lot on how democracy, political engagement, and good governance work together, but it also questioned Nigeria's fabricated divide between them. It ended by outlining a workable and sensible course of action.

The study "Participation of Citizens in Rural and Urban Governance: A Situational Analysis of Nigeria (2011-2014)" was conducted by Ikegwuoh and Ifaenyi (2015). The study looked at Nigeria as a situational examination of citizen participation in rural and urban governance. The ultimate goals are to stimulate people's abilities to use local human and material resources to address local needs and to encourage individuals to freely participate in conversations and decisions that influence their general wellbeing. Both descriptive and historical methodologies were used to gather and analyze the data. This paper's theoretical framework focused on democratic participation schools. engagement in decision-making, implementation, benefits, and assessment of development initiatives are the types of citizen engagement that should be of particular interest. In addition to bringing the government closer to the people, public participation in governance encourages self-help and the exploitation of local resources. However, poor governance, corruption, and insufficient funding are the issues that come with this. Therefore, the study suggests that all levels of government should establish a well-organized, people-oriented collaboration between rural and urban residents.

Theoretical Framework

The foundation of this research is public value theory. Moore's 1995 book *Creating Public Value: Strategic Management in Government* served as the initial introduction to the approach. The delivery of services in the public interest is the core tenet of public value theory (Chambers, 2003). What people would "choose if they saw, thought rationally, and acted disinterestedly and benevolently" is what is considered to be in the public interest (Chambers, 2003).

Accordingly, this idea includes the intended results of public programs as well as the involvement of anticipated beneficiaries (to clearly observe the outcome) for the services provided by government agencies. "Public value theory tends to operate at the highest levels, such as philosophical treatises about the public interest, or the operational level, focusing on specific desired program outcomes," according to Bozeman (1999). According to Chambers (2003), this approach encourages public institutions to consider the arrangement in terms of "is the public best served" and to acknowledge the public value of resources, goods, and services. In order to achieve good governance with people at its core, the public value theory states that representatives and public officials should involve people in decision-making about the provision of services. In order to comprehend grassroots participation and government, this study uses this idea.

Research Methodology

Research Design

Research design is the type of scientific enquiry used in a study. It implies essentially that the different approaches to be used in collecting information.

The design of this study is survey research design. Nwodu (2006) posits that the survey is a research method which focuses on a representative sample derived from the entire population of the study.

Using this design was deemed most appropriate because of the nature of the study which requires selection from a whole and using the selected to finally consider the whole by generalizations

based on the relative characteristics. Besides, the method is cheap and reliable.

Sources and Method of Data Collection

The Method of data collection employed in this work involves the use of primary and secondary methods of data collection. The researcher collected primary data through the questionnaires. Secondary data were obtained from textbooks, journals, magazine etc. This Method is less expensive, minimum skill is required when compared to other methods and it also covers a wide range of respondents and gives some degree of privacy.

Method of Data Analysis

The responses received from the respondents were presented in tables and analyzed using the simple percentage method, for easy understanding by all and sundry. The formula is given as:

$$\frac{\text{No. of responses for each question}}{\text{Total No. of respondents}} \times \frac{100}{1}$$

Population of the Study

The population for this study is composed of the population of Gombo Local Government Area. According to the 2006 population census, the population Local Government is estimated at 480, 000. This study will depend on this population to investigate political participation and grassroots governance in Local government Area.

Sample Size The sample size for this study was taken from the population using the statistical formula for the determination of sample size developed by Taro Yamani.

According to the formula (Taro Yamani 1973) to determine a sample from a population

$$n = \frac{N}{1 + (Ne^2)}$$

Where n = Sample size

N = Population size

e = error limit

Sampling Techniques

Random Sampling is a part of the sampling techniques in which each sample has an equal probability of being chosen. The researcher adopted the random sampling technique in order to avoid bias.

Justification of Methods

Because survey research provides an accurate assessment of the characteristics of the entire population, this paper used it as its research strategy. This design is therefore suitable for this endeavor since it will result in the inclusion and fathoming of every subgroup of the population.

However, the questionnaire, the main tool for gathering data, was chosen because it is important, covers a larger population, is less expensive, and offers greater security and privacy than other methods. Because it tends to provide accurate analysis of the data gathered and guarantees that everyone comprehends the tables' clear and succinct presentation, the research also used the percentage approach of data analysis.

On the other hand, the sampling technique adopted the simple random sampling. This was because everyone should have an equal chance to be included in the sample and it also free from bias. Therefore, all these methods employed in this work are all appropriate and suitable in deriving the projects' purposes and aims.

Conclusions

In post-Soviet Russia, local self-government is just beginning to be modernized. We are only able to discuss a few encouraging developments in this process today. First, it should be mentioned that local self-government has a unique subject—the people and their citizens—as well as a unique object of management: matters of local significance. Furthermore, independence is one of the fundamental ideas that define the core of local self-government as a system of organization and power exercise. The state guarantees local self-government independence (Article 12 of the Russian Federation Constitution). The state acknowledges local self-governance as a separate way for the people to exercise their government. This is mirrored in the way its bodies are organized, as well as in the way the state and society are run. The right to financial and economic resources acknowledged by the state, which are essential for the performance of local self-government functions, is a significant expression of the autonomy of local self-government and, at the same time, its guarantee. The existence of a system of democratic institutions that function well and allow the local population's interests and will to be freely expressed by local governments based on their authority, while still adhering to existing laws, is a prerequisite for the population to independently decide on local issues.

Recommendation

Municipalities' own accountability is the most significant aspect of local self-government that reflects its uniqueness as a means of exercising power. The interests of the populace should guide municipal operations. This is made possible by a variety of public control mechanisms over local self-government bodies and officials, as well as their obligation to the populace as established by municipal statutes. A decline in public trust leads to a sense of public responsibility.

The responsibility of local governments to the state is outlined in the 2003 adoption of the new Federal Law "On General Principles of the Local Self-Government Organization in the Russian Federation." In the democratic system of administering the state and society, local government holds a unique position.

The government apparatus does not include local government and its entities as an essential component. In the Russian Federation, however, there is a close relationship between state power and municipal administration. The power of the people serves as their sole source. Resolving difficulties that the state influences in various ways (legal, financial, etc.) is a substantial portion of local selfgovernment activity. Additionally, in accordance with Article 132 of the Russian Federation Constitution, local governments may be granted additional state authority and take part in the execution of public duties. In this situation, governmental entities are entitled to have authority over how they are implemented. However, the Federal Law "On the General Principles of the Local Self-Government Organization in the Russian Federation" prohibits the implementation of local self-

government by state authorities and state officials (Article 17).

The growth of democracy 364 constitutionalism is reflected in the modernization of the Russian state, which is a response of the democratic movement to the unresolved socio-economic and humanistic issues of society. Individual freedoms were restricted or even outright banned under Soviet constitutionalism if they conflicted with the socialist tenets of economics and politics, a one-party monopoly, a command-administrative system of government, and formal federalism (Bytyak, Yakovyuk, & Shestopal, 2017, pp.458-462). A more complex form of government with the division of powers, a competitive multiparty system, alternative elections for local and national government, and the actualization of the rights of the Federation's subjects are all part of the shift to democratic constitutionalism.

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