

Research Article

# Methods For Analyzing Intergovernmental Fiscal Relations And Service Delivery In Imo State, Nigeria (2019–2024)

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**Abstract:** Intergovernmental relations and local government performance in Nigeria's Imo State were the subjects of this study. Secondary data was gathered by reviewing textbooks, journals, magazines, online resources, and published and unpublished materials. Primary data was gathered by administering questionnaires to 270 respondents, who were selected from a sample population of 30 employees from each of the nine (9) local governments, three of which were chosen from each senatorial zone. According to the report, intergovernmental connections make sure that the various governmental levels use human and material resources effectively and efficiently. In a true federalism, it fosters the development of cooperation rather than rivalry. However, local governments lack sufficient funds, particularly from the state government. The effectiveness of local government is impacted by the usage of Transition Committees, Caretaker Committees, and even Sole Administrators. The researcher suggested that in order to address the irregularities, local governments should have elected governing bodies, practice true federalism, apply the rule of law principle, have their constitutionally specified areas of jurisdiction, and grant local governments autonomy. All of the aforementioned will guarantee that Imo State's local governments operate effectively.

**Keywords:** Imo State, Intergovernmental Fiscal, Methods, Relationships, Service Delivery.

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## 1. Introduction

The primary purpose of the government is to guarantee the safety of people and their property as well as the provision of the necessities for human life. The determination to achieve progress and guarantee the presence of the government at the local level sparked the local government in Nigeria. This suggests that because local governments are so close to the people, their existence is crucial to the much-needed development of Nigeria's different locales (Abalaka, 2024).

Nigeria now uses the federal system of government, which consists of the state government with concurrent powers that are to be divided unequally between the federal and state governments, the local government, and the central government with exclusive powers. Because of its nature, the federal government is overpowering and centralized. This primarily affects the executive branch of government and has fundamentally changed and worsened Nigeria's intra- and intergovernmental relations functions (Ajiteru, 2024).

Federalism and intergovernmental relations complement one other since it provide the framework for multi-level government (Abidaye, 2015). Federalism means that the many levels of government share resources, distribute functions, assign responsibilities, and divide authorities. Like the majority of federal systems of government, Nigerian federalism is marked

by a variety of ethnic groups, languages, cultures, political affiliations, and power struggles, according to Broadway and Shah (2019). Ajiteru (2024). The establishment of the local government was required due to the urgent requirement to serve these many components and guarantee service delivery at the local level. Local government, as the third level of government, was intended to have some autonomy and to have a relationship with both the federal and state governments (Sulaiman, 2024).

Imo State has a lengthy history dating back to 2002 about the way the local government election was conducted. The 1999 constitution's Section 7 is being fundamentally violated by this conduct, according to Abalaka (2024). State governments' meddling in local government management, especially when it comes to the use of funds and the exercise of political power, assumes that the so-called local government officials in Anambra State are unreliable in managing their respective local governments (Sulaiman, 2024). In light of this, the purpose of this research was to examine the relationship between the government and the local government in Anambra State using the lens of budgetary difficulties and the impact they have had on local government performance.

## **2. Literature Review**

### **2.1 Fiscal Relations Across Governments**

Government at all levels must find a source of income in order to carry out its constitutional duties of upholding law and order and providing social amenities that enhance citizens' well-being. Ajiteru (2024). The finances of the local administration are now unconsciously under control as a result of this development. According to Abalaka (2024), the goals of fiscal relations among federation units are to;

- To ensure that the tasks delegated to subnational governments may be completed efficiently, make sure that their financial resources including transfers from the federal government—correspond with their expenditure responsibilities.
- enhanced the subnational government's authority by implementing incentives to help them raise their own funds. iii. Make sure that the central government's macroeconomic management policies are not jeopardized or undercut.
- To improve the effectiveness of public spending and the responsibility of subnational authorities to their people in the delivery of subnational services, grant subnational governments discretion over expenditures in relevant areas.
- Include intergovernmental transfers that are transparent, administratively straightforward, and founded on goals and non-negotiable, stable criteria.

### **2.2 Nigerian Local Governments' Revenue Capabilities and Service Provision**

Adesopo (2024) claims that the centralized nature of intergovernmental fiscal character has had some detrimental effects on Nigeria's political system and has generally continued to jeopardize the country's ability to be a federation. First of all, fiscal reliance is promoted by the concentration of fiscal authority. As a result, states and local governments are unable to exercise the rightful concept of self-determination, which is fundamental to federalism (Ajiteru, 2024). According to Abalaka (2024), this goes against the idea that these states and local governments were established to allow citizens to be free and autonomous while also having access to rights and advantages inside the state to which they belong.

Almost no state or local government can independently plan to carry out a project without receiving funding from the federal government (Adesopo et al., 2016). By extension, the state and local governments lose their awareness of revenue creation as a result of their increased reliance on the federal government. Instead, their competition for revenue sharing has been creating conflicts of interest between the federal government and various levels of government, as well as between states and geopolitical zones. Sulaiman (2024).

### **2.3 Performance of Workers**

Performance is the act of carrying out a specific task. According to Purcell et al. (2018), opportunity, motivation, and ability all affect performance. Discretionary behavior, or the willingness to "go the extra mile," occurs when competent individuals are encouraged to work and given the chance to take action. Organizations are responsible for managing five main resources. These include information, funds, materials, machinery (energy and infrastructure), and human resources. According to Abalaka (2024), managers must fulfill four essential responsibilities in order for a company to fulfill its primary goal, which is to accomplish its

objectives and continuously enhance performance: managing operations, managing finances, managing people, and managing information. However, since it takes people to accomplish anything in a business, its employees are sometimes seen as its most valuable asset. According to Fabunmi (2020) and Thomson (2017), an organization's ability to motivate its workforce depends on its ability to address their requirements. These needs include things like fair compensation, better working conditions, and chances for promotion and recognition. In a similar employee commitment, according to vein, Kew Stredwick (2020), aids in the development of skills and competencies, as well as the acceptance of increased responsibility for quality, work organization, and problem-solving.

#### **2.4 Structure**

For this investigation, the systems theory put out by David Easton (2015) was used. According to Abalaka (2020), this theory can be viewed as a cohesive whole composed of interconnected components. These components, which make up the units, are referred to as subsystems. They help the entire function emotionally and generate more output than the individual units would have produced if they had operated separately, Sulaiman (2024). Systems theory places a strong focus on the need to view organizations as whole systems with interconnected subsystem components. represent departments or decision-making units inside a company. Accordingly, the effectiveness of the main systems will be determined by the sum of the attitudes of the subsystems (Ajiteru, 2024).

#### **2.5 Research-Based Literature**

A study on the problems and difficulties of intergovernmental fiscal relations in Nigeria's fourth republic was carried out by Oluwole (2018). According to Ajiteru's (2024) historical examination of income allocation in Nigeria, there is always some controversy or criticism around the recommendations made by the federal government's fiscal commissions and committees. The numerous revenue allocation committees in Nigeria were disbanded by successive administrations as a result of these controversies. According to the study's findings, practical measures and a balanced approach to viable solutions should be used to address issues resulting from federal, state, and local financial ties. In his study on the effect of current intergovernmental financial ties on the efficient provision of services at the local level in Nigeria, Angahar (2024) made an attempt at this. However, Angahar's study was theoretical in nature and was not carried out in Anambra State. The goal of the current study is to address this neglect. The impact of intergovernmental fiscal ties on Imo State Local Government Area Sulaiman's service delivery is empirically investigated (2021).

### **3. Proposed Method**

The research of Imo State's local governments' performance and intergovernmental relations will provide an overview of the field, the study population, a justified sample and sampling methods, and an explanation of the instruments or data collection tools that were selected and how they will be conducted and conclude with an explanation of data analysis and interpretation methods (Ajiteru, 2024).

#### **3.1 Field of Study**

Imo State, one of the 36 states in Nigeria that practice federalism and require intergovernmental ties to be implemented for the system to be administered effectively, was the subject of the study. It will discuss the state's three tiers of government—the State, Local Governments, and Community Government Councils—and how each has improved local government performance (Sulaiman, 2024).

#### **3.2 Research Population:**

The definition of "population" is "the total number of people, objects, events, and things that all have one or more characteristics," according to Odo (2017:40). relevant to a study. Thus, Imo State natives made up the study's population, with the heads of departments (HODs) of the various Community Government Councils (CGC) and senior employees of Imo State's 27 local governments serving as the study's target population (Ajiteru, 2024).

#### **3.3 Sample and Procedure for Sampling:**

Studies involving large populations typically use samples (Ajiteru, 2024). This indicates that samples from Imo State's three senatorial zones which included three local governments and thirty (30) staff members from each zone were used by the researcher to determine the sample size. According to Sulaiman (2024), this resulted in 270 employees and nine (9) local

governments. A method of stratified random sampling was employed to choose which local governments would participate in the study. Respondents were then chosen for the study using a deliberate random selection technique. The fieldwork was started within seven (7) months, according to Abalaka (2024).

**3.4 Data Analysis Method:**

We used percentages and frequency distribution tables to analyze our data. However, the hypothesis put forward in the study Sulaiman (2024) was tested using the chi-square at the presumptive level of significance of 0.05. As a result, these techniques allowed us to clearly report and analyze our findings.

**4. Results and Discussion**

**4.1 Analysis and Display of Data**

This section focuses on the presentation and analysis of 270 questionnaires administered to directors, department heads and senior staff, including department heads in Community Government Councils and Local Government Councils. Of the total questionnaires distributed, 245 were returned, while 35 were not returned. The respondents were grouped into four categories, namely: A representing senior staff in local government, B consisting of department heads in Community Government Councils, C covering department heads in local government, and D consisting of directors in local government.

Display and Evaluation of Individual Information

Table 1.: SEX.

Question(i): Determination of sex

RESPONDENTS	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
A	54	41	95
B	40	25	65
C	24	18	42
D	26	17	43
TOTAL	140	105	245

Source: (2013) Field work.

The table above shows that 140 or 57% male responded to the questionnaire. While 105 or 43% female respondents contributed to the research on inter-governmental relations and the performance of local governments in Imo State, Nigeria Ajiteru, (2024).

Table 2.: AGE.

Question (ii): Age of Respondents.

RESPONDENTS	20-29 Years	30-39 Years	40-49 Years	50 Years & Above	TOTAL
A	10	25	45	15	95
B	10	20	30	5	65
C	5	10	20	7	42
D	0	8	10	25	43
TOTAL	25	63	105	52	245

Source: (2013) Field work.

According to the above table, 25 respondents, or 10% of the total, were between the ages of 20 and 29; 63 respondents, or 26%, were between the ages of 30 and 39; 105 respondents, or 42%, were between the ages of 40 and 49; and 52 respondents, or 21%, were over the age of 50.

Table 3.: RELIGION.

Question (iii): Determination of Religion

RESPONDENTS	CHRISTIANITY	ISLAMIC	TRADITIONAL	TOTAL
A	95	0	0	95
B	65	0	0	65
C	42	0	0	42
D	43	0	0	43
TOTAL	245	-	-	245

Source: (2013) Field work.

The table shows that only those that responded to the questionnaires were all Christians Sulaiman (2024).

Table 4: QUALIFICATION.

Question (iv): What is your academic qualification

RESPONDENTS	FSLC	SSCE/GCE/ NABTEB	ND,NCE,HND	BA, B.SC, B. ED & Above	TOTAL
A	Nil	5	50	40	95
B	Nil	8	37	20	65
C	Nil	-	27	15	42
D	Nil	-	25	18	43
TOTAL	-	13	139	93	245

Source: (2013) Field work.

According to the above table's results, none of the respondents had only a First School Leaving Certificate; 13 or 5% had an O'Level; 139 or 57% had an ND, NCE, or HND; and 93 or 38% had a degree or above (Sulaiman, 2024).

Table 5: POSITION IN SERVICE.

Question (v): What is your rank?

RESPONDENTS	SNR. STAFF IN THE LGS	HOD CGC	HOD IN LGS	DIR. IN THE LGS	TOTAL
A	10	25	45	15	95
B	10	20	30	5	65
C	5	10	20	7	42
D	0	8	10	25	43
TOTAL	25	63	105	52	245

Source: (2013) Field work.

According to the aforementioned, there are 25 or 10% Senior Staff in Local Governments, 63 or 26% Heads of Department in Community Government Councils, 105 or 42% HODs in Local Governments, and 52 or 21% Directors in Local Government Sulaiman (2024).

Table 6: DURATION OF SERVICE

Question (vi): Have you been in the Unified Local Government System in Imo State since 2019 - 2024.

RESPONDENTS	YES	NO	NOT IN THE UNIFIED LG SYSTEM	TOTAL
A	70	20	5	95
B	45	20	-	65
C	25	17	-	42
D	26	17	-	43
TOTAL	166	74	5	245

Source: (2013) Field work.

According to the following table, 166 respondents, or 68% of the total, are employees who worked for the Imo State Local Government between 2015 and 2022. Just five (5), or 2% of the respondents, were not employees of the Local Government System in Imo State while 74, or 30%, had not been employed by the Unified Local Government System in Imo State since 2007 Abalaka, (2024).

TABLE 7: DISTRIBUTION OF QUESTIONNAIRES TO RESPONDENTS. PRESENTATION AND ANALYSIS OF SUBSTANTIVE DATA

Respondents	No. Administered	No. Returned	% Returned	No. Unreturned	% Unreturned	Total %
A	100	95	95%	5	5%	100
B	80	65	81%	15	19%	100
C	45	42	93%	3	7%	100
D	45	43	95	2	4%	100
Total	270	245	91%	25	9%	100

Source: Analysis of the distributed fieldwork.

Table 7: INTER-GOVEMENTAL RELATIONS

Question 1: Inter-governmental Relations is the interaction that take place among the different levels of government within a state.

Respondents	Strongly Agreed	Agreed	Strongly Disagreed	Disagreed	Undecided	Total
A	25	50	8	5	7	95
B	30	30	1	0	4	65
C	10	25	2	1	4	42
D	5	30	3	0	5	43
Total	70	135	14	6	20	245

Source: (2013) Fieldwork.

According to the table, 70 respondents (29%) strongly agreed, 135 respondents (55%) agreed, 14 respondents (6% strongly disagreed), 6 respondents (2% disagreed), and 20 respondents (8% were unsure) were unsure of what intergovernmental relations are. According to the results, around 84% of respondents believed that intergovernmental relations refer to the interactions between the state's various governmental levels (Ajiteru, 2024).

Table 8: THE ORIGIN OF INTER-GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS.

Question 2: Inter-Governmental Relations started in Nigeria as a result of the Federal System of Government.

Respondents	Strongly Agreed	Agreed	Strongly Disagreed	Disagreed	Undecided	Total
A	31	55	1	3	5	95
B	20	35	4	2	4	65
C	12	25	3	0	2	42
D	10	30	1	2	0	43
TOTAL	73	145	9	7	11	245

Source: (2013) Field work.

According to the table, 11 or 4% of respondents are unsure about how intergovernmental relations began, while 73 or 30% strongly agreed, 145 or 59% agreed, 9 or 4% strongly disagreed, and 7 or 3% did not agree. In conclusion, almost 85% of the participants determined that Nigerian federalism was the primary cause of the emergence of intergovernmental relations (Sulaiman, 2024).

Table 9: NEED FOR INTER-GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

Question 3: Inter-Governmental Relations is necessary in real federalism.

Respondents	Strongly Agreed	Agreed	Strongly Disagree	Disagreed	Undecided	Total
A	20	48	8	4	15	95
B	15	30	10	5	5	65
C	13	19	2	7	1	42
D	15	23	1	3	1	43
TOTAL	63	120	21	19	22	245

Source: (2013) Fieldwork.

According to the table, 63 respondents, or 26%, strongly agreed that intergovernmental connections are essential to true federalism, while 120 respondents, or 49%, agreed, 21 respondents, or 9%, strongly disagreed, 19 respondents, or 8%, did not agree, and 22 respondents, or 9%, had no opinion. Since more than two-thirds of the respondents agree with Abalaka (2024), this indicates that intergovernmental interactions are for true federalism.

Table 10: BENEFIT OF INTER-GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS IN A FEDERAL STATE.

Question 4: Immense benefit can be derived from Inter-Governmental Relation in a True Federalism.

Respondents	Strongly Agreed	Agreed	Strongly Disagree	Disagreed	Undecided	Total
A	40	38	5	8	4	95
B	23	28	7	7	0	65
C	19	18	1	1	3	42
D	21	16	2	1	3	43
TOTAL	103	100	15	17	10	245

Source: (2013) Fieldwork.

According to the table, 103 respondents, or 42%, said that intergovernmental relations can greatly benefit a country with a multitude of ethnic groups, dialects, and cultural distinctions like Nigeria, which operates under full federalism. Of the respondents, 100 or 41% agreed, 15 or 6% strongly objected, 17 or 7% disagreed with the benefit of IGR, and 10 or 4% are unsure if intergovernmental relations are beneficial. In conclusion, a nation with true federalism gains from intergovernmental interactions (Ajiteru, 2024).

Table 11: NIGERIAN CONSTITUTION AFFECTS LOCAL GOVERNMENT SYSTEM.

Question 6: The problem can be traced to the Nigerian Constitution.

Respondents	Strongly Agreed	Agreed	Strongly Disagree	Disagreed	Undecided	Total
A	20	43	3	27	2	95
B	12	23	5	25	0	65
C	6	20	5	10	1	42
D	7	19	7	10	0	43
TOTAL	45	105	20	72	3	245

Source: (2013) Fieldwork.

According to the aforementioned, 18%, or 45 percent, strongly agreed that the Nigerian constitution is to blame for the local government issue. 72 or 29% disputed that the issue stems from the Nigerian Constitution, 105 or 43% agreed, 20 or 8% strongly disagreed, and 3 or 1% had nothing to say. It is evident from the table that most people believe that the institution is to blame for the issue Sulaiman (2024).

Table 12: EXISTENCE OF FEDERALISM

Question 8: Is true Federalism in Existence in Imo State.

Respondents	Strongly Agreed	Agreed	Strongly Disagreed	Disagreed	Undecided	Total
A	16	25	7	45	2	95
B	8	16	5	35	1	65
C	6	6	8	22	0	42
D	6	7	5	25	-	43
TOTAL	36	54	25	127	3	245

Source: (2013) Fieldwork.

According to the above table, 36 respondents, or 15%, strongly agreed that Imo State has true federalism, 54 respondents, or 22%, agreed, 25 respondents, or 10%, strongly disagreed, 127 respondents, or 52%, said that Imo State does not have true federalism, and 3 respondents, or 1%, were unaware that Imo State has true federalism. According to the table, the majority of people believe that Imo State does not practice true federalism Abalaka (2024).

Table 13: CO-OPERATIVE GOVERNANCE

Question 9: There is Co-ordinate Relations between the State and the Local Governments in Imo State.

Respondents	Strongly Agreed	Agreed	Strongly Disagreed	Disagreed	Undecided	Total
A	9	15	25	45	1	95
B	5	14	10	35	1	65
C	6	8	8	19	1	42
D	5	5	10	23	0	43
TOTAL	25	42	53	122	3	245

Source: (2013) Fieldwork.

The aforementioned table indicates that 25 respondents, or 10% of the sample, strongly agreed that the state and local governments in Imo State have coordinated relations, 42 respondents, or 17% of the sample, agreed, and 122 respondents, or 50%, disagreed. Three percent, or 1%, were unconcerned. In conclusion, more than 70% believe that there is no coordination between the state and local governments (Ajiteru, 2024).

The following are the research hypotheses:

- Intergovernmental ties and local government performance in Nigeria are significantly correlated.
- Federalism and intergovernmental interactions are significantly correlated.

There is considerable association between proper finance and Local Government performance.

Table 14: INTER-GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT PERFORMANCE.

There is a significant relationship between inter-governmental relations and the performance of Local Government in Nigeria.

Respondents	Strongly Agreed	Agreed	Strongly Disagreed	Disagreed	Undecided	Total
A	30	40	6	5	7	88
B	20	40	3	0	3	66
C	15	25	2	1	5	48
D	5	30	3	0	5	43
TOTAL	70	135	14	6	20	245

Source: (2013) Fieldwork.

According to the above table, 135 respondents, or 55%, agreed that there is a significant relationship between intergovernmental ties and local government performance in Nigeria, while 14 respondents, or 5.7%, strongly disagreed. Six, or two percent, disagreed that there is a meaningful correlation between the success of Imo State's local governments and intergovernmental relations. 8%, or 20%, were unconcerned. In conclusion, more than 70% believe that intergovernmental relations and local government performance are significantly correlated (Abalaka, 2024).

HYPOTHESIS:1. According to Sulaiman (2024), there is a significant correlation between intergovernmental relations and local government performance in Nigeria.

OBSERVED FREQUENCY	EXPECTED FREQUENCY	O – E	(O – E)	$\frac{(O - E)^2}{E}$
88	61.25	26.75	715.6	11.7
66	61.25	4.79	22.9	0.3
48	61.25	-13.29	176.7	2.9
43	61.25	-18.25	333.06	5.5
245				$X^2 = 20.4$

Assumed level of significance 0.05

Total categories of Observed Frequency (of) answers minus  $(-1)(N-1) = 3$  is the degree of freedom (df). We reject the hypothesis that there is a substantial correlation between intergovernmental connections and local government performance in Nigeria since the collected value of  $x^2$  is higher than the tabulated value of  $x^2$  at 6.25.

Table 15: INTER-GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS AND FEDERALISM

There is a significant relationship between inter-governmental relations and federalism.

Respondents	Strongly Agreed	Agreed	Strongly Disagreed	Disagreed	Undecided	Total
A	5	45	9	4	14	77
B	12	33	8	4	16	73
C	13	19	3	8	3	46
D	15	23	1	3	7	49
TOTAL	63	120	21	19	22	245

Source: (2013) Fieldwork.

According to the above table, 63 respondents, or 25.7%, highly agreed that there is a significant relationship between true federalism in Imo State and intergovernmental relations, whereas 120 respondents, or 49%, agreed and 21 respondents, or 8.6%, strongly disagreed. In Imo State, 19 people, or 7.8%, disagreed that there is a meaningful connection between true federalism and intergovernmental interactions. In contrast, 22 people, or 9%, expressed no opinion (Ajiteru, 2024).

HYPOTHESIS 2: There is significant relationship between inter-governmental relations and true federalism.

OBSERVED FREQUENCY	EXPECTED FREQUENCY	OBSERVED – EXPECTED	$(O - E)^2$	$\frac{(O - E)^2}{E}$
77	61.25	15.75	248.05	4.0
73	61.25	11.75	138.06	2.2
46	61.25	-15.25	232.6	3.8
49	61.25	-12.25	150.06	2.5
TOTAL 245				$X^2 = 12.5$

Assumed level of significance is 0.05.

The  $df = (r-1) (c-1) = (4-1) (2-1) = 3$

Since the calculated value of  $\chi^2$  at 12.5, which is higher than the tabulated value of  $\chi^2$  at 6.25, we reject the hypothesis that true federalism and intergovernmental relations are significantly correlated. Ajiteru (2024).

Table 16: ADEQUATE FUNDING AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT PERFORMANCE.

There is significant relationship between adequate funding and local government performance.

Respondents	Strongly Agreed	Agreed	Strongly Disagreed	Disagreed	Undecided	Total
A	15	60	6	4	9	94
B	27	29	7	3	6	72
C	3	19	3	8	3	46
D	7	15	1	3	7	33
TOTAL	62	123	17	18	25	245

Source: (2013) Field work.

According to the data above, 62 people, or 25%, strongly agreed that the effectiveness of the local government system is significantly influenced by proper finance. 18 people, or 7%, disagreed with that statement, while 123 people, or 50%, agreed. However, 10%, or 25%, have nothing to say. According to the data, the majority believe that sufficient money significantly affects the performance of the local government in Sulaiman (2024).

HYPOTHESIS 3: There is significant relationship between adequate funding and local government performance.

OBSERVED FREQUENCY	EXPECTED FREQUENCY	OBSERVED – EXPECTED	(O –E) <sup>2</sup>	$\frac{(O -E)^2}{E}$
94	61.25	32.75	1072.6	17.6
72	61.25	10.75	115.6	1.9
46	61.25	-15.25	232.6	3.8
33	61.25	-28.25	798.06	13.0
TOTAL 245				$\chi^2 = 36.3$

Assumed level of significance is 0.05.

The  $df = (r-1) (c-1) = (4-1) (2-1) = 3$

We reject the hypothesis that sufficient funding of the local government system has a major impact on its performance because the calculated value of  $\chi^2$  at 36.3 is higher than the tabulated value of  $\chi^2$  at 6.25. Ajiteru (2024).

### 5. Comparison

The Third-Six Republic, another civil rule in Nigeria, was in effect from 1999 to 2024 and was governed in accordance with the 1999 Constitution. In light of this, the 1999 constitution's provisions and their effects on Nigerian local government performance are the main subject of our examination in this part. According to Sulaiman (2024), the 1999 Constitution acknowledged local government as the third level of government, with specific authority and a mandate to promote rural areas and strengthen intergovernmental cooperation. On the other hand, these republics saw a conflict in Nigeria's local government performance. According to Igbuzor (2019), the 1999 constitution weakened the roles and operations of the local government in Nigeria by involving it in yet another intergovernmental conflict (Ajiteru, 2024). The federal and state governments' power struggles over "who controls what and how" in local government caused constitutional tussles for the local governments. Accordingly, our research identified the following as key areas of conflict and abuse on the local government system, which leads to subpar local government performance in Nigeria (Abalaka, 2024).

### 6. Conclusions

It has been determined that intergovernmental connections continue to be a key success factor for local governments in Nigeria in order for them to function well and promote socioeconomic, political, and grassroots growth. This means that all levels of government, particularly in Imo State, must cooperate in order to ensure the overall development of the country. There will be an appreciative grassroots growth among Imo State's 637 Autonomous Community Government Councils and its 27 local government councils. Local government employees will be content with their jobs. Because there is an objective, there will be a sense of obligation. Duty commitment is guaranteed. Political office holders will be dedicated to their duties because they are aware that the public and the federal government will hold them responsible. The performance of the local government will be enhanced by true federalism between the state and local government systems. Each will become independent of the others while yet cooperating in this way. It will enable the 637 distinct Autonomous Communities to be accommodated, just like in Imo State. The three geographical zones, the 27 local governments, and the government councils.

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