

## POLITICS OF SITING PUBLIC PROJECTS AND ITS DEVELOPMENTAL EFFECT ON HOST COMMUNITIES IN NIGERIA 2012-2020

**EVANS OLUWAGBAMILA AYENI**

Federal University Wukari, Taraba State.

[ayeni@fuwukai.edu.ng](mailto:ayeni@fuwukai.edu.ng),

08061575415

**GERALD E. EZIRIN (PH. D)**

Department of Political Science, University of Nigeria, Nsukka.

### ABSTRACT

*The siting of public project is a deliberate attempt by the state to allocate state resources to society. The Federal Government of Nigeria's continued creation of more public projects like public universities in the country despite the challenges it faces in providing adequate funds and infrastructural facilities in the existing ones has been viewed through both lenses. The siting of such public project has tended to have noticeable developmental effects in the host communities. The failure of scholars in extant literature to systematically investigate the main rationale why the Government of Nigeria continues to create more universities and the impact of their siting on host communities informed this study. Essentially, this study examines the "politics of siting public project in Wukari and its developmental effect on the host community, between 2012 and 2020". The study provides an answer to the research question formulated. It adopts both quantitative and qualitative research methods. Inferential statistics was employed as the method of data analysis. The study found out, among other things that the siting of Federal University Wukari was dictated by the political consideration of politically-connected persons in the area, but despite that, its establishment has had a positive impact on the development of the host community as there has been attraction of social amenities, service and producing industries. The study recommended that Federal governments should expedite the strategic siting of public universities in rural communities as a way of stimulating development of the host community.*

**Keywords:** Public project, Politics, Development, Host communities, Nigeria

### Background to the Study

Politics is seen as the authoritative allocation of resources or value in society. Consequently, the siting of a public university is political because it has to do with the allocation of resources. The role of a public university in providing manpower training and development is so vital that universities have been created over one thousand years ago to meet these needs. The salient reason for a university education has something to do with the financial security of the people. This is why Rushchyshyn, Medynska, Nikonenko, Kostak, and Ivanova (2021, p. 234) explain that the delivery of financial security provides for a clear definition of potential threats and the provision of necessary resources for the neutralization of threats.

In Nigeria, studies abound on the contribution of public project like public universities. Thus, Addo (2010) explains that University education is an inevitable agent of development in Africa. For Otonko (2012), university education is capable of providing the socio-economic development that Nigeria yearns for, because of its capacity to develop people that eventually lead to the development of other sectors of the socio-economic system. In a related development, Okonofua (2017) observes that, the principal reason for creating universities is for the development and training of manpower and that further establishment of universities must continue until the problems of underdevelopment are solved. For the Minister of State for Education in 2010, Bar. Kenneth Gbagi under President Goodluck Jonathan "the motive for creating new Federal Universities was because the universities in the country are grossly inadequate, hence the policy of the government to bring University education to the doorsteps of all Nigerians" (Ochayi, November 16, 2010, para. 9). However, Nyewusira (2014) has a different thing to say of the reason for the continuous creation of public universities in Nigeria, according to him, Nigeria's government continued in the stream of the creation of new universities across the federation for political satisfaction.

The above studies showed that there was no agreement on the reason for the continuous creation of more public universities by the Federal Government of Nigeria. This lack of agreement informed this study.

Essentially, this study evaluates the politics of siting public university and its developmental effects on the host community, 2012-2020. This study, therefore, intends to provide an answer to this research question:

Has the political consideration of siting federal government university in Wukari town enhanced the development of the host community between 2012 and 2020?

The objective of this study is to investigate the political consideration of siting of federal government university in Wukari town and the development of the host community between 2012 and 2020

## **Literature Review**

### **Political consideration of siting federal government university and its developmental effect on host community**

This sub-heading reviewed the literature on the politics of siting government projects in Nigeria; however few pieces of literature as they relate to other countries are reviewed in order to appreciate how politics influences government projects in other countries other than Nigeria.

Shaw and Lesbirel (2000) in their conference proceeding paper on, "Challenges and Issues in facility siting", held at the Columbia University, New York, United States, 2000, argue that the development of siting facilities requires not only better principles and guidelines but also better leadership skills for transforming those guidelines into self-motivated decision processes. The above study believed that siting of facility, especially government own project requires leadership abilities than laying more emphasis on a certain guideline that ought to determine where government facilities are to be sited. This development makes the judgment of political leadership very instructive in siting government projects. The study asserted in its finding that; siting of a facility is inherently political. Corroborating the foregoing views are Duchin and Sosyura (2010), in their working paper on, "TARP Investment: Financial and politics" commissioned by the University of Michigan, Ross School of Business when they argue that political links play a significant role in fund distribution. If political ties play a major part in fund distribution; how much more capital projects being distributed by the same political leadership?

Min and Golden (2013) in their work on, "Distributive politics around the world", argue that a further detailed account of distributive politics would first establish the parameters of policy responsiveness to voters' preferences, next is whether allocations reflect such preferences, and only then turn to accountability issues and ask how politicians benefit electorally from distributional strategies. The study finds out that, incumbent politicians are rewarded by voters for distributive allocations, and in particular for those that are clientelistic and from which recipients can be excluded (p.84). In as much as there is democracy in place, distribution of government projects is likely going to follow certain dimensions as what the voters want and what political leadership stands to benefit from a project, they have the responsibility of siting. The issue of election in democracy has made it cumbersome to isolate politics from the distribution of government resources, either in form of facilities or fund transfer.

According to Moore (1984) in his work on, "the political history of Nigeria's new capital", argues that history has it that politics and capital relocation in Nigeria have always moved together. He went further to observe that, the new capital (Abuja) was to be a truly unbiased city in which Northern, Eastern, and Western people could co-exist in harmony, free of the historical legacies which leading groups had imposed on the existing urban centre. But the predominance of Northern influence (like Decree no. 6 enacted by the Federal Military Government of Nigeria on February 4, 1976, commencing the removal of the national capital from Lagos to Abuja) in the construction has meant that Abuja is widely perceived today as a Northern capital, not a Nigerian capital (p. 175). The political leadership that commenced and executed the movement of the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) from Lagos to Abuja, were all northerners, a development that could mean that they are more comfortable in having the FCT in their region than in the region that is not theirs. This goes to show that allocation of government resources is most often not based on need, but the interest of the political leadership in authority.

Thus, Omobowale and Olutayo (2007) in their work on "Chief Lamidi Adedibu and patronage politics in Nigeria", argue that Nigeria's attempt at democracy was (and is) complemented by patronage politics, whereby certain personalities exact countless influence on the political process (p. 425). The study finds out

that, the ruling class may grant 'good' in the form of projects, gifts, offices, and other pecuniary gains to clients, clients yield loyalty in return. The electorates (clients) are vital to the political process as seemingly the ultimate determinants of who gets to power, their loyalty, portrayed through votes, becomes vital to whoever seeks power (426). Corroborating the above observation is Min and Golden (2013) when they observed that, distributive politics which involves sharing of government goods and services to recognizable localities or groups lies at the heart of politics (p. 74). The need to seek a vote amid poverty in a country like Nigeria seems to further boost patronage politics where political leadership distributes and shares government resources to their supporters and associates in return for loyalty. This informs why political office holders see it as a great feat to site or influence the siting of a government project to their locality.

In furtherance to the above, the role of public project like public university in its host community cannot be underestimated. Madden (2017) in a study argues that Victorian University (a public university based in Australia) added more money to the host community. University education seems to enhance the social and economic development of a nation. The above is supported by the World Bank Group (2018), it was found that putting the masses at the centre of the development process has been the priority of social development which University education provides. Siting a public university brings development to the people and community who reside close to the public institution.

For Ezeibe (2016), the reason for the government project is to solve problems of economic growth and development. For instance, University Birmingham (2013) observes that their university's facilities, like the new sports centre, provide benefits to staff, students, and the local communities and also support about 450 jobs during the construction period. Thus, Dublin City University (2014) supports the above view when they opine that the University is no doubt a core provider of jobs in her vicinity, in addition to the fact that businesses from far and near rely on the institution for buying and selling.

Not only that, a study by Olaniyi, Oredipe, and Komolafe (2012) concludes that the importance of creating University education in a particular locality cannot be overemphasized because of its high rate of returns on investment to the people of that environment. In another development, University education seems to have the capacity to attract students from both neighbouring and far communities to the community hosting the University education. A study by Kelly, McNicoll, and White (2014) finds out the developmental effect on the host community through the spending of the students and the indirect employment it generated. Corroborating the above is a study carried out by the University of Birmingham (2013), which concludes that the University impact the economy through its actions; the expenditure of students who ordinarily would not have come to the area had the University not been created and also the expenditure of people who visited the non-indigenous students. The siting University education enhances the inflow of funds that the presence of the University brings to the host community.

Related to the important role of siting university education was aptly explained by Dublin City University (2014), the University is an economic and civil player in the city of Dublin, acting as the major employer with about 1,200 staff. It is an important catalyst for economic regeneration and community development. The argument by Dublin City University's pilot study shows that the institution serves as a job provider coupled with the expansion of the area through the building of more houses is in order.

Not only that, Aladegbola (2016) in his study on, "Politics of policies: The quest for qualitative education in Nigeria", argues that, apart from Obafemi Awolowo who sited a university outside his homeland, Adebayo Adefarati, Ambros Ali, and a host of other past Nigerian State Governors were careful of their hometown in the siting of university education in their states. The nine universities created by President Goodluck Jonathan in 2011, follow such politics as one was sited in Otuoke, Bayelsa State – the home base of President Jonathan. The one sited in Ekiti State became a thoughtful political conflict between the People Democratic Party (PDP) controlled federal government who wanted Oye-Ekiti that produced a federal lawmaker from the party and the All-Progressive Congress (APC) – controlled state government who wanted the newly created university to be sited in Ikole-Ekiti. The reason is simple, either party needed to score cheap political patronage (p.122). The study finds out that, the government has allowed partisan politics to dictate the implementation of basic policy decisions, a decision like education policy that has a developmental effect on the socio-economic development of both individuals and society (p.126). The above illustrations show that political leader who has the responsibility of allocating government resources

in their states through siting of a project like educational institution often time site such government projects in their home town, a development that is common among ruling elites as observed from the above observation.

Studies have shown that the distribution of government projects is greatly influenced by partisan politics rather than need assessment and required guidelines (Shaw & Lesbirel, 2000; Moore, 1984; Aladegbola, 2016; Ibara, 2019). In addition to the above, government site a public project to appease minor ethnic groups by the ruling elite (Soyombo & Attoh, 2019).

### **Theoretical Framework**

In the field of social sciences, different approaches are used to drive home analysis in research through a theoretical framework. By theoretical framework, we mean a theory or approach for applying the assumption, postulations, and principles of a theory in the description and analysis of research data.

The study employed Marxian Political Economy as put forward by Karl Marx and Friedrich Engel in their famous work: *Das Kapital* 1867. Other famous contributors are Comte de Saint-Simon and British reformer – Robert Owen (Segrillo 2012; Salavrakos 2012; Department for International Development, 2009). The Political Economy Approach has three different schools; the liberal, the radical (Marxist) approach, and economic nationalism (Corporate Finance Institute, 2015, Cohn, 2012).

The Marxian Political Economy Theory employed for this study is concerned with the following:

1. The interest of different groups in society and how it generates policy outcomes that may encourage or retard development;
2. The role that formal institutions and informal, political, and cultural norms play in shaping human interaction and political & economic competition;
3. The impact of values and ideas on political behaviour and public policy (Department for International Development 2009; Cohn 2012; Segrillo 2012).

### **Application of the theory**

Decision-makers consider the interest of different groups in society, and how it generates policy outcomes that may encourage or retard development. Thus, Kingdon, Little, Aslam, Rawal, Moe, Patrinos, Beteille, Banerji, Parton, and Sharma (2014, p. 2) contend that “the politics of patronage is more favourable to expand educational coverage, build more universities than to fix existing inefficiencies within the system because the former involves spending on political actors, while the latter may involve reducing resources allocated to underperforming political stakeholders”.

Secondly, the role that formal and informal institutions and political and cultural norms play in shaping human interaction and political & economic competition cannot be over-emphasized. Political competition made a certain public project be sited in a particular locality. Thus, Ezeibe (2016, p.162) notes that “the political environment is made up of those who demand certain public projects or policies and those who supply them.

Thirdly, the impact of the intervention on the value and ideas, political ideology, religion, and cultural beliefs, on political behaviour and public policy, thus clientelism, patronage, and corruption are the three most intense political forces that push states to expand access to education, rather than improve it (Kingdon et al 2014, p.2). The siting of such government projects has tended to have noticeable developmental effects in the host community.

Thus, the Marxian political economy approach is adopted because of its suitability in explaining how the state, represented by the Nigerian Government creates University education like Federal University Wukari among others to intervene in the economy and provide economic security.

### **Research Methodology**

The research design employed for this study is survey research design and ex post facto research design. Therefore, questionnaires, interviews, focus group discussions, observation, and documentary methods were used in gathering data for the study. The questionnaire was administered to “public/civil servants, students and company workers” to elicit responses on the benefits of Federal University Wukari

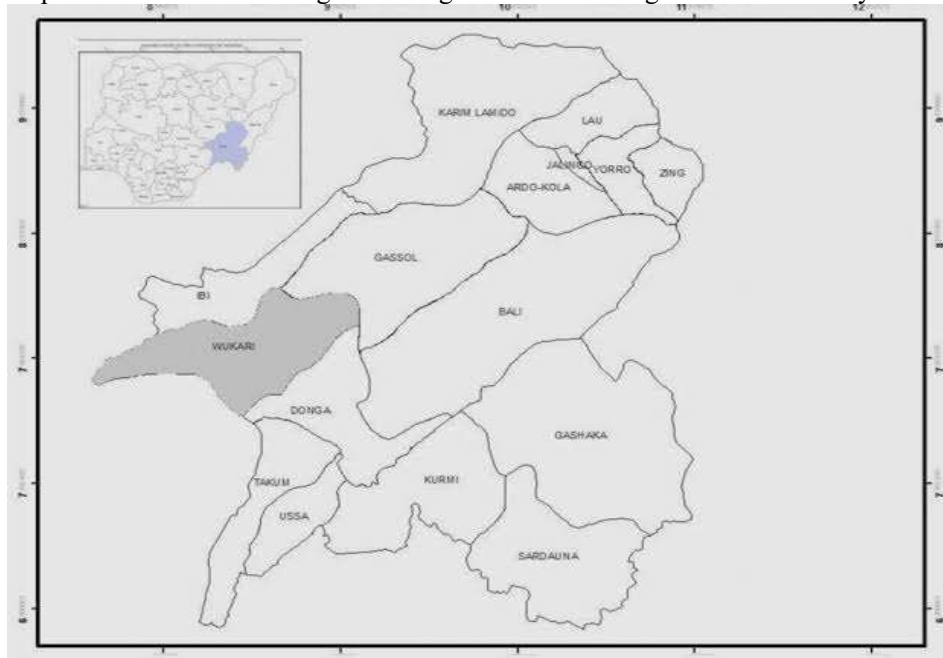
to the individuals, and Wukari town. Focus group discussion/group interview was held on May 7, 2019, at Wukari Yam Market in addition to a personal interview with farmers and opinion leaders to elicit detailed information from members of the town on the benefit of Federal University Wukari to the community.

The cluster sampling technique is used for this study because it allows the researcher to select elements in groups (Avyi, Puje, and Hospital Ward) rather than individuals.

Wukari Local Government has a total population of 241,546 according to the 2006 National Population Census (National Population Commission, 2019). The researcher uses a scientific method of arriving at a sample size that is representative enough for the study. In determining the sample size of the population for this study, Taro Yamane is used to arriving at 399 respondents as our sample size.

The methods of data analysis used for this study are; content analysis, descriptive and inferential statistics. A simple percentage was used because of its simplicity.

**Figure 1:** Map of Taraba State showing the local government hosting Federal University Wukari



**Source:** Oko, O.J., Aremu, M.O., Odoh, R., Yabpella, G & Shege, G.A (2014). Assessment of water quality index of Borehole and Well Water in Wukari Town, Taraba State Nigeria.

**Result and Discussion**

**Table 2:** Respondents on, has the political consideration of siting government university in Wukari supported the development of the host community between 2012 and 2019?

S/ N	Questions	Classification	Frequency	Percentage
1	The presence of politically influential persons were responsible for the location of F U Wukari	Yes	265	76.6%
		No	81	23.4%
		Total	346	100%
2	Where would have been the alternative location of FU Wukari, if those persons	Suntai	299	86.4%
		Jalingo	47	13.6%
		Total	346	100%

	had not influenced the decision of the location			
3	The presence of FU Wukari has attracted the provision of basic amenities like (hospitals, pipe born water, and primary & secondary school education).	Yes No Total	283 63 346	81.8% 18.2% 100%
4	The presence of FU Wukari has attracted hospitality service organisations like hotels among others.	Yes No Total	217 129 346	62.7% 37.3% 100%
5	Staff of FU Wukari have provided community service like JAMB subject combination seminar to secondary school students	Yes No Total	316 30 346	91.3% 8.7% 100%

**Source:** Field Survey 2021

From the above table 3, the majority (76.6% out of 100%) of the respondents opted for yes in the s/n 1 question, meaning that, the presence of politically influential person was responsible for the location of F U Wukari.

The above position is substantiated by a personal interview held on May 19, 2021 with twenty-four (24) farmers across the **three wards** that made-up Wukari Town, where the majority (18 out of 24) submitted that “The presence of a politically influential person like “Barr Damian Dodo, OFR” was responsible for the location of FU Wukari, while the minority (6 out of 24) believed that Rtd Gen. T.Y Danjuma and Barr. Damian Dodo influenced the location of Federal University Wukari”. All the respondent unanimously says that there was a serious contestation because the then Governor of Taraba State (Mr. Danbaba Suntai) who was of the ruling People Democratic Party also wanted the proposed University to be in his home-town - Suntai” (Farmers, Personal Interview, May 19, 2021). Also validating the foregoing is “Elder Ajibauka Adi”, who submitted that:

It was “Barr. Damian Dodo, OFR”, who was one of the lawyers of the then ruling “People Democratic Party that lobby the administration of the then President Goodluck Jonathan to locate one of the nine approved federal universities in 2011 to Wukari, and it was granted. Wukari is an ancient town (founded in 1596) and the District Headquarters of the present-day Southern Taraba (Wukari, Takum, Ibi, Donga). Wukari lose the opportunity of being sited “District Combined Secondary School” proposed by Wukari District and CRCN Church because it was later sited in Takun after two to three years of operation in Wukari. Secondly, when the old Gongola State that produced Taraba State was created, Secondary School was proposed to be sited in Wukari was later sited in other places outside Wukari District. After losing many opportunities like the ones explained above; Ibrahim Usman Sangari, the then Chairman of Electricity Corporation of Nigeria lobby the government of the northern region to create “Atoshi Memorial Secondary School, Now Mamara Government Secondary School, Wukari, it was granted. Also, It was Catholic Church, Wukari that created Saint Paul Secondary School - now Government Secondary School – GSS, Wukari (Personal Interview - Elder Ajibauka Adi, May 19, 2021).

A careful observation of the above interview with Elder Ajibauka Aji, a retired public servant and a respected and trusted elder in Wukari Town shows that some government projects that were initially proposed to be sited in Wukari were taken to other places based on politically influential persons from those places. The experience of this Elder Statesman showed that political consideration has been a major determinant of locating government projects right before and after Nigeria's independence of 1960 and even till now. It is therefore not surprising that the siting of one of the nine created federal universities in 2011 by the administration of President Goodluck Jonathan was influenced to be located in Wukari, the preferred place of one of the ruling People Democratic Party lawyers and politician, Barr. Damian Dodo, OFR.

In s/n 2 question, the majority of the respondents (86.4% out of 100%) opted for ‘yes’, meaning that, the alternative location of FU Wukari, if this person (Barr. Damian Dodo, OFR had not influenced the decision of the location would have been “Suntai”, the hometown of the then Governor of Taraba State.

Thus, the foregoing observation was supported by a personal interview with Elder Ajibauka Adi and personal interview held with twenty-four (24) farmers across the **three wards** that made-up Wukari Town, on May 19, 2021, where they submitted that “Suntai or Jalingo would have been the alternative location of FU Wukari had the political influential person not influenced the location” (Personal Interview, May 19, 2021).

In s/n 3 question, the majority of the respondents (81.8% out of 100%) opted for yes, meaning that, the presence of FU Wukari has attracted the provision of basic amenities like (FU Wukari Clinic, FU Wukari Staff School, and pipe born water).

The above position is substantiated by a personal interview with Elder Ajibauka and personal interview held on May 19, 2021 with twenty-four (24) selected farmers across the three wards in Wukari Town, where they submitted that “FU Wukari attracted provision of basic amenities through FU Clinic, FU Staff School and secondary education established by private individuals for investment purpose”.

In addition to the foregoing, personal observation has shown that more relaxation centers like Green Canopy, Credence Hotel, resort centers, sachet water factories, Residential Estate, hospitals, primary and secondary schools among others have been established as a result of the establishment of Federal University in Wukari town.

In s/n 4 question, the majority of the respondents (62.7% out of 100%) opted for ‘yes’ meaning that, the presence of FU Wukari has attracted hospitality service organisations like hotels. The above position is authenticated by a personal interview with Elder Ajibauka Adi and personal interview held on May 19, 2021 with twenty-four (24) selected farmers across the three wards in Wukari Town, where they submitted that “The presence of FU Wukari has attracted hospitality service companies like “Green Canopy – opposite FU Wukari, Credence Hotel” among others” (Farmers, Personal Interview, May 19, 2021).

In s/n 5 question, the majority of the respondents (91.3% out of 100%) opted for yes, meaning that, “members of staff of FU Wukari have provided community service like JAMB subject combination seminar to secondary school students”

The above position is verified by a personal interview with Elder Ajibauka Adi and personal interview held on May 19, 2021 with twenty-four (24) selected farmers across the three wards in Wukari Town, where they submitted that “members of staff of FU Wukari provided community service by visiting most secondary schools in Wukari to give orientation to secondary students on JAMB Subject Combination”.

Personal observation has shown that even though the location of FU Wukari has enhanced the development of Wukari, the university itself is faced with the challenges of infrastructural deficit, inadequate teaching and learning materials that have a negative effect on staff and students of the University.

**Test of the second hypothesis**

**Table 8:** The political consideration of siting federal government university in Wukari town has supported the development of the host community between 2012 to 2019  
Crosstabulation

Count	The establishment of Federal University in Wukari has supported the development of non-indigenes of Wukari between 2012 to 2019		Total
	YES	NO	

QUESTIONS	Federal University Wukari has enhanced National unity among the staff of the institution that are of different ethnic groups	255	81	336
	Federal University Wukari has provided employment for many Nigerians	288	48	336
	Federal University Wukari has opened access of higher income to many Nigerians (including graduates of this University)	273	63	336
	Federal University Wukari has actually fulfilled her mandate of training and retraining of manpower	207	129	336
	the establishment of Federal University in Wukari has widened the access of Nigerians to university education	306	30	336
Total		1329	351	1680

Source: SPSS Version 20.0

**Table 9:** Chi-Square Tests

	Value	df	Asymp. Sig. (2-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	103.268 <sup>a</sup>	4	.000
Likelihood Ratio	101.355	4	.000
Linear-by-Linear Association	.794	1	.373
N of Valid Cases	1680		

a. 0 cells (0.0%) have expected count less than 5. The minimum expected count is 70.20.

Source: SPSS Version 20.0

**Decision Rule:** States that, if the Chi-square asymptotic significant is not up to 0.05 ( $\alpha < 0.05$ ) reject  $H_0$ , if otherwise do not reject.

**Decision:** Since Chi-square asymptotic significant is less than 0.05,  $0.000 < \alpha < 0.05$ . Therefore,  $H_0$  is rejected at a 5% significant level; hence the researcher accepted the alternative hypothesis. **H<sub>1</sub>:** The political consideration of siting federal government university in Wukari town has supported the development of the host community between 2012 to 2020. Therefore, the creation of FUW has supported the development of non-indigenes of Wukari between 2012 to 2020.

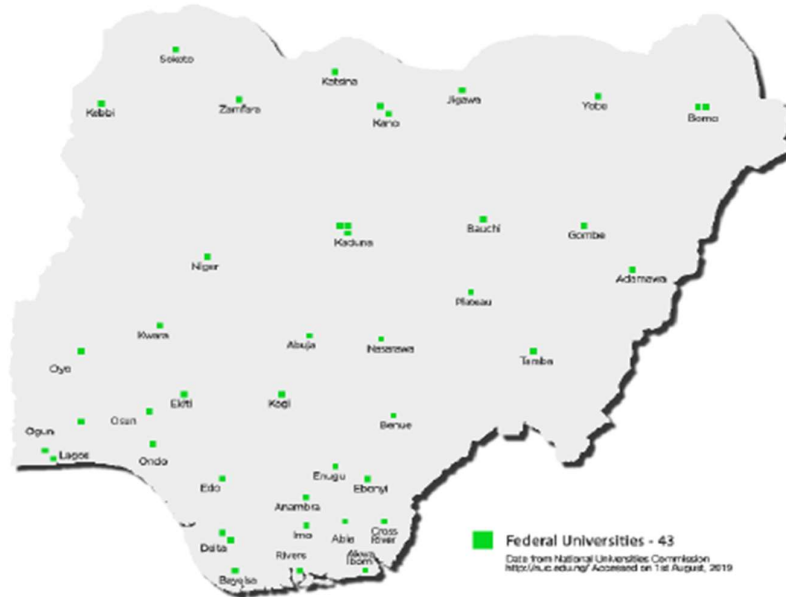
### Discussion of Findings

Findings showed that: The presence of politically influential person which is responsible for the location of F U Wukari has attracted the provision of basic amenities like FU Clinic and other private hospitals, FU Staff School, and other private primary and secondary education established by individuals for investment purpose. We can deduce from the above that political consideration of siting federal government university in Wukari has attracted provision of basic amenities. Supporting the finding of this study, Aladegbola (2016) found out that, the government has endorsed partisan politics to order the spread of institutions that has effects on social-economic development of individual and the society. At times, the influence of partisan politics has a way of concentrating government projects in a particular location at the



detriment of other places with no politically influential person to attract government projects. Ibara (2019) note that there is a spatial imbalance in the distribution of public secondary schools and neglect of educational factors in siting secondary schools in River State as a result of political influence. Corroborating the above imbalance in the distribution of government projects, Mogaji (2019) found out that the distribution of federal universities in Nigeria is not evenly distributed among the various states. The map below shows the distribution of federal universities across the thirty-six states and the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) in Nigeria.

**Figure 1:** Number of Federal Universities in each state of Nigeria



**Source:** Mogaji, 2019

The above map shows that Kaduna State has the highest number of federal universities in Nigeria, followed by Bornu, Kano, Delta, and Lagos State respectively. The above map has shown that the distribution of federal universities is not based on the population proportion of each state, as some smaller states have more universities than other states with a high population.

Further findings showed that the presence of federal government university in Wukari has attracted hospitality service organizations and relaxation centres like Green Canopy – opposite FU Wukari, Credence Hotel” among others.

Further findings also showed that “members of staff of FU Wukari provided community service by visiting most secondary schools in Wukari to give orientation to secondary students on JAMB Subject Combination among others. The above development has helped Wukari Indigenes seeking admission through JAMB to get admission with ease. The study of Jacob & Iroegbu (2018), which found out that, the effect of FU Wukari on host community includes employment opportunity, increase of public infrastructure, supporting the social-economic development, the attraction of federal presence into Wukari, encouraging the indigenes to pursue a university education, and provision of community service, supported the second and third findings of the present study.

### Conclusion

Politics is the authoritative allocation of state resources for the benefit of the individual and society. These benefits of university education to individuals and society have developmental implications for the beneficiaries. The siting of federal projects like federal government university in Wukari is usually a deliberate attempt by the state to inject resources into the host community to enhance development and stabilise the economic growth of the community hosting the university education.

Even though the Federal Government of Nigeria's continued the siting of public projects like federal government university for political consideration, this development has also brought about the provision of social amenities, attraction of service and producing industries.

Therefore, the political consideration of siting federal government university in Wukari, Taraba State Nigeria is one of the means used by the government to allocate state resources that will subsequently enhance the development and welfare of the host community.

### Recommendations

Based on the findings of this study, the study made the following recommendations:

Federal governments should expedite the strategic siting of public universities in rural communities as a way of stimulating development, while downplaying the influence of politically connected people in the area. The suggested solution will bring development to rural communities within the states in Nigeria, as there will be attraction of social amenities, services and producing industries.

Secondly, the Federal Government of Nigeria should ensure that the number of federal universities in various states is based on the population size of those states. The suggested recommendation will ensure fairness and equality in the development process of Nigeria.

### References

- Addo, P.K. (2010). The contribution of higher education to national development. *International Journal of Educational Leadership*, 2 (2), 81-87.
- Aladegbola, I.A. (2016). Politics of policies: the quest for qualitative education in Nigeria. *AFRRIKA: Journal of Policies, Economics and Society*, 6 (1&2), 103-131.
- Asika, N. (2012). *Research methodology in the behavioural sciences*. Lagos: Learn Africa.
- Baum, S & Ma, J. (2005a). *Education pays 2004: The benefits of higher education for individuals and society (Rev. ed.)*. Trends in Higher Education Series. College Board.
- Cohn, T. H. (2012). *Global political economy: Theory and practice* (6<sup>th</sup> edition). Pearson Education.
- Department of for International Development (2009). *How to note political development analysis*. A DFID Practice Paper. <https://www.odi.org/sites/odi.org.uk>.
- Dublin City University (2014). *Capturing the economic and social value of higher education: A Pilot Study of Dublin City University*. 2014 Final Report. [www.dcu.ie/community](http://www.dcu.ie/community)
- Duchin, R & Sosyura, D. (2010). *TARP Investment: Financial and politics?* University of Michigan, Ross School of Business, Working Paper, No. 1127, January 2010. <http://ssrn.com/abstract=1426219>.
- Ezeibe, C.C (2016). *ABC of political economy: A beginner's guide to understanding the state and economy (2<sup>nd</sup> edition)*. University of Nigeria.
- Federal University Wukari (2014), *Students Handbook 2014/2015 Session*. The Student Affairs Division of Federal University Wukari.
- Guinness World Records (2019). *Oldest higher learning institution: Oldest University*. [www.guinnessworldrecords.com/world-records/oldest-university](http://www.guinnessworldrecords.com/world-records/oldest-university).
- Ibara, E.C. (2019). Politics of school mapping: Evaluation of spatial distribution of public secondary schools in River State, Nigeria. *Asian Research Journal of Arts & Social Sciences*, 8(4), 1-11.
- Igwe, O (2007). *Politics and globe dictionary (3<sup>rd</sup> edition)*. Eagle.
- Ihuah, P.W., Kakulu, I.I & Eaton, D. (2014). A review of critical project management success factors (CPMSF) for sustainable social housing in Nigeria. *International Journal of Sustainable Built Environment*, 3, 62-71.
- Ishaku, T.H., Hussain, A.M., Dama, M.F., Zemba, A.A & Peter, AA. (2010). Planning for sustainable water supply through a partnership approach in Wukari town, Taraba State Nigeria. *Journal of Water Resources and Protection*, 2, 916-922.
- Kayani, M.M., Akbar, R.A., Faisal, S., Kayani, A & Ghuman, M.A. (2017). Analysis of social-economic benefits of education in developing countries: An example of Pakistan. *Bulletin of Education and Research*, 39(3), 75-92.

- Kelly, U., Nicoll, I & White, J. (2014). *The economic and social impact of the University of Kent*. October 2014, Final Report, Viewforth Consulting Ltd.
- Kingdon, G.G., Little, A., Aslam, M., Rawal, S., Moe, T., Patrinos, H., Beteille, T., Banerji, R., Parton, B & Sharma, S.K. (2014). *A rigorous review of the political economy of education systems in developing countries*. Final Report, Education rigorous literature review, London. Department of International Development, London.
- Madden, J.R. (2017). *University location and city development: the effects of Victorian University on the Western Melbourne Economy*. Centre of Policy Studies Working Paper No. G – 272, April 2017. <https://www.vu.edu.au/CoPS>.
- McLean, I & McMillan, A. (2003). *Concise dictionary of politics* (2<sup>nd</sup> Edition). Oxford University Press.
- Milios, J. (2000). Social classes in classical and Marxist political economy. *American Journal of Economics and Sociology*, 59 (2), 283-302.
- Min, B & Golden, M. (2013). Distributive politics around the world. *The Annual Review of Political Science*, 16, 73-99.
- Momoh, A & Hundeyin, T.(1999). Perspective in political economy. In Anifowose, R & Enemu, F (Eds.), *Elements of politics* (38-59). San Iroanusi.
- Moore, J. (1984). The political history of Nigeria's new capital. *The Journal of Modern African Studies*, 22 (1), 167-175
- National Assembly (2020). *Bill Tracker*. <https://www.nassnig.org>.
- Nwankwo, G.O. (1984). Management problems of the proliferation of local governments in Nigeria. *Public Administration and Development*, 4, 63-76.
- Nyewusira, B.N. (2014). Politics and the establishment of public universities in Nigeria: Implications for university education. *Journal of Education and Practice*, 5 (19), 171-179.
- Ochayi, C. (November 16, 2010). FG releases 1.5 bn for the take-off of six new varsities. *Vanguard Newspaper*. <https://www.vanguardngr.com/2010/11>.
- Ogunode, N.J & Iroegbu, A.I. (2018). Perception of undergraduate students on the impact of sitting higher institutions in a community: a case study of Federal University Wukari, Taraba State Nigeria. *Electronic Research Journal of Behavioural Sciences*, 1, 74-84.
- Okafor, J.C., & Ukaegbu, V.E. (2018). Population and sample. In Nwannolue, B.O., Ezeibe, C.C., Aniche, E.T., & Iwuoha, V.C. (Eds.), *Political Inquiry and Research Methodology: Logic, design, process, methods, and approaches* (Pp. 265-278). Parakletos Immunis.
- Oko, O.J., Aremu, M.O., Odoh, R., Yabpella, G & Shenge, G.A (2014). Assessment of water quality index of Borehole and Well Water in Wukari Town, Taraba State Nigeria. *Journal of Environment and Earth Science*, 4(5), 1-9.
- Okoli, N.J., Ogbonhah, L.& Ewor, R.N. (2016). The history and development of public universities in Nigeria since 1914. *International Journal of Education and Evaluation*, 2(1), 60-73.
- Okonofua, F.E (2017). Overcoming challenges in pioneering new universities in Nigeria. *Lecture delivered at the Foundation Day First Ceremony of Edo University, Iyamo, Edo State*. On March 23, 2017.
- Olaniyi, O.M., Oredipe, M.O., & Komolafe, B.O (2012). Socio-environmental impact of the higher institutions on host communities. *Journal of Geography and Regional Planning*, 5 (5), 132-141.
- Omobowale, A.O & Olutayo, A.O. (2007). Chief Lamidi Adedibu and patronage politics in Nigeria. *The Journal of Modern African Studies*, 45(3), 425-446.
- Otonko, J. (2012). University education in Nigeria: History, successes and the way forward. *International Journal of Technology and Inclusive Education*, 1(2), 44-48.
- Salavrakos, I. (2012). Political theory, theories of the state and economic crisis. *International Journal of Business and Social Sciences*, 3 (20), 79-98.
- Segrillo, A. (2012). Liberalism, Marxism and Democratic theory revisited: Proposal of a joint index of political and economic democracy. *Brazilian Political Science Review*, 6 (2), 8-27.
- Shaw, D & Lesbirel, S.H.(2000). Challenges and Issues in facility siting. *Conference Proceedings*, Columbia University Press, New York, United States, 2000. <https://www.citeseerx.ist.psu.edu>.
- Soyombo, O & Attoh, F (2019). The politics of ethnic balancing in Nigeria. *African Journal of Political Science*, 14(4). 1-5
- Taraba State Government (2018). *Taraba State at a Glance*. [www.tarabastate.gov.ng/about](http://www.tarabastate.gov.ng/about).
- Udo, B (June 9, 2013). *FEC approves three new federal universities for Yobe, Kebbi & Zamfara*. <https://www.premiumtimesng.com>.

- University of Birmingham (2013). *The impact of the University of Birmingham*. A Report for the University of Birmingham, Oxford Economics. Birmingham.
- World Bank Group (2018). *Social development*. [www.worldbank.org](http://www.worldbank.org).
- Yamane, T. (1967). *Statistics: An introductory analysis* (2<sup>nd</sup> edition.). New York, USA: Harper and Row.