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## **Public Private Partnership and Economic Development in South East Nigeria, 2016-2023**

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### **ABSTRACT**

This study in an empirical investigation of Public Private Partnership and Economic Development in South East Nigeria from 2016 – 2023. Specifically the study is designed to; ascertain the effects of public private partnership on road infrastructural development in Enugu, Umuahia, Abakaliki, Anambra, and Owerri, determine the effects of public private partnership on provision of water and waste management infrastructures Enugu, Umuahia, Abakaliki, Anambra, and Owerri Investigate the effect of public private partnership on provision of educational facilities in South East Nigeria, investigate the effect of public private partnership on provision of Educational infrastructures in South East Nigeria, examine the effect of public private partnership on provision of health care infrastructures in Enugu, Umuahia, Abakaliki, Anambra, and Owerri. This study was carried out in five big South East Nigerian cities, namely Enugu, Umuahia, Abakaliki, Anambra, and Owerri, which were all selected randomly. The focal point of this study is the inhabitants of these big cities in the South East Geopolitical Zone of Nigeria. The study population is thus 2876 residents made up of male and females from the chosen five chosen cities in South East Nigeria who are predominantly Roman Catholic Church members. Taro Yamane sampling method was employed in obtaining a sample size of 351 respondents. A questionnaire designed by the researcher was the tool for collecting data, and data gathered from the respondents were computed using simple percentages, whereas chi-square ( $\chi^2$ ) was used to test the hypotheses at 0.05 level of significance. The findings of the study revealed; public private partnership played significant role in the provision of road infrastructures in the study areas, public private partnership played significant role in the provision of water and waste management infrastructures in the study; public private partnership played significant role the provision of educational infrastructures in the studies areas; public private partnership played significant role on the provision of health care infrastructures in the studies areas. Based on the findings, the following were recommended: state government should make use of public private partnership to ensure adequate provision of infrastructure most especially in rural areas where the infrastructural needs of the people are not receiving attention; the masses should mobilize the public sector to ensure the government provide an enabling environment for public private partnership in infrastructural provision; loan should be given to private investor at low interest rate to encourage private investor involvement in the provision of infrastructure; the government should ensure continuity of the project regardless of government change.

Keywords: public, private, partnership, economy, development

### **INTRODUCTION**

It is the role of the government to provide infrastructure to its citizens. Infrastructure refers to the basic physical and organizational facilities, services, and systems needed for a society or business to operate. It includes roads, bridges, water, electricity, health, education, and public transportation, among others [1]. One of the most

important jobs of the government is to see that these critical services are delivered, dependable, and accessible to every citizen. It is mainly the responsibility of the public sector, which has the resources and skills to pursue big infrastructure initiatives that are a must for citizen well-being [2]. One of the biggest significance of the provision of infrastructure is that it induces economic development and growth. Infrastructure is a key driver to economic growth, as it encourages the movement of goods and services, supports communication and connectivity, and allows access to basic services [3]. By investing in infrastructure, the public sector is able to create jobs, stimulate investment, and improve productivity. Similarly, the provision of infrastructure ensures access to basic services for all people and reduces poverty and inequality [4]. Infrastructure, including roads, bridges, and public transportation systems, connects various segments of a country, giving citizens access to essential services like health, education, and employment opportunities [5]. Through the provision of such infrastructure, the government can foster social inclusion. The public sector's role in the provision of infrastructure is, however, often accused of being inefficient and uninnovative. Researchers contend that the public sector is often hindered by short-term political aspirations, lacking the long-term vision necessary to plan infrastructure efficiently [6]. In addition, most developing countries do not have the resources to be in a position to invest adequately in infrastructure, with the resultant effect being significant shortfalls in transportation, energy, and water systems—factors that are essential to economic growth [7]. The second limitation of the public sector is that it has limited technical capacity. It often lacks the expertise and skills necessary for the planning and implementation of infrastructure projects [8]. This shortage of planning and implementation is often the cause of delays, cost overruns, and inefficiencies. To get past these issues, governments must enhance their investments and enhance their capabilities through partnering with the private sector. Thus, advanced economies have increasingly had to resort to public-private partnerships (PPPs) as the answer to their infrastructure problem [9]. These partnerships allow governments to tap into private sector expertise and funding, and thereby speed up completion of key infrastructure projects. In the United States, for example, PPPs have been utilized to build toll roads, bridges, and public transportation system development in cities like Los Angeles and Miami [10]. Similarly, in the UK, PPPs have financed new schools and hospitals so that public funds could be released for other uses [11]. Nigeria, being a multi-ethnic country with a complex socio-political structure, offers unparalleled challenges. The Nigerian public sector is plagued by an enormous bureaucracy, weakened by inefficiencies, non-accountability, and deep-seated corruption [12]. Tribalism, nepotism, and corruption are significant threats to infrastructure delivery in Nigeria. Embezzlement, bribery, and favoritism in infrastructure projects, leading to project delays, abandonment, or poor execution [13], [14], have been well-documented in reports and literature. These have discouraged people's confidence in governmental institutions and retarded national growth. Nepotism in recruitment and promotions has undermined meritocracy, while tribalism has affected resource allocation and decision-making at the expense of fairness and equity in public service delivery [15]. These systemic issues have contributed significantly to stifling infrastructural development in Nigeria at large. One of the potential solutions is the application of PPPs. PPPs enable the government to benefit from private sector efficiency, transparency, and finance and hence reduce the financial burden of the state and reduce risks of corruption [16]. Moreover, competitive bidding stimulates accountability and deters favoritism, thus combating tribalism and nepotism problems. The use of PPPs in the development of infrastructure has been linked to improved project delivery, improved cost control, and improved service delivery [17]. Through involvement in these transparent and accountable partnerships, Nigeria can reduce corruption and inefficiency and promote inclusive and equitable development. In light of this, the present study aims to empirically examine the impact of public-private partnerships on economic growth in South East Nigeria, between the years 2016 and 2023. The research aims at five randomly chosen cities: Enugu, Umuahia, Abakaliki, Anambra, and Owerri. The study aims to achieve several specific objectives: to ascertain the influence of public-private partnerships on the development of road infrastructure in the selected cities; to establish how the partnerships affect the provision of water and waste management infrastructure; and to analyze their effect on the provision of educational facilities in South East Nigeria.

### **Literature Review**

#### **Public**

The word "public" is often interpreted as a group of persons who share some common interest or concern, or who are caught up in relation to a matter or choice of some kind. It refers to a broad section or the average people, rather than a single person or an identifiable group. Furthermore, the concept of the public is most often associated with issues of openness, inclusivity, and being in some sort of shared control or ownership. Public in general terms are a group of individuals with various socio-economic and political backgrounds but however, in this research study, public are those who are associated with the government or government control departments such as the public organization that performs some function. A public organization, also known as a public sector organization, is a government-owned and government-operated entity or a public body, such as a municipality or a

public utility. These organizations are committed to providing public goods and services, such as healthcare, education, transportation, and infrastructure, to the general public. Public organizations are typically governed by legislation and laws, with the main objective of serving in the interest of the public and not in generating profits for individual shareholders. Some examples of the major public organizations are government agencies, state schools, hospitals, and utility organizations such as water and electricity supply organizations.

#### **Private**

Generally, private implies personal ownership, and control business organization such as in the case of sole proprietorship. A public organization, or otherwise referred to as a public sector organization, is an organization owned and managed by the state or a public organization, i.e., municipality or public utility. Public services and goods such as healthcare, education, transport, and infrastructure are provided by such organizations to the general public. Public organisations are generally controlled by law and regulation, and their overarching aim is to serve the public interest rather than to make profits for private shareholders. Government departments, state schools, hospitals, and utilities such as water and electricity companies are examples of public organisations.

#### **Public private partnership**

A public-private partnership (PPP) is a contractual agreement between a public entity, i.e., government department, and a private entity, i.e., corporation or not-for-profit organization, to fund, construct, and operate a public facility or service. The mission of a PPP is to utilize the finest qualities of both the public and private sectors to deliver a project or service that one sector could not or would find too expensive to realize alone. In a public-private partnership, the private sector typically delivers the capital, expertise, and management required to deliver the project or service, and the public sector contributes the land, regulatory support, and public access necessary. The two sides share the risks, costs, and benefits of the project, and the private sector is typically compensated in some mix of fees, tolls, or other revenue. Public-Private Partnerships, or PPPs, can be commonly implemented in infrastructure investments, such as transportation systems, energy facilities, and water facilities. They are also applied in the provision of services, ranging from healthcare and education to the management of garbage. Widely accepted as an effective means for enhancing efficiency, lowering costs, and increasing public service quality, these partnerships provide governments with a means to delegate some of the financial and administrative burdens to the private sector.

#### **Development**

Development as a concept suffers from definitional pluralism. It is a difficult concept to define. Efforts, however, have been forthcoming from learned scholars to conceptualize development. Some of these definitions shall be discussed for the purposes of this research. [18], summarizes development as a concept that includes all efforts at improving the condition of human existence in every aspect. It implies an improvement in the material well-being of all citizens, and not only the most influential and wealthy, sought after in a way that does not compromise the future. In addition, it demands that poverty and the disparity of access to the delights of life be eliminated or substantially reduced. It seeks to strengthen personal physical security and livelihood, and expand opportunities for an improved life. [9], is of the opinion that development is generally perceived to include not just economic growth, but also some idea of even distribution, health care, education, housing and other essential services all with the ultimate aim of improving the quality of life of the individual and society at large [9].

#### **Economic development**

Economic development encompasses the journey of enhancing the economic welfare of a region or nation through a multitude of approaches, including the creation of jobs, the elevation of productivity, and the allure of investment. This process entails a variety of activities and policies designed to spur economic growth while simultaneously elevating the quality of life for the inhabitants. Economic development strategies may involve investments in infrastructure, e.g., the construction of roads, bridges, and telecommunications facilities, as well as the institution of education and training programs aimed at improving the quality of the workforce. Aside from this, governments may also provide incentives such as tax holidays or subsidies to entice businesses and prompt investment in the region. Economic development can be pursued through a variety of approaches, including:

1. Industrialization: Promoting the development of industries, for example, manufacturing, technology, or services, to provide employment and spur economic growth.
2. Export promotion: Promoting exports by encouraging industries to export their goods and services to earn revenue and provide employment.
3. Tourism development: Promoting tourism to attract tourists and generate income for local businesses.
4. Small business support: Providing assistance and services to small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) to help them grow and create jobs.
5. Development of infrastructure: Investment in infrastructure, such as transport networks and utilities, to improve connectivity and attract investment.

Economic development is a cornerstone of enhancing the economic and social well-being of a country or area, and usually, it tops the list of priorities for both governments and nationals. When successfully achieved, economic development results in more employment, improved incomes, improved living standards, and the creation of a stronger and sustainable economy.

### **Road infrastructure**

There is a body of literature [19], [20], [21], [22] that has demonstrated that the development of road infrastructure is positively related to economic growth. Generally, road infrastructure helps by facilitating the free mobility of persons, goods, and services, and access to land and a large array of commercial and social activities [23]. The availability of road infrastructure not only reduce the physical barrier by inducing the movements of individuals, goods [24], and services but also enhance access to markets, social services and jobs by minimizing the overall transport times and costs. The provision or construction of high mobility road infrastructure such as expressway can increase the speed and efficiency of both domestic and international trades by reducing the cost and time of transportation; whereas the provision or construction of high accessibility road infrastructure such as local road provide easy land access and stimulate commercial and social activities at the local level [25], [26].

### **Water and sanitation infrastructure**

Water and wastewater infrastructure systems possess certain characteristics that limit their response to the dynamics in shrinking cities. First, since they are buried and out of sight, they do not have the same level of public knowledge regarding their operations and status as other infrastructure systems such as roads and bridges. Second, they supply services with significant implications for public health and the environment. Supplying potable water to the communities and piping wastewater to treatment facilities is a fundamental part of disease transmission prevention and environmental protection. In shrinking cities, though, the water quality supplied to the inhabitants could be affected by hidden, aging, and decaying pipes, and as the demand decreases, the water could be older or even stagnate. The reduced service level, together with rising expenses, can trigger deindustrialization, catalyzing a cycle that guarantees to decrease both the quality of water and operational productivity while boosting the per capita expenses of the system. Educational infrastructures Educational infrastructure refers to the network of facilities, institutions, and resources that are accessible to provide education to a populace. This includes schools, colleges, universities, and other institutions of education, as well as the classrooms, laboratories, libraries, and other physical spaces necessary to provide education [27]. The education infrastructure is among the most basic cornerstones of any education system, offering the requisite physical basis for the provision of education services to the needy. In the absence of a highly developed educational infrastructure, the provision of quality education to all persons may be hard to achieve, especially in underdeveloped and remote regions.

### **Health infrastructure**

The health infrastructure is a crucial pillar of any healthcare system, the physical support necessary for the delivery of medical care to deserving persons. In the absence of the establishment of health infrastructure, the provision of prompt and effective healthcare service becomes an arduous task, especially during emergency or critical periods. The development and maintenance of a robust health infrastructure are crucial to ensuring that individuals and communities are able to obtain the healthcare they need. This requires investment in building infrastructure, coupled with ongoing work to upgrade and expand existing facilities and services. In addition to physical infrastructure, the health infrastructure includes policies, regulations, and management systems that govern the delivery of healthcare. These components are essential to ensuring that healthcare services are provided effectively, equitably, and with responsibility. Finally, the health infrastructure plays an underlying role in promoting public health and disease prevention; therefore, its creation and maintenance are an ongoing focus of governments and healthcare organizations worldwide.

### **Theoretical framework**

James M. Buchanan, widely regarded as the father of Public Choice Theory, transformed our perspective on government and political behavior. His basic assumption was that politicians and government bureaucrats were driven by precisely the same self-interest driving participants in the private economy. The notion in fact denies the traditional postulate that government officials are solely interested in acting for the common good of society.

#### **1. Contravening the "Benevolent Planner" Model**

Prior to Buchanan, political and economic models routinely presumed government officials to be benevolent, neutral planners dedicating their efforts to the public interest. Buchanan dismissed this optimistic assumption. He suggested that:

Just like the entrepreneurs endeavor to maximize their profit.

Politicians seek re-election, and

- Bureaucrats desire budget increases, promotions, or ease.

This perspective presumes that public decisions are occasionally taken not in the interest of the public, but for personal enrichment, career, or political survival.

## 2. Implications of Self-Interest in Government

Buchanan's theory portends that government may not always be the most effective provider of goods and services due to the following reasons:

- Government bureaucrats may prefer projects that benefit special interests, even if they are economically unviable.
- There may be wasteful expenditure or overregulation to sustain bureaucratic structures.
- Voting-maximization, as opposed to long-term sustainability, may motivate decisions.

## 3. Basis for Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs)

This penetrating analysis of government inefficiency laid the groundwork for alternatives like Public-Private Partnerships:

- Since private organizations are inherently profit-driven and cost-effective, involving them will counterbalance bureaucratic inefficiencies.
  - Through PPPs, market mechanisms such as competition, accountability, and performance incentives can be brought into public service delivery.
4. Sustainable Economic Development Angle Buchanan's method, in the context of sustainable economic growth, would contend that:

A response dominated by the government may be inadequate because of conflicting incentives. • Bringing in the private sector under PPPs allows for better utilization of resources, innovation, and long-term orientation, all of which are crucial for sustainability. However, checks and balances are still necessary to prevent the private sector from becoming exploitative or invading the public interest.

### Empirical review

In an extensive research, [28] investigated the effect of investment via public-private partnerships on economic growth and development in Nigeria, using data covering the period 1971-2020. Using the Ordinary Least Squares (OLS) approach, the study was carried out on a set of data obtained from the World Bank's Private Participation in Infrastructure (PPI) database and the World Bank's World Development Indicators (WDI). The study aimed at investigating the influence of overall PPP investment on economic growth. The findings of the study unexpectedly show that PPP investment has a negative impact on economic growth in Nigeria, based on the data set and the period considered. This finding is unexpected and is due to data limitations and poor reporting. This finding underscores the necessity of having data that is both sufficient and frequently available over a long duration of time. Public-private partnerships, or PPPs, are increasingly recognized as a vital solution for reinforcing infrastructure and fostering economic growth in developing nations. Therefore, it is crucial to comprehend the empirical connections that research has established between infrastructure investment through PPPs and economic development. [29], shifts the focus from developing countries and examine the linkages between economic growth and PPP market development in EU countries. The authors use a combination of scientific literature and statistical analyses of data to examine the degree to which economic growth and the indicators of PPP market development are interrelated in EU countries. The indicators are the quantity and the value of PPP projects. The results are that the growth in GDP responded positively towards the development of the PPP market, if we consider the 20-year period. The results were, however, quite varied across the nations that were studied. For example, Belgium, Ireland, France and the United Kingdom (UK) were the only countries that had a high correlation between PPP market and GDP growth. [30], investigated the topic of 'Investment through Public Private Partnership (PPP): the impact of PPP activities on the rise in GDP.' The aim of the research was to examine the relation between Public Private Partnership (PPP) activities and their impact on Gross Domestic Product (GDP). The study employed a time series data for Turkey, spanning the period from 1990 to 2014, and encompassing the number of PPP activities and GDP. Through the application of a Vector Auto Regression (VAR) analysis approach, it was identified that there is merely a weak connection between GDP and PPP. The study also suggested that the reason for the result might be due to the presence of other macroeconomic determinants influencing GDP growth as an indicator of overall economic progress. [31] analyzed the impact of Public Private Partnership (PPP) investment on economic growth in 39 developing countries with a standard growth model. With the Generalised Method of Moments (GMM) estimation technique, the analysis was conducted in two alternative manners. The study started by examining the impact of total PPP investment on economic growth, which was measured by GDP per capita. PPP investment was then divided into three separate sectors: energy, transport, and water and sanitation. Using the World Bank's Private Participation in Infrastructure (PPI) database for the years from 1997 to 2016, the study established that PPP investment has a positive impact on economic growth. Nonetheless, when broken down by sector, the results of the study are that none of the PPP investments in the chosen sectors has a positive impact on economic growth. In fact, PPP investments in the transport and energy sectors were discovered to have a negative influence on economic growth.

Conversely, PPP investment in the water and sanitation sector was discovered to be insignificant in explaining economic growth in developing countries. [32] analyzed the determinants of investment in the form of the GDP of developing countries on three levels: private, public, and public-private partnerships. The analysis utilized data from the World Bank's PPI database. When the determinants of investment in PPP projects were examined, it was seen that nations more prone to launch large-scale PPP programs were the ones that had already gained experience with such projects. The study also established that the proportion of PPP investment in GDP was a function of the economy size, i.e., the larger the economy, the bigger the PPP program would be. [33], investigated the Determinants of Public-Private Partnerships in Infrastructure in Asia: Implications for Capital Market Development. The aim of this paper was to analyze the significance of enhanced access to finance—i.e., stock, bond, and bank lending—public-private partnership (PPP) investment in developing nations. This interest is driven by the fact that the majority of developing nations still heavily rely on fiscal financing of infrastructure projects. Based on the WB PPI dataset of chosen 12 LMICs for the period 1995-2015, their results reaffirmed the truth that banks continue to be the primary source of funding for infrastructure projects. They suggested that the domestic bond market needs to be developed further, attaining depth and liquidity to serve the purpose of long-term finance for investors in the private sector. Unexpectedly, the study revealed a negative effect of bond market development on PPP investment. Among the explaining possibilities that were presented was that government bond financing, which largely characterizes the bond markets in emerging countries, tends to deter private sector involvement by precluding access to the corporate bond market. [34], conducted a study on 'Private Financing for Infrastructural Development: A Search for Determinants in Public-Private Partnerships in SSA. Their research utilized Extreme Bounds Analysis and Logit regressions to identify the determinants of public-private partnerships that are crucial, using unbalanced panel data covering 40 sub-Saharan African nations from 1995 to 2020. In their study, they established that five variables—Regulatory Quality, Population, Gross Domestic Product, Foreign Direct Investment, and Government Spending—are significant positive determinants of the inflow of infrastructure investment in sub-Saharan Africa. The implications of these findings to them, suggests fervent necessity for sub-Saharan African nations to encourage wise policies around these main drivers to encourage private sector investments in the region [35]. The study is on the contribution of public private partnership (PPP) to education development in Nigeria. PPP is seen as a panacea to revamping educational sector that is experiencing decline in term of quality everyday due to insensitivity on the part of government to finance education to meeting up the minimum requirement benchmark put forward by the United Nation (UN). It is against this background that the research aims to analyze the level at which PPP has helped in transforming the educational sector in Nigeria. However, this research employs a qualitative approach to analyze its data. Materials for this research were gathered from secondary sources, including journal publications, the internet, and books. The research identified that Public Private Partnership (PPP), or Private Financial Initiative (PFI), has been of significant value to the education sector. The study therefore recommends that concerted effort should be made by the government and private sectors to providing lasting solution to decline in educational sector of Nigeria. [36], studied The Role of Public Private Partnership (PPP) in the Development of Quality Education Programmes in Nigeria for Self-Reliance and Economic Improvement. The research discusses the state of the institutions tasked with making people self-reliant with special emphasis on Technical Colleges in Nigeria. Workshops, equipment and tools, learning environment and state of service for teachers. All the problems we identified earlier as hindering the success of the educational system are still with us. All these problems are attributable to the economic, political and social situation in the country. The recent demand for the intervention of PPP has become a necessity because the present educational system and its programs have not met the expectations of the people in Nigeria. What the students are being taught in the system is more of theory, hindered by a shortage of equipment and tools, poorly equipped workshops and laboratory buildings, and unmotivated teachers. This paper recommended that, schools should set-up a work experience programme to ensure practicability entrepreneurship ventures by the youth should be made to attract credit facilities among others. [37], the study examined public private partnership and educational infrastructure in Nigeria. The objective of the study was to examine the impact of public-private partnership on educational infrastructure in Ogun State model secondary schools. There is a general consensus among educationists, policy analysts and policymakers that there are not enough resources for the government to address emerging education issues in most developing countries. Hence, a paradigm shift by the government to implement the PPP programs in addressing infrastructural decay in schools is suggested. Data were collected from the review of official reports, newspapers, website, journals and internet. The research discovers that the Public Private Partnership model of secondary schools in Ogun State is founded on a joint venture system, combining government institutions and corporate investors. Up to now, focus has been put on ensuring good secondary school-level education for the citizens. However, there are many challenges that hamper Public-Private Partnerships in education, including a population with high growth rates, low investment in the

education sector, shortage of professional teachers, low staff engagement, corruption, organized embezzlement, and poor people being deprived of the services provided by such partnerships. Given the huge educational gap at public secondary school level in Ogun State, the study recommend training of stakeholders that are involved in PPPs, stakeholders must be conversant with the rudiments, knowledge and orientation of projects they are embarking upon, also we should localised our enabling laws so that our institutional framework can be strengthen, corruption and nepotism should not hold way in contracting and bidding of PPPs projects like it was done on other public utilities.

## METHODOLOGY

This study was conducted in five major cities of South East Nigeria selected randomly: Enugu, Umuahia, Abakaliki, Anambra, and Owerri. The population targeted in this study are primarily the residents of these major urban centers of the South East Geopolitical Zone of Nigeria. The population of the study is therefore 2876 residents comprising male and female of the five selected cities of South East Nigeria who are largely members of the Roman Catholic Church. Taro Yamane sampling was used to obtain a sample size of 351 respondents. Researcher-constructed questionnaire was employed in gathering data, data obtained from the respondents were analyzed quantitatively using simple percentage and chi-square ( $X^2$ ) was used in testing the hypotheses at 0.05 level of significance.

## DATA PRESENTATION AND ANALYSIS

### Presentation and Analysis of Research Question

This is the statistical presentation of the respondents' view to the research question.

#### Research Question 1

**What are the effects of public private partnership on road infrastructural development in Enugu, Umuahia, Abakaliki, Anambra, and Owerri?**

**Table 1: The respondents view on roles of democratic leadership on youth employment in south east geopolitical zone of Nigeria**

The effects of public private partnership on road infrastructural	Frequency	Percent
Public private partnership allows private entities to invest in road infrastructures which can help increase funding of road infrastructure	68	19.37
Private public partnership entities often have expertise in project management and construction which help improve the planning and delivery of road infrastructure project	61	17.37
By partnering with public private partnership, public entities can share the risk and cost associated with road infrastructural development which help reduce financial burden on the government	87	24.78
Public private partnership ensure adequate supervision of road infrastructural development project	70	19.94
Public private partnership ensure the provision of road infrastructure to rural communities often neglected by the government	65	18.51
<b>Total</b>	<b>351</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**Source: Researcher, 2025**

From the table 1, 19.37% of the respondents were of the opinion that public private partnership allows private entities to invest in road infrastructures which can help increase funding of road infrastructure, 17.37% of the respondents were of the opinion that Private public partnership entities often have expertise in project management and construction which help improve the planning and delivery of road infrastructure project, 24.78% of the respondents occurred that by partnering with public private, public entities can share the risk and cost associated with road infrastructural development which help reduce financial burden on the government, 19.94% agreed that public private partnership ensure adequate supervision of road infrastructural development, while 18.51% of the respondents public private partnership ensure the provision of road infrastructure to rural

communities often neglected by the government. The findings of the table therefore revealed that public private partnership played significant role in provision of road infrastructure which invariably has positive significant effect on economic development in South East, Nigeria.

### Research Question 2

What are the effects of public private partnership on provision of water and waste management infrastructures in Enugu, Umuahia, Abakaliki, Anambra, and Owerri Investigate the effect of public private partnership on provision of educational facilities in South East Nigeria?

Table 2: The respondents view on the effects of public private partnership on provision of water and waste management infrastructures in Enugu, Umuahia, Abakaliki, Anambra, and Owerri Investigate the effect of public private partnership on provision of educational facilities in South East Nigeria

Effects of public private partnership on provision of water and waste management infrastructures	Frequency	Percent
By leveraging private sector expertise and capital governments can avoid the high cost associated with water and waste management infrastructure	103	29.34
Public private partnership can help speed up the delivery of water and waste management infrastructural development	86	24.50
Public private partnership carryout a thorough feasibility study to ensure the project is a success	84	23.93
Public private partnership ensure the provision of water and waste management in rural areas often neglected by the government	78	22.22
<b>Total</b>	<b>351</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Source: Researcher, 2025

From the table 2. About 29.34% of the respondents were of the by leveraging private sector expertise and capital government can avoid the high cost associated with water and waste management infrastructure, 24.50% of the respondents were of the opinion public private partnership can help speed up the delivery of water and waste management infrastructural development, 23.93% of the respondents concurred that public private partnership carryout a thorough feasibility study to ensure the project is a success, and finally 22.22% agreed that public private partnership ensure the provision of water and waste management in rural areas often neglected by the government. The findings of the table therefore revealed that public private partnership played significant in the provision of water and waste management infrastructures which invariably had positive significant effect on the economic development of South East Nigeria.



### Test of Hypotheses

The hypotheses were tested using the chi-square statistical tool

#### Hypothesis I

**H<sub>0</sub>:** public private partnership has no significant relationship on road infrastructural development in Enugu, Umuahia, Abakaliki, Anambra, and Owerri

**Table 3: Chi Square table for testing hypothesis I**

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O	E	(O-e)	(O-e) <sup>2</sup>	$\frac{(O-e)^2}{E}$
68	70.2	-2.2	4.84	0.06
61	70.2	-9.2	84.64	1.20
87	70.2	16.8	282.24	4.02
70	70.2	0.2	0.04	0
65	70.2	-5.2	27.04	0.38
<b>351</b>				<b>5.66</b>

Table value = 5.991, calculated value = 5.66

**Decision:** Since the calculated value (5.66) is less than the table value (5.99), the H<sub>0</sub> (null hypothesis) is accepted. This implies that public private partnership play significant role on road infrastructural provision in South East.

#### Hypothesis II

**H<sub>0</sub>:** Public private partnership has no significant relationship on water and waste management infrastructural development in Enugu, Umuahia, Abakaliki, Anambra, and Owerri

**Table 4: Chi Square table for testing hypothesis II**

O	E	(O-e)	(O-e) <sup>2</sup>	$\frac{(O-e)^2}{E}$
103	70.2	32.8	1,075.85	15.32
86	70.2	15.8	249.64	3.56
84	70.2	13.8	190.44	2.71
78	70.2	7.8	60.84	0.86
<b>351</b>				<b>22.45</b>

Table value = 5.991, calculated value = 0.47

**Decision:** Since the calculated value (22.45) is greater than the table value (5.99), the H<sub>0</sub> (null hypothesis) is rejected. This means public private partnership play significant role in provision of water and waste management infrastructures in South East Nigeria

### Summary of the Study

The findings of the study could be summarized as follows;

1. Public private partnership played significant role in the provision of road infrastructures in the study areas, which invariably had significant on the economic development of South East Nigeria
2. Public private partnership played significant role in the provision of water and waste management infrastructures in the study areas and this invariably had positive significant effect on the economic development of South East Nigeria
3. Public private partnership played significant role the provision of educational infrastructures in the studies areas, this invariably had significant effect on economic development of the South East

4. Public private partnership played significant role on the provision of health care infrastructures in the studies areas, this to a very great extent had positive effect on the economic development of South East Nigeria.

### CONCLUSION

The findings of the study build up into a number of conclusions regarding the principal benefits of public-private partnerships in economic growth. First is the enhanced efficiency and value for money: by harnessing the competencies as well as assets in both the private and public sectors, PPPs are able to significantly enhance the effectiveness as well as public fiscal wisdom of infrastructure and service delivery. This can result in substantial cost saving and better quality of services, which can contribute positively to economic development. The development of more private investment is important; public-private partnerships can mobilize private funds for infrastructure and service projects that the public sector cannot afford to fund by itself. More private investment in this way can spur economic growth and provide employment opportunities, especially useful for developing nations. Better infrastructure comes from public-private partnerships, the effects of which can significantly enhance the quality and availability of key public structures, including transport systems, energy networks, and telecommunication infrastructures. Upgrading of this kind not only facilitates trade but also stimulates investment and enhances connectivity, all of which are key to propelling economic growth. Moreover, by transferring risks and responsibilities to private sector partners, such partnerships can effectively reduce the fiscal burdens of infrastructure and service provision. This would also assist in alleviating the strain on the sector and foster fiscal sustainability, a thing that is especially vital for nations with small fiscal space. Public-private partnerships can also foster innovation and transfer technology through the merger of the capacity and resources of both the private and public sectors. This can induce research and development, increase productivity and competitiveness, all of which can result in economic growth and development. From all ramifications, public-private partnerships can be a great contributor to economic development through increasing efficiency, mobilizing private investment, improving infrastructure, transferring risks, and fostering innovation. Nevertheless, policymakers and governments need to thoroughly study the particular circumstance and situation of their nation prior to embracing public-private partnerships as a tool for realizing economic development aspirations.

### Recommendation of the Study

Based on the findings, and conclusion draw, the following recommendations are therefore made;

1. The state government can use public private partnership to deliver adequate infrastructure most especially in the rural areas where the infrastructural needs of the people are neglected.
2. The masses need to coordinate with the public sector to have the government provide enabling environment for public private partnership on infrastructural provision
3. Loan should be provided to private investor at low rate of interest to attract private investor involvement in the provision of infrastructures under public private partnership
4. Continuity of project, regardless of government change, should be assured by the government; this will be a motivation for the public investor to join hands with the government in provision of infrastructural across the nation.

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