KIU Journal of Social Sciences Copyright©2019
Kampala International University ISSN: *2413-9580*; 5(2): 19–30

The Challenges of Developing Buguma Town as a Secondary City in Rivers State Nigeria

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Abstract. This study investigated the challenges of developing Buguma as a secondary city in Rivers State. This study made use of public opinion survey research design with a sample size of 200 respondents. Data was sourced from the research instrument known as developing Buguma Secondary City Questionnaire (DBSCQ) designed along the Likert-type 4-point scale rating. Data was analyzed with both descriptive and inferential statistics. Simple percentage was used to analyze the descriptive and inferential statistics. Simple percentage was used to analyze the socio-demographic background of the respondents while mean and standard deviation were used to analyze the research questions. One way analysis of variance (ANOVA) was used to analyze the hypotheses. The results of the study revealed that majority of the respondents were male 108 (54%); were graduates 68(34%), were between 40-49 years of age 61(30.5) were civil servants 114(57%), and were mainly from the Abbey-Karibo 80(40%) administrative block. The hypothesis revealed that there is significant variation in the opinions of respondents on the challenges of developing Buguma as a secondary city. The study concludes by recommending that both the local government council and the Rivers State government should embark on massive infrastructure development to attract more people to the town to enhance its development as a secondary city to change the narrative of Rivers State as a state with one city syndrome, Port Harcourt.

Keywords: Challenges, Secondary, City, Developing.

1. Introduction

1.1 Background and Overview

The philosophy underlying regional planning programmes is that the problems of urban and rural areas are intricately connected and should be so solved within a regional framework (Slatter 2012, World Bank, 2011). Similarly, global economic activities and population dynamics are increasingly concentrated in big cities and as a result, urban research has tended to focus on large metropolitan areas at the expense of secondary cities which have been a rediscovery of the city in academic discourse (Marais, Rooyen, Lenka and Cloete. 2014).

Secondary cities are those places that range in form and size from 150,000 to 5million people and perform a wide range of critical functions in national and international systems of cities (Robert and Hohmann, 2014). In a nutshell, secondary cities imply medium sized towns that are well-integrated within a rural region to offer rural populations better living conditions, jobs, a less-polluted environment and act not only as local markets for rural products but also as catalysts for rural economic diversification (Bolay and Rabinovich, 2010). Under this circumstance, secondary cities primarily functioned as rural service centres serving in the

capacity of growth points to the surrounding hinterland.

This is unlike the type of conventional "Growth Poles" which turn out to be parasitic rather than generative centres. The generative settlements are those intermediate towns which pass on some benefits to the surrounding hinterland whereas the parasitic centres grow fat on the accumulated proceeds without passing any on (Adeyemo, 2008).
Nigeria, like most other developing economies of the world is characterized by inequalities in terms of access to public facilities and development (Kanu, 2015).

This observation is very obvious because the urban centres often chosen as state capitals in the country are growing rapidly to the detriment of their peripheral towns which are mostly local government headquarters (Naluba, 2016). Consequently, rural Nigeria is today not only been economically, socially and politically marginalized but backward and neglected such that the gap between urban and rural areas is alarming in strength and complexity. According to George (2010), Nigerian cities such as Lagos, Kano, Ibadan, Enugu, Port Harcourt, Kaduna and Calabar grow mainly through rural-urban migration and this urbanization process has outpaced the existing urban management systems. This submission is in consonance with Ebong and Animashaun in Nwala (2018:2) who reported thus;
Most of the problems experienced in the cities such as unemployment, poor and inadequate housing and transportation facilities and environmental decay are traceable to massive immigration of people from the rural backlands. Such migrations are generally stimulated by the absence of facilities for personal survival and maintenance, and lopsided location decisions which favour over-concentration of jobs and amenities in the urban at the expense of the rural areas.

Furthermore, many developmental and urban management opportunities presented by secondary cities in most developing countries hardly utilize them because the political and economic elites are concentrated in the metropolitan centres and hence, they are directly or indirectly pre-occupied by the problems of their host cities (Otiso, 2005). Corroborating the above view is Adeyemo (2003) who opines that:
The poverty of the rural region of the less-developed countries of the world is associated with asymmetrical structure of political power (i.e. relative powerlessness of rural population, inappropriate conception of the role of agriculture in development process). Hence, the major cause of rural poverty in developing countries is the power of urban elite; and so long as the interests, background and sympathies remain predominantly urban, the country side may get the "priority" but the city will get the "resources".

1.2 Statement of Problem

Regrettably enough, it is observed that the appropriate development of secondary cities in Rivers State has been undermined by the unwillingness of subsequent administrations to share political and fiscal powers with municipal authorities and regional governments (Deekor 2016). Worthy of note is the fact that the existing one-city state structure of Rivers State since its creation (except Bayelsa State with Yenagoa, being the capital in 1996) reveals the excessive growth of Port Harcourt City at the detriment of other peripheral towns that are overdue for development as secondary cities. They are Bori, Omoku, Ahoada, Buguma, Bodo, Abonnema, Bonny, Degema, Emohua, Opobo, Isiokpo, Ngo and Okrika based on population size, the control of natural environment, development of social organizations and technological development (Wizor, 2013). Therefore, this study is of the view that the overwhelming increase in Port Harcourt metropolis and its environs through the policy of Greater Port Harcourt City Programme without the impression of developing secondary cities across the state particularly Buguma town implies the periphery's untapped reservoir of human and material resources, restricted domestic markets, marked interregional imbalance and persistent insecurity of life and property which proved to be serious obstacle to sustainable development of Rivers State and Nigeria in general. It is against this background

that this paper investigates the challenges of developing Buguma town as a Secondary City in Rivers State.

1.3 Aim and Objective of the Study

The aim of this study is to assess the challenges of developing Buguma in Rivers State as a Secondary City. To achieve this aim the objective is to investigate the challenges facing Buguma town to develop as a Secondary City.

1.4 Research Questions

What are the challenges facing Buguma town to develop as a Secondary City?

1.5 Hypothesis:

There is significant variation in the opinions of respondents in the challenges facing Buguma town to develop as a Secondary City among the administrative blocks.

1.6 Study Area: Buguma Town

1.6.1 Location and Extent

Geographically, Buguma in Asari-Toru Local Government Area of Rivers State is located between longitude 6^0 $00^{'}$ and 6^0 $35^{'}$ East of the Greenwich Meridian and Latitude 3^0 $20^{'}$ and 3^0 $30^{'}$ North of the Equator (Bell-Gam, 1990) (figure 1.1). The latitudinal locations imply that the study area lies within the tropical region with all its climatic characteristics. The total landmass is approximately 603km2, occupied by 251, 806 people with a population density of 2,295. The area is bounded in the North by Emohua Local Government Area, in the South by Degema Local Government Area, in the East by Port Harcourt City Council, Obio/Akpor and Degema Local Government Areas respectively and in the West by Akuku-Toru and Abua/Odual Local Government Areas. Administratively, Buguma City is divided into three blocks namely Abbey-Karibo, Omobo-Birinomini and Omekwe-Liliama, each headed by a paramount ruler who works cooperatively with the local government council.

1.6.2 Climate and Vegetation

The area is characterized by semi-hot humid equatorial climate and relative humidity (Tamuno, 2008). It is typified by uniformly high temperature throughout the year, intense rainfall which occurs almost every month of the year, seasonally variable and energetic in down pour with increasing distance from the ocean (Mmom and Fred-Nwangwu, 2013). This often graduates to thunderstorm at its onset and cessation with variation in duration and amount between 4,700mm and 4,500mm in July – September, especially in popular rainfall stations like Opobo, Okrika and Bonny that are in the same geographical location with Buguma City (Fashiola et al, 2013, Bell-Gam 2002).

The riverine area encompassing Buguma in Asari-Toru Local Government Area of Rivers State is divided into three main hydro-vegetation zones. The beach ridge is extensively vegetated by fresh water swamp trees, palm and shrubs on the sandy ridges and mangroves in the intervening valleys, creeks or tidal flats. The salt-water (mangrove) swamp zone is the tidal flat vegetated by the red salt-rooted mangrove (Rhizophoraracemosa) and two other species including the nypa palm that grows extensively under the influence of brackish water system and marine regimes. The fringe areas of raised alluvial coastal plain terrace within the swamps are vegetated by tall luxuriant forest tree species and oil palm.

1.6.3 Economic and Social Activities

Buguma town is an administrative town as it is the headquarters of Asari-Toru Local Government Area. It is also a traditional headquarters of the Kalabari ethnic nationality. Buguma can be accessed by road and water from Port Harcourt and all other towns and villages surrounding. The town has a general hospital and as well as three primary school and secondary schools and also a magistrate court. The main economic activities in the area are transportation, fishing, trading and other local craft activities. Tourists are attracted to the place because of it natural beaches and also the traditional festivals that go on every quarter of the year.

2. Conceptual Framework

2.1 Concept of Secondary City

The concept of Secondary City is a topical concept within the context of regional development planning. Thus the philosophy underlying regional planning programmes is that the problems of urban and rural areas are critically connected and should be so solved within a regional framework (Slatter, 2012 & World Bank, 2011). Similarly, global economic activities and population dynamics are increasingly concentrated in big cities and as a result, urban research has tended to focus on large metropolitan areas at the expense of secondary cities which have been a rediscovery of the city in academic discourse (Marias Van Rooyen, Lenka and cloete, 2014 and World Bank, 2010).

Secondary cities are located around the world. They are on every continent (except Antarctica). Each city faces unique environmental and social challenges that impact future planning, growth and sustainable development. Place-based needs determine how geospatial technologies will be used for data generation analysis and visualization. According to the United States Department of State, Secondary Cities are the fastest growing Urban area in developing countries experiencing unplanned growth and development. This department further observed that these cities are unique environments that have generally been poorly mapped with united data and information on infrastructure, land tenure, and planning.

A Secondary City often follows after a primate city and can be seen in the urban hierarchy. According to Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia, secondary cities have between "500,000 to 3 million inhabitants, but are often unknown outside of their national or regional context. Brillembourg and Klumpner (2014) opine that many secondary cities in the Global South are expected to undergo massive expansions in the next few decades, comparable to city growth in Europe and North America over the past two centuries. A secondary city may emerge from a cluster of smaller areas in a metropolitan region or may be the capital city of a province, state, or second-tier administrative unit within a country.

According to regional development planners, a secondary city is largely determined by population size, function and economic status. Generally, secondary cities are geographically defined urban jurisdictions or centres performing vital governance, logistical and production functions at a sub-national or sub-metropolitan region level within a system of cities in a country. In some cases, their role and functions may expand to a geographic region of the global realm. The United States Department of State posits that a Secondary city is not only defined by population, size, function and economic status, but by the neighbouring and/or distant cities and their socio-economic status. The State Department further states that the population of a secondary city may range between 10-50% of the country's largest city.

Secondary cities as urban centres provide critical support functions of governance, transportation and production services. Regional development planners have observed that secondary cities "usually form more recent poles of growth often also with a more diffuse genealogy, than longer metropolis. The ambivalent situation of these towns (in the periphery of the centre and in the centre of the periphery, in so far is these notions still retain their meaning) generates a particular, and by definition highly hybrid, socio-cultural urban dynamic which in turn influences the outlook of social, political and economic life in the more visible natural metropolis (Cassiman, De Bocck&Wolputte, 2009).

Secondary cities have their own socio-economic and political culture that may differ from other cities such as primate cities. Moreover, secondary city (and more generally in the margin of the state) there often is more room for improvisation. Local commerce, trading routes and smuggling networks determine the economic sphere in important ways; local forms of associational life (the middle ground of civil society) has a far greater influence on local politics than the case in larger urban centres and the functioning of local, decentralized political authorities is often shaped and cross cut to a far greater extent by constantly shifting alliances

between local stakeholders (Rondinelli, 1983). It should be noted that in recent years, the importance of secondary cities for national economic development and urban planning has been rediscovered and re-energized. According to World Bank (2009) secondary cities form an important part of emerging global system of cities. Thus while the large cities play a significant role in shaping the new economic geography of cities in fostering global trade, travel and investment, it is secondary cities which will have a much stronger influence in the future upon the economic development of countries (Roberts and Hohmann, 2014).

2.2 Concept of Development

Concerning what is implied by development, several definitions abound. Development as a concept implies change and improvement. To Nwaenyi (2012), development implies growth plus change Mabugunje (1980) conceived development as distributive justice, socio-economic transformation and for essentially in human progress. Okowa (2009) clearly pointed out, that, what is fundamental to the conceptualization of development is the ability of man to productively manipulate his environment, physically, humanly and perhaps spiritually in such a manner as to maximize the wellbeing and welfare of his entire society. This implies that, the achievement of development must be seen to transcend economic and physical realm, but also must be in terms of individual and collective well-being: a safe environment, freedom from want, opportunity for personal growth and enrichment and access to goods and services. Beyond the absolute substance is concerned with the provision of basic needs such as housing, clothing, food and minimal education (Naluba, 2016 and Adeyemo, 2003).

Thirlwall (1989) states that 'no country can be regarded as fully developed if it is exploited by others and does not have the power and influence to conduct relations on equal terms. These conditions according to Ikeagee (2010) breed dissatisfaction amongst Nigerians providing an entry point for ethnic militancy, social vices and religious extremism in various parts of the country. Cox (1972) described developed nations thus: "economically developed countries tend to have higher gross national products per capital, lower infant motility rate, higher levels of social provision in terms of such things as the availability of medical services, education, potable water, electricity, a greater proportion of the population living in cities, greater proportion of the labour force employed in manufacturing; and higher transportation network densities". The Brutdland Report of 1987 brought a paradigm shift from maximum to sustainable economic development.

According to Nwabachi (2011), sustainability is all about self-sustenance which is a comfortable condition and a near independence in all life style of a given pole in political, economic, defence, agriculture, etc. This is a process of transforming the economic, social, political, cultural, intellectual structures of the society. According to Adeyemo (2003), the idea of sustainable development reaches far beyond environmental protection, as it means, a process of change in which exploitation of resources, direction of investment, orientation of technological development, and institutional changes are made consistent with future as well as present needs. Consequently, sustainable development is not a fixed state of harmony but rather a balanced and adaptive process of change. This would then be characterized by a dynamic Parteto-optional trajectory in which progress in one system – that is, either the economic or the ecological would not be to the detriment of the other system.

Sustainable human development is development that, not only generates destroying environment rather than destroying it, that empowers people rather than marginalizing them. It gives priority to the poor, enlarging their chances and opportunities, and provides for participation in decision affecting them. It is development that is pro-poor, pro-children "(UNDP, 1990; Adeyemo, 2003). In a similar view, the Human Development Report (2007/2008) stated that: human development is about people, it is about expanding people's real choices and the substantive freedom – the capabilities that enables them to live the lives they value.

2.3 Central Place Theory

The nature of centre remains an issue in regional development planning because it has often times been fulfilling a prominent role in the dynamic patterns of societies in a geographical unit. Walter Christaller formulated the central place theory after his empirical study of central places in Southern Germany in 1933 to explain the service element in spatial structure of a region. It was noted in his study that there are seven levels of central places comprising of hamlets, villages, sub towns, towns, major towns major cities and metropolitan cities in Southern Germany. The central place theory which has been modified by a German Economist (August Losch) in 1954 explained the location of manufacturing activities and sought to locate central places to their hinterlands. According to Adedipe (2002), Losch defined a central place as a settlement providing services for the population of its hinterland. In this case, the hierarchy of services may vary from the low order services to high order services depending on the physical sizes and of settlements in a region.

If the population of an area increases beyond the threshold levels the services activity will flourish and reap profit but if otherwise the service activity will lose economically and closes down in the long run. The market range of a service activity is the physical or economic which people are willing to reach the service and beyond the market area, the consumers will patronize other rearing services. Christaller's objective was to minimize the consumer's travel cost to the service activity (Bosorun, 2010).

The fundamental weakness of this theory is that it assumes that natural resources and population are evenly distributed in space. But in reality, natural resources and population vary spatially from one place to another in a region and therefore, distorts the picture of regular hierarchy settlement patterns and functions (Afoloyan, 2010).

Again, the theory also assumes that consumers will behave rationally by patronizing the closet service activity which is uncertain in all cases. Hence a knowledge market conditions or rulings, cost and quality differentiates are factors to be considered under this circumstance. In the cases secondary boarding schools students may have to move relatively long distance at their own family expense (Funnell, 1978). Besides, the combined use of population size and service activity to measures the centrality of an area may use conflicting result and thereby distorting the rigid hierarchy of settlement in a region. For example, densely populated agricultural communities may have lower order service activities whereas some smaller or sparsely populated communities may be mining, manufacturing, commercial or educational service centers in a region.

Thus, Knowles in Deekor (2016) demonstrated that different ranking methods may result in different rankings of central places within a given area or region. Furthermore, the central place theory fails to recognize that the relationships between centers and their hinter lands constantly change over time and space. Hence, an increase in the service activity of one center perhaps with development of a new multiple share will have an impact on the service activity of other competing centers (Ola, 2010). The hexagonal spatial structures of a settlement in a region never existed in reality.

Even if the hierarchical structures exist, this may be more as a result of the organization of administration and the regulations concerning trading activities, then the incipient emergence of a central place type of settlement systems. Although, there are challenges in the application of this theoretical structure, the inherent ideas found in the theory appear superficially attractive for designing settlement patterns. Therefore, it is important to determine how far the existing pattern of centers do conform to the assumptions of central place theory given above (James, 2011).

2.4 The Relevance of Central Place Theory in Regional Development Planning

This theory is perhaps the most widely recognized and used of all the spatial but normative theories and requires that the settlement are examined not in isolation but as integral part of a total as well as functional system of such places. This means that major urban centers and their neighborhoods, the mother settlements and their offspring. Villages,

large rural centers and their surrounding hamlets cannot be planned in isolation.

Experiences reveal that disproportionate concentration of investments in the major cities of developing countries have aggravated the level of poverty condition and distress in their rural hinter lands leading to rural-urban migration such an understanding will guide the delineation of a functional region which will serve as a planning unit (Agbala, 2012).

Consequently, Funnel (1978) suggested that national planning is an inappropriate allocation mechanism and it has not served to raise general living standards anywhere but central place theory emphasizes provision of services at each level of settlements. Large urban settlements have higher order service activities but the same services are being performed at the village level although on small scale basis. The provision of these services will improve the standards of living of the rural dwellers and reduce rural urban migration. The central place theory therefore provides an insight into how the development of transport routes, infrastructure and local administration can be sued for settlement growth spacing in a region that makes up that most powerful base for the factors of location sizes, numbers and geometrical arrangement of cities within national space (Ayeni, 1980).

3. Methodology

3.1 Research Design

The research design employed in this study is public opinion survey research design. According to Nworgu (2006), public opinion survey, is usually designed to find out the opinion of people in a given area towards an issue or event that is of interest to the generality of the populace in the area. For the purposes of this study, the opinions of the people of Buguma Town were sought in respect of the evaluation of Buguma as a secondary city to be a centre for regional development. Buguma is a Local Government Area headquarters which is a semi-urban centre.

3.2 Population for the Study

The target population of the study constitutes all the residents of Buguma town which primarily consists of three blocks namely Abbey Karibo, Omekwe-Liliama and OmboBirinomini. The population of Buguma town based on the 2006 national population census when projected to 2017, gives a population size of 202, 992 people.

3.3 Sample and Sampling Technique:

A sample size of 200 respondents was used for this study and this was achieved through purposive sampling techniques across the three administrative blocks that make Buguma.The simple random sampling technique was adopted for the study.

3.4 Methods of Data Collection/Instrumentation

A research instrument to be known as: Developing Buguma Secondary City Questionnaire (DBSCQ). This instrument was designed by the researcher along the Likert-type 4-point scale rating of Strongly Agree (SA), Agree (A), Disagree (D) and Strongly Disagree (SD) and weighted 4 points, 3 points, 2 points and 1point respectively.The research instrument (DBSCQ) was divided into four parts according to the four objectives of the study. Each section contains five questions and there was a total of twenty questions in all.

3.5 Method of Data Analysis

Both descriptive and inferential statistics were used to analyze the data sample. Simple percentage was used to analyze the socio-demographic distribution of respondents. Thus mean and standard deviation was used to analyze the research question. The hypothesis was analyzed with the use of one way analysis of variance (ANOVA). The hypothesis was tested at 0.05 level of significance.

4. Data Presentation

Socio-Demographic Distribution of Respondent

The data in table 4.1 below shows the socio-demographic distribution of the respondents

Table 4.1: Percentage socio-demographic Distribution of Respondents

Variable	Category	N	%
Sex	Male	108	54.0
	Female	92	46.0
		200	
Marital Status	Single	76	38.0
	Married	55	27.5
	Divorced	20	10.0
	Separated	28	14.0
	Widow/Widower	21	10.5
		200	
Educational level	No formal Education	38	19.0
	Primary Education	33	16.5
	Secondary Education	42	21.0
	Graduate	68	34.0
	Post graduate	19	9.5
		200	
Age (Years)	20-29	10	5.0
	30-39	39	19.5
	40-49	70	35.0
	50-59	61	30.5
	60-69	20	10.0
		200	
Occupation	Farmer	8	4.0
	Trader	11	5.5
	Private Business Man/Woman	35	17.5
	Civil Servant	114	57.0
	Corporate Employee	32	16.0
		200	
Block	Abbey-Karibo	80	40.0
	Omekwe-Liliama	70	35.0
	Omobo-Birinomini	50	25.0
		200	

Source: *Researcher's Fieldwork (2018)*

Table 4.1 showed mean and standard deviation on the demographic distribution of respondents. The table shows that about 92(46.0% were female while 108(54.0%) were male. It also showed that majority 76(38.0%) were single, this was followed by 55(27.5%) who were married. Majority of the respondents 68(34.0%) were graduates while about 42(21.0%) were secondary school leavers. Majority 70(35.%) were between 40-49 years of age while 61(30.5%) were between 50-59 years of age. About 114(57.0%)

were civil servants while 35(17.5%) were private business personnel. Again the table shows that 80 (40.0%) were from Abbey-Karibo administrative block, 70(35.0%) were from Omekwe-Lilliama administrative block while 50(25.0%) were from Ombo-Birinomini administrative block.

Section 1: Analysis of Research Questions

Research Question 1 What are the challenges facing Buguma town to be developedas a secondary city?

The result of the analysis is presented in table 4.2 below.

Table 4.2: Mean and standard deviation on the challenges facing Buguma town to be developed as a secondary city

S/N	Challenges facing Buguma town	N	SA	A	D	SD	Mean	SD	Remark
1	Social challenges of crime and criminality such as armed robbery, kidnapping, etc could hinder Buguma from developing as a secondary city	200	104	57	26	13	3.26	0.92	Accepted
2	Environmental challenges such as poor sanitation and improper waste disposal are the problems Buguma will face as a secondary city	200	100	71	17	12	3.30	0.86	Accepted
3	Poor and inadequate infrastructural development could hamper Buguma from developing as a secondary city	200	105	85	6	4	**3.46**	0.66	Accepted
4	Government policies and actions at the state and local government level may make or mar the development of Buguma as a secondary city	200	84	100	13	3	**3.33**	0.66	Accepted
5	Buguma is entrenched in internal crises and political wrangling that will hamper its development as a secondary city	200	64	89	37	10	**3.04**	0.84	Accepted
	Grand mean						**3.28**	**0.79**	**Accepted**

Source: Researcher's Fieldwork (2018)

Table 4.2: shows that the grand mean and standard deviation of the challenges facing Buguma town in order for it to be developed as a secondary city was 3.28, SD=0.79. The key challenges facing Buguma town to develop as a secondary city was poor and inadequate infrastructural development could hamper Buguma from developing as a secondary city (M=3.46, SD=0.66) and was followed by Government policies and actions at the state and local government level may make or mar the development of Buguma as a secondary city (M=3.33, SD=0.66), while the least was that Buguma is entrenched in internal crises and political wrangling that will hamper its development as a secondary city (M=3.04, SD=0.84). Based on the grand mean value, we conclude that the political, social and economic challenges facing Buguma Town could hamper it from being developed as a seconding city.

Hypothesis Testing

Null Hypothesis (Ho): There is no significant variation in the opinion of respondents on the challenges facing Buguma town so as to qualify it to be developed as a secondary city among the three administrative blocks.

Alternate Hypothesis (Ha): There is significant variation in the opinion of respondents on the challenges facing Buguma town so as to qualify it to be developed as a secondary city among the three administrative blocks.

Table 4.3: A summary of ANOVA computation on the variation in the opinion of respondents on the challenges facing Buguma town to be developed as a secondary city among the three administrative blocks.

Sources of Variation	Sum of Squares	Degree of Freedom	Mean Square	F. Statistic	P. Value	Alpha Level	Result
Between Group	4.874	2	2.437	14.25	.000	0.05	Significant
Within Groups	33.631	197	.171				
Total	**38.505**	**199**					

Source: *Researcher's Fieldwork (2018)*

Table 4.9 shows the ANOVA result which established that the P. Value obtained (i.e 0.000) was lower than the chosen alpha level of 0.05. Therefore, according to the decision rule, the alternate hypothesis was accepted while the null hypothesis was rejected. This implies that the opinion of the respondents varies with respect to the challenges Buguma town faces to qualify it to be developed among the three administrative blocks of Abbey-Karibo, Omekwe – aliliama and Ombo. Birinomoni which make up the town. The observed variability in this opinion as statistically significant at 0.05 alpha level of significance.

5. Summary of Findings

The key challenges facing Buguma town in order for it to be developed as a secondary city include inadequate infrastructures. This could hamper Buguma town from developing as a secondary city. Most importantly, government policies and actions at the state and local government level may either, enhance or may the development of Buguma a town as a secondary city.

There a significant variation in the opinion of respondents on the challenges facing Buguma town so as to qualify it to be developed as a secondary city among the three administrative blocks ($F=14.25$, $P<.05$). The null hypothesis was rejected at 0.05 alpha level while the alternate hypothesis was accepted.

6. Discussion of Findings

This study concurs with the arguments of Otiso (2005) that secondary cities are faced with immense challenges that undermine their ability to live up to expectations. One of the findings of this study deals with some challenges facing Buguma town to be developed as a secondary city especially that of government policies and actions at both the local and state level which may hamper or hinder the development of Buguma town as a secondary city. According to Otiso (2005), government policies in Kenya through their regional development programmes and processes may hinder and mar development of secondary cities.

The findings of the study are in agreement with the works of Andreasen*et al* (2017) in Arusha Tanzania, which showed that people are migrating into that area. In research question one, two variables reveal that in the near future, the population of Buguma town is expected to grow as more non-indigenes migrate to the town and this will consequently lead to high population density in Buguma town.

Based on the findings of this study, there is every possibility and tendency that Buguma town will grow and become a secondary city based on the inherent potentialities the town possesses despite the challenges it faces. This will enhance regional development planning and programmes in Rivers state in particular and Nigeria in general.

7. Conclusion and Recommendations

The relevance of local government headquarters serving as secondary cities in Rivers State cannot be over emphasized a Rivers State is known to be a state with one city syndrome in respect of Port Harcourt, the state capital. The findings of this study give credence that Bugumahas all it takes economically, socially and politically qualified to be developed as a secondary city. Therefore, all necessary measures to make this become a reality must be harnessed by all and sundry.

Rivers state is dire need of secondary cities so as to decongest the metropolitan city of Port

Harcourt. This is because secondary cities are the nexus centres between rural areas and urban areas; and they imply medium sized towns that are well-integrated within a rural region to offer rural populations better living conditions. This need for secondary cities could be the reason for the Rivers State government under Governor RotimiAmaechi administration took the initiative to establish the Greater Port Harcourt City Programme.

The implication of developing Buguma as a secondary city based on the findings of this study is that the untapped reservoir of human and material resources and restricted domestic market will now be opened and these resources will be exploited to the benefits of the citizenry. This will also help to reduce inter-regional balance in the state and will promote the sustainable development of the state. Therefore, it may conclusively be stated that given the political will and deployment of basic infrastructural facilities, Buguma town will be developed as a secondary city in the nearest future.

Based on the result of this study, Buguma has the potentialities to be developed as a secondary city despite the current challenges facing it. There is need therefore for both the local government authority and a well as the state government to come up with a strategy and regional development plan that will transform Buguma town to Buguma city. This can be achieve through provision of basic infrastructural projects that will impact positively on the lives of the people such as power supply, tarred internal roads, general hospitals, civic centre, primary and secondary schools, etc that will attract people and investors to the area which will enhance the rapid development of the area.

Furthermore, the local government council and the state governor should also engage in economic empowerment programme both for the youths and the adults. This will bring prosperity, growth and development in the area as this group of people will be meaningfully engaged in productive ventures.

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