

## Public Enterprise as a Veritable Instrument for Economic and Infrastructural Development: “A Public Administrationist Perspective”

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DOI: [10.56201/jpaswr.v9.no2.2024.pg49.63](https://doi.org/10.56201/jpaswr.v9.no2.2024.pg49.63)

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### **Abstract**

*Public enterprises were created to accomplish a variety of economic and infrastructural development goals, such as generating income, raising living standards, creating jobs, developing infrastructure, and allocating resources fairly. In order to achieve this lofty objective, three research hypotheses were tested to determine the degree of freedom and significant relationship between variables. Data from the research instrument were analyzed quantitatively with the help of Parson Product Correlation Movement (PPCM). Based on the investigation, it was found that public enterprise and its effects on Delta State's infrastructure and economic development are significantly correlated. The report suggested, among other things, that public business like Delta Transportation, Broadcasting and Electricity corporations should maximized their revenue generation base so as to generate enough money to address other critical infrastructures in the state*

**Keywords:** *Public Enterprise, Economic, Infrastructural Development, Revenue Generation, Job Creation and Standard of Living*

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### **INTRODUCTION**

Over time, the establishment of public enterprises, also referred to as state-owned enterprises, public corporations, or state enterprises, has been justified by the need to provide effective and high-quality public goods and services to improve citizen welfare and accelerate socio-economic and infrastructural development. Government-owned businesses that provide public goods and services in a "businesslike" way have been referred to as public enterprises. Okeke, Onuorah, and Okonkwo (2022) define public enterprise as any industrial or commercial company, mine, utility, transportation, and financial intermediary that is owned and/or controlled entirely or in part by the government. Unlike other government entities, public enterprises are required to generate the majority of their income via the sale of products and services, maintain their own legal identity,

and be self-accounting. Public companies were created to accomplish a variety of economic and infrastructural development goals, such as generating income, raising living standards, creating jobs, developing infrastructure, and allocating resources fairly (Ojeifo and Alegbeleye, 2023).

In Nigeria, like most African countries, the genesis of government's involvement in the establishment, ownership, and management of public enterprises could be traced to the pre-independence era. According to Nwali, Nwokeiwu, and Oganezi (2023) colonial governments established some enterprises to provide essential services like electricity, railway, and water. The development and expansion of public enterprises in Nigeria underwent a sea change throughout the post-colonial era. Following the country's independence in 1960, it was found, according to Kenny (2022), that the government needed to engage in business-like activities as an entrepreneur in order to carry out certain business functions, secure economic independence, and raise the nation's standard of living. This was primarily because there were not enough capable indigenous entrepreneurs with the necessary financial and technical resources to compete with the multinational corporations that were already operating in the nation. Nigeria had roughly 50 state-owned businesses at the time of its independence in 1960, 200 during the 1970s, and 1,500 in 1987 when the government started implementing significant economic reform initiatives (Yamma, 2022).

By the late 1990s, the government had established a large number of public enterprises in such economic activities as banking and insurance, manufacturing, transportation, oil exploration, hotel, and tourism among others. Services provided by the Nigerian Railway Corporation, Water Boards, Ports Authority, and the like, hitherto lumped within the civil service structure were restructured into autonomous entities to reduce government interference and increase their effectiveness. Barren economic sectors of strategic importance were neglected by private investors due largely to inadequate technical/managerial expertise, high capital threshold, and low-profit potential were then undertaken by the government (Abuh, Acho, and Peter, 2022) observed that t. Similarly, large monopolistic organizations like the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC), the defunct Power Holding Company of Nigeria (PHCN), National Insurance Corporation of Nigeria (NICON) among others were established to control services deemed too sensitive to be left in the hands of private sector organizations, and to enable the state to participate in high-profit potential ventures and earn money for further economic development purposes.

Since the 1980s, Nigerian administrations have voiced worries about the poor performance of state-owned firms and, as a result, have looked for temporary solutions to their management issues. In order to redirect government resources to other purposes, this forced the government to implement a number of changes, including liquidation, privatisation, and commercialization. Anyebe (2020) claims that the Federal Government of Nigeria established the Technical Committee on Privatisation and Commercialization (TCPC) in 1988 by Decree No. 25, giving it the authority to carry out the privatisation and commercialization of a number of government-owned businesses. The BPE was then established to carry out the programmes. As a result, a few large government-owned businesses were put up for sale (Kenny, 2022).

The demand for additional practical and efficient ways to raise public enterprise performance hasn't decreased even after those reforms were implemented. Since its founding in 1996, sub-nationals like Delta State have established a number of public enterprises in the state in support of the federal government's efforts to improve resource management. These enterprises include, but are not limited to, the Delta State Fertiliser Plant,

Delta State Broadcasting Corporation, Delta State Electricity Board, Delta State Hotels and Suites Ltd., Delta State Transport Corporation, and Delta State Water Corporation. These businesses were founded with the goal of fostering economic growth via the supply of public utilities, the creation of job opportunities, raising living standards, developing human capital, and boosting state government revenue collection, among other objectives. Ezeh, Nwibo, Umeh, and Eze (2023) contended that although these businesses exist, the economic circumstances of the people in Delta State don't seem to have improved. Notwithstanding the creation of numerous state-owned businesses that should improve the situation, Delta State is still considered to be among the poorest states in Nigeria.

A report by the Federal Office of Statistics showed that as at 2019, 79.76% of Delta people were poor (NBS, 2022). In fact, despite the huge financial investment into these corporations, Delta State was rated the fourth poorest state in Nigeria and the first in South-South Zone in 2022 (NBS, 2022). These State-owned enterprises ought to provide and promote access to basic needs of water, food, health, and shelter; provide gainful employment opportunities especially through skills development of the youths by prioritizing job creation. It is the responsibility of state-owned enterprises to address the paucity of employment, low standard of living, and inadequacy of skills acquisition opportunities so as to reduce the rate of crimes such as child labour, street hawking, robbery, thuggery, rape, and internet fraud among others (Odo, Eze, and Onyeisi, 2021).

However, it also appears that a number of young people in the state lack gainful employment, the state government's internal revenue generation appears to be extremely low—at times, the lowest among all states in the nation—and that the general public's standard of living is apparently low. In order to promote economic development, public businesses were established to supply sufficient, effective, and high-quality public products and services. It is unfortunate, though, that these organizations don't seem to be able to provide the public goods and services that are needed to promote economic growth, particularly in Delta State. Delta State currently seems to be caught in a vicious cycle of worsening economic conditions, as seen by the state's high rate of unemployment, dearth of public utilities, inadequate revenue generation, and extreme poverty, among other issues. Most public businesses appear to have net returns on investment that are either zero or negative, but the results of their social service delivery are still invisible. In light of this, the study evaluated public enterprises as a true tool for Nigeria's infrastructure and economic growth. "From the Perspective of Public Administration “

### **OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY**

The general objective of this study is to examine public enterprise as veritable instrument for economic and infrastructural development IN Delta State. The specific objectives are to:

- i. establish the extent in which public enterprises have better Revenue Generation in Delta State
- ii. look at the extent in which public enterprises have contributed to Job Creation in Delta State
- iii. study the extent in which public enterprises have improved the Standard of living in Delta State

## RESEARCH HYPOTHESES

The following hypotheses were formulated to guide the study:

**H01:** Revenue creation in Delta State is not significantly correlated with public enterprise.

**H02:** Delta State's public enterprise and job creation have no discernible relationship.

**H03:** In Delta State, the standard of living and public enterprise do not significantly correlate.

## REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

### Conceptual Review

#### Public Enterprises

In order to accomplish entrepreneurial objectives, a public enterprise is defined by Maiwada (2018) as an organisation formed as a corporate body and a part of the government machinery. An organisation that was established when the government assumed the role of an entrepreneur is referred to as a public enterprise by Ademolekun (2002). Simply put, public enterprises are mainly privately owned businesses entrusted with providing services to the public good. Universities, the Nigerian Railway Corporation, the Federal Radio Corporation, the Nigeria Television Authority (NTA), and other public firms are examples of businesses in Nigeria.

Since the government founded each of these groups, it has authority over the scope of their activities and the property they own. Public businesses, often known as parastatals, are institutions or organizations that are owned by the state or in which the state has a majority interest. They are defined by Efang (2021) as having their own management and engaging in business-related activities, such as producing goods or offering services. Public enterprises are defined by Obadan and Ayodele (2022) as businesses whose main purpose is to produce and sell goods and/or services, and in which the government or other government-controlled agencies do not own a significant enough stake to guarantee their control over the businesses, no matter how actively that control is exercised. "Public enterprise is defined as "an organisation that is set up as a corporate body and as part of the governmental apparatus for entrepreneurial or entrepreneurial-like objectives." When the government started acting like an entrepreneur, organisations known as public businesses were established (Obikeze and Anthony 2022). A public enterprise, according to Ezeudu (2020), is a company or organisation that the state either owns entirely or has a majority stake in. Its operations are mostly commercial in character, and it produces or delivers services while operating under independent management. According to the definition given above, a public business is an organization that is owned or managed by the government and whose primary source of income is expected to come from the public's purchase of goods and services. A public enterprise is supposed to be self-accounting and has its own unique legal character. Public enterprises are typically found in the utilities and social services sectors of the economy. Governments frequently establish them to offer services in the public interest. Their economic significance is frequently based on the availability of social and economic infrastructures, which typically have a significant impact on other economic sectors. According to Agabi and Orokpo (2022), a public enterprise is a business, financial, agricultural, or industrial enterprise that is owned and run by the state. They further contended that the term "public enterprise" refers to the industrial, commercial, and economic operations that are carried out by the federal government, a state government, or both, and in each case, only to the extent that they are overseen by a self-governing management. Public enterprises are defined as

companies that are owned or operated by the government and that mostly or solely depend on sales of goods and services to generate revenue (Okeke, Onuorah, & Okonkwo, 2022). According to Ojeifo and Alegbeleye (2023), public enterprises are organizations created by distinct parliamentary acts. They are therefore viewed as statutory corporations as well. The Acts that constitute the corporations provide a precise definition of their roles and authority. They are a corporate entity that was specifically established by law, possessing a great deal of financial and administrative autonomy along with well-defined powers and functions.

### **Economic Development**

Like most social science concepts, economic development defies easy interpretation. Nonetheless, the majority of academics believe that economic development entails the distribution of scarce resources, such as land, labor, capital, and entrepreneurs, in a way that boosts employment, business activity, income distribution, and fiscal soundness (Ede, 2021). According to the aforementioned perspective, it makes sense that economic development is the growth of capacities that support societal advancement by enabling people to realize their full potential as individuals, businesses, and communities. A consistent improvement in wealth and standard of living brought about by innovation, reduced transaction costs, and the application of skills to the ethical production and distribution of products and services is what constitutes economic growth. Effective institutions based on principles of transparency, appreciation of variety, risk tolerance, and faith in the achievement of shared benefits for the public and private sectors are necessary for economic progress. In order to guarantee economic growth and the future of the economy, economic development is crucial. Comparably, Okolocha, John-Akamelu, and Muogbo (2020) defined economic development as the process and policies that a country uses to improve the economic, political, and social well-being of its citizens. It also encompasses the increase in the number of people in a nation's population with sustained growth from a simple low income economy to a modern higher income economy. The aforementioned viewpoint implies that economic development entails advancements in society and technology as well as improvements in a range of metrics, including life expectancy, literacy rates, and poverty rates. Furthermore, Ede (2020) correctly pointed out that the standard of economic development is used to classify nations as either "first world (developed)" or "third world (underdeveloped or developing)." Therefore, the United States of America (USA) is considered to have the most developed economy in the world, while certain Asian nations, including China, Singapore, and Japan, as well as the continents of Africa and Latin America, are disparagingly referred to as "third world" due to their relative lack of economic development. As a result, economic development is essential to a nation's standing both domestically and internationally. It influences, among other things, the population's psychological and attitudinal inclinations, as well as its stances on foreign and domestic affairs.

### **Infrastructural Development**

The Online Oxford English Dictionary defines infrastructure as the fundamental organizational and physical structures required for a society or business to function. This implies that infrastructure is a necessary component for the growth of any country and the efficient operation of any economy. Theorists of structuralism and functionalism held that a society's ability to advance or not was primarily determined by its functional structures. This implies that societal



structures will play a major role in determining economic progress. Development, according to Ajayi (2020), is the quantitative modification of the economic system or environment, or a progressive sequence of such modifications. Infrastructures including roads, water supplies, elementary and secondary schools, healthcare facilities, power housing schemes, recreational areas, and transportation amenities enable such a quantitative aspect of living. Thus, the term "infrastructure" refers to the technological frameworks that improve living conditions in any community, such as energy and water supplies, telecommunications, good road networks, health facilities, and agricultural facilities. This research aims to evaluate the extent to which Nigeria has driven national growth through infrastructure development. The claim made by Ojo (2018) might be helpful in retrospect. He stated that, regrettably, despite the importance of infrastructure to a country's socioeconomic well-being, Nigeria's civil and military administrations have given it little to no attention. As a result, there is a paralyzed economy, a broken educational system, and a fragmented health care system. In other regions, infrastructure development is the norm. However, it is an anomaly in Nigeria.

### **Public Enterprises and Revenue Generation in Delta State**

Without a sufficient internal revenue base, the government cannot operate. The money that is created domestically is reinvested in other economic development goals, like building infrastructure. Like any other state in Nigeria, Delta State's government established public enterprises in part to generate income internally. These profitable ventures included central banking, broadcasting, iron and steel, international air transport, shipping, and other profitable ventures. To raise money for the construction of infrastructure in these areas, the government creates businesses with a commercial focus. Unquestionably, the goal of the government's establishment of state-owned enterprises to function like businesses is to increase their revenue generation efficiency to at least offset operating expenses. Any excess revenue is then sent to the government's coffers to support the development of infrastructure necessary for overall economic growth. When he claimed that state enterprises aim to create income and mobilize excess for investing in other economic development initiatives, Kenny (2022) backed up this viewpoint. He contends that the primary means of these businesses' financial success is the mobilization of public savings for the advancement of industry. Public companies should reinvest their income in order to expand and diversify. State-owned financial institutions, such as the nation's central bank, bank of industry, mortgage banks, and microfinance banks, among others, mobilize dispersed public savings and aid in the nation's capital development process. According to Ibrahim and Ozioma (2020), as all levels of government depend on revenue to fund their operations, they must discover ways to raise money to balance their spending.

They went on to say that the government can get funding from a variety of sources, including taxes, royalties, levies, fines, penalties, grants, loans, donations, land, buildings, and other assets; profits or surpluses from public enterprises; dividends paid to the government on company shares; interest received on government loans; rents received from government-owned properties; and money from the sale of government services. Of the aforementioned, the surpluses generated by public companies from the goods and services they provide are the most important in the context of this study.

### **Public Enterprise and Job Creation in Delta State**

When there are relatively few job possibilities available in the private sector of the economy, state ownership of some businesses is considered as a way to create jobs. Over time, Delta State's unemployment rate has risen to one of the highest in all of Nigeria, which is concerning. Public businesses should generate employment in order to lessen Delta State's unemployment issue. This is because the contribution of employment creation to economic development cannot be understated. This clarified why some countries put a lot of effort into creating successful state-owned businesses in an effort to encourage the creation of jobs.

Developing countries, like Nigeria, have undertaken several social investment programmes ostensibly intended to generate employment in order to achieve full employment (Udu and Onwe, 2022). It appears that the ability of industrialized nations to increase employment creation for the largest proportion of their populations sets them apart from developing nations, which are unable to do so due to the lack of strong public enterprises. According to Ayeni et al. (2021), some nations experience full employment as a result of successful state-owned businesses that create job opportunities, while other nations experience poor job creation due to a lack of successful government-owned businesses, which results in a high unemployment rate among their citizens. Actually, one of the reasons for the creation of state enterprises has been to provide more job opportunities for Delta State citizens. For instance, Abuh, Acho, and Peter (2022) noted that in order to achieve the desired shift in the economic structure of the social order, the efficacy of the public sector should be evaluated in terms of the total help it offered for the creation of job. The goal of social investment is to produce and improve social advantages, such as income and employment, hence it is important to consider how many jobs the public sector creates.

The improvement of people's vocational and technical skills is one strategy state-owned businesses have used to create jobs. It has been acknowledged that skill development contributes to the social and economic development of both the individual and the society. Efe-Imafidon Ade-Adeniji, Umukoro, and Ajitemisan (202) proposed that skill development has been a government strategy to enable the unemployed, especially the youth, to learn knowledge and skills that help them to plan, start, and run their own entrepreneurial ventures. Numerous academics make a clear connection between economic growth, productivity, innovation, and investment in the development of human capital. This has frequently been utilized to support government funding for public enterprises, people's standard of living in Delta State, and job skills training and empowerment.

Without a doubt, the goal of establishing public enterprises was to improve the quality of life for Nigerians, particularly in Delta State. Creating high-quality goods and services that the general public, especially the less fortunate, can use to improve their level of living is one of the duties of public enterprises. Public companies need to ensure that these goods and services are easily accessible in order to increase GDP (Kenny, 2022). A higher per capita income is always correlated with a higher standard of living. A person's standard of living is determined by a number of factors, including the amount of goods they can purchase, their life expectancy, and their access to high-quality healthcare, all of which are positively connected with rising per capita income.

Furthermore, public enterprises in Delta State play a major role in improving the standard of living for the general population. This is because governments have been set up in almost every facet of human history to deliver particular public goods and/or services intended to improve the standard of living in the state. The government has set up a large number of colleges of education, universities, polytechnics, institutes, technical and vocational centers, secondary schools, primary schools, and similar establishments all over the nation. These establishments provide educational services in order to guarantee that basic education is accessible and to enhance the lives of numerous individuals. Additionally, the national government has developed a number of federal medical centers, federal teaching hospitals, primary health care centers, and similar establishments in the area of healthcare services. The government set up state hospitals, primary healthcare facilities, and similar establishments at the state level. In order to improve the state's numerous rural settlements, this also made the creation of the Delta State Community and Social Development Agency necessary. The same is true for municipal governments, which offer maternity centers and other healthcare services. The Delta State Transport Corporation is a transportation company that provides services both within and outside of the state. The goal of the transport corporation was to guarantee that Delta State residents could easily access transportation services for both internal and external travel.

## **THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK**

This study was rooted on the New Public Management Theory propounded in 1991 by Hood Christopher; a UK scholar (Charbonneau, 2012). The New Public Management Theory advocates that government should restructure their bureaucracies in order to better provide services to the citizens. This proposes a combination of modern ideas and practices that seek, at its core, the use of private sector and business approaches in the Public Sector. New Public Management seeks to apply market principles to governmental administration, with an emphasis on competition and customer orientation. As submitted by Ibietan (2013), The New Public Management Theory places a strong emphasis on goal-oriented management, merit-based hiring and advancement, greater managerial autonomy with accompanying accountability, performance-based compensation, and ongoing skill development and improvement. Similar to this, Andrews and Steven (2013) claimed that performance measurement is equally important, paying special attention to how services are provided to the general population.

In New Public Management, citizens are viewed as "customers" and public servants are viewed as public managers. Under New Public Management, public managers have incentive-based motivation such as pay-for-performance, and clear performance targets are often set, which are assessed by using performance evaluations. Additionally, managers in a New Public Management may have more leeway and autonomy in how they approach accomplishing the objectives assigned to them. The traditional public administration paradigm, which is governed by laws, rules, and administrative bureaucratic bottlenecks, is compared with the New Public Management method. Under this model, institutional decision-making, policy-making, and public service delivery are guided. Similar to their colleagues in the private sector, public managers are now able to provide a variety of options to their clients under the New Public Management reforms.



The necessity of a reform initiative like market orientation in the management of public companies in Nigeria, where the quality of public service delivery is viewed as appallingly inadequate, makes this theory's applicability to the research extremely important. The theory emphasises how important it is to use private sector management techniques to increase the productivity of public companies and give them a more "businesslike" appearance. Similar to how the private sector prioritises "customer service," New Public Management strategies like market orientation place a strong emphasis on the importance of people as clients or service users for the public sector. When it comes to the provision of social or public goods and services, its introduction would provide a formula for treating citizens like "Kings." Furthermore, the establishment and implementation of public accountability will significantly lessen corruption in the administration of state-owned businesses. Moreover, the theory emphasises that public firms can optimally deliver services and make decisions based on market principles. This is because; focus on socio-political considerations produce the tendency of political office holders to conceal the true economic and fiscal positions of the country from the citizens in attempting to keep electioneering promises through deficit financing. As such, the existing public service orientations in the management of public enterprises are poor predictors of citizens' preferences and demands (Ibietan, 2013). It ignores citizens' preferences and leads to oversupply of low quality and irrelevant services. This state of affairs calls for more efficacious remedy which could be found in the adoption of market orientation in management of state-owned enterprises.

Recognizing and understanding current strategies, creating new strategies, selecting preferred strategies, implementing or managing those selected and modifying them are necessary for productivity of state-owned enterprises. Hence, state-owned enterprises seeking higher performance ought to engage in major innovations, finding new resources that produce superior public goods and not equivalent to the competitors for citizens' satisfaction. Market orientation stresses the importance of using information about both customers and competitors in formulating strategy.

Delta State Transport Corporation for instance out to gather and use knowledge about products, price and strategies of competitors like Delta Mass Transit Ltd, etc, to offer similar or more conducive and effective transport services to people in Delta State and beyond. A market-oriented state enterprise presumably has established valuable resources in the form of customer loyalty, brand awareness, and expertise within the organization on how to maintain strong customer relationships that afford it a competitive advantage. Innovation acts as the medium to achieve superior performance through market orientation. The hallmark of this idea is that innovation could strategize public organizations to observe and take up market orientation as one of the important strategies in improving their marketing strategy to achieve superior performance hence higher productivity. Strong market-oriented cultures are said to give state-owned businesses the ability to adjust to the ever-changing economic environment, give them an edge over rivals, and boost productivity.

## **RESEARCH METHOD**

The research utilized a cross-sectional research design with an adoption of the quantitative technique to examine public enterprise as a means of promoting economic and infrastructural development in Delta state. The study employed this design to gather data from the three public enterprises in Delta State. The main interest of this design is to measure existing conditions and prevailing practices based on the data collected through questionnaires. The targeted population

for this study was (500) workers across the three public enterprises selected for this study which are Delta Broadcasting Corporation, Delta Transport Corporation and Delta Electricity Board. Below is the breakdown of the population:

S/N	Public Enterprise	Population	Sample	percentage
1	Delta Broadcasting Corp.	50	50	16.66%
2	Delta State Transport Corp.	250	150	50%
3	Delta State Electricity Board	200	100	33.33%
	<b>Total</b>	<b>500</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>100%</b>

Source: Field Compilation 2024

The simple random sampling technique was used to pull out the sample size from the total population. The data derived from the research instrument were analyzed by using Pearson Product correlation movement (PPCM) to determine the degree of freedom and relationship between variables.

## PRESENTATION OF RESULT AND ANALYSIS

### Testing of research hypotheses

**Hypothesis1: There is no significant relationship between public enterprise and revenue generation in Delta State**

Table : A summary of Pearson Product Correlation Movement (PPCM)

DISAGREE (y)	AGREE (x)	Df	r-cal.	r-crit.	Alpha Level	Decision
61	250	3	-1	0.88	0.05	Significant
31	280					
101	210					
21	290					
81	230					

From the calculation above, the value of r (-1) is negative number, which indicates negative correlation of relationship strength, and the r-cal value is not between -0.88 and +0.88. This implies that the null hypothesis, according to which there is no meaningful connection between income creation and public enterprise, is rejected. This suggests that public enterprises and revenue creation in Delta State are significantly related. The researcher comes to the conclusion that public enterprises are established in order to provide revenue for the state's government to pay its infrastructure initiatives. Without raising enough money to support the necessary infrastructure development in the state, the government is unable to accomplish infrastructure development.

**H02: There is no significant relationship between public enterprise and Job Creation in Delta State**

Table: PPCM Summary Table of the relationship between public enterprise and Job Creation in Delta State

DISAGREE (y)	AGREE (x)	Df	r-cal.	r-crit.	Alpha Level	Decision
11	300					
11	300					

111	200	3	-1	0.88	0.05	Significant
111	200					
111	200					

From the calculation above, the value of  $r(-1)$  is negative number, which indicates negative correlation of relationship strength, and the  $r$ -cal value is not between  $-0.88$  and  $+0.88$ . This indicates the rejection of the null hypothesis, which claims that there is no meaningful connection between public enterprise and job creation in Delta State. This suggests that Delta State's public enterprise and job creation are significantly correlated. The study comes to the conclusion that public enterprises were primarily founded to provide job chances for jobless individuals.

**H0 3: There is no significant relationship between public enterprise and Standard of Living in Delta State**

PPCM Summary Table of relationship between public enterprise and Standard of Living in Delta State

DISAGREE (y)	AGREE (x)	Df	r-cal.	r-crit.	Alpha Level	Decision
11	300	3	-1	0.88	0.05	Significant
111	200					
111	200					
91	200					
11	300					

From the calculation above, the value of  $r(-1)$  is negative number, which indicates negative correlation of relationship strength, and the  $r$ -cal value is not between  $-0.88$  and  $+0.88$ . This indicates the rejection of the null hypothesis, which claims that there is no meaningful correlation between public enterprise and Delta State's standard of living. This suggests that public enterprise and Delta State's standard of living are significantly correlated. The researcher comes to the conclusion that the establishment of public enterprises serves the objective of bringing social amenities to Delta State residents, hence raising their standard of living. The government constructed roads, water systems, hospitals, and other recreational facilities with the intention of improving peoples' quality of life.

**MAJOR FINDINGS**

Based on the analysis of data, the following findings were observed:

- i. The study found that Delta State's public enterprises had not greatly increased revenue generation. The state's transport system, television companies, and power board don't bring in enough money to support the state's infrastructure and economic development.
- ii. Public businesses in Delta State have not made a major contribution to the creation of jobs because they have not expanded their business to make more space for the employment of qualified individuals in the state, and even the infrastructures for training and skill development offered are insufficient.

iii. The living conditions of those residing in Delta State have not been appreciably raised by public enterprises. The people's access to portable water, connected highways with economic potential, hospitals, recreation centres, and food production facilities that would lower hunger and starvation and raise people's standard of living have not been made possible by state-owned firms.

## **CONCLUSION**

Public enterprises have not significantly enhanced revenue generation in Delta State. They have not generated enough revenue to increase internal revenue earnings of the state government. As a result, they don't provide the state government's excess revenue to fund infrastructure initiatives. They can't expand their business without relying on subsidies from the state government. This is because public companies frequently have higher operating costs than revenue from sales of products and services, which makes it challenging for them to fund the essential infrastructure and economic growth in Delta State.

The state's unemployed have not had enough work possibilities produced by public enterprises. They don't run continuous and regular hiring campaigns to encourage the creation of jobs in the state. They have not been able to diversify their business to make more space available for the employment of eligible individuals in the state, nor have they sufficiently encouraged the development of vocational skills necessary for self-employment in Delta State. The level of living in Delta State has not increased much thanks to public enterprises. State-run businesses have failed to guarantee that people have access to portable water supplies for a higher standard of living, have not sufficiently encouraged food production to lower starvation and hunger among Delta State residents, and have not raised per capita income, particularly in rural areas, to improve people's living conditions.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

Based on the findings and conclusion drawn, the following recommendations were made:

- i. Public enterprises in Delta state are established to generate adequate revenue to fund critical infrastructures of government and as such the government of Delta state should spur public enterprise managers to specify objectives, monitor and evaluate their performance based on the achievement of defined objectives.
- ii. Public enterprise in Delta state should take job creation seriously and re-strategize by diversifying their operations to create the needed employment opportunities. Government should invest in vocational skills acquisitions for it is the veritable instrument for job creation
- iii. Public enterprise in Delta State should provide measures that are capable of improving the standard of living. Te government of Delta state should intensify efforts and strong commitment to provide basic infrastructures that are necessary like the portable water, food production and shelter to improve the standard of living of the people in the state.

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