

AHMADU BELLO UNIVERSITY, ZARIA

Proposed PhD Research Proposal

Candidate Name: ALIYU ONIMISI KABIRU

Department: LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND DEVELOPMENT STUDIES

Proposed Topic: THE IMPACT OF ELECTRICITY SUPPLY ON THE PERFORMANCE OF SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (SMES) IN KADUNA STATE, NIGERIA

1. Introduction

Electricity supply plays a pivotal role in enhancing industrial productivity and sustaining economic growth. In Nigeria, unreliable electricity remains a critical constraint on enterprise performance, particularly among Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs), which are key drivers of employment, innovation, and national output. Persistent power shortages, high energy costs, and dependence on alternative sources have significantly affected SME efficiency, profitability, and survival rates. This study therefore seeks to examine the impact of electricity supply on the performance of SMEs in Kaduna State.

2 Research Objectives

1. To assess the relationship between electricity supply reliability and SME productivity in Kaduna State.
2. To evaluate the effects of electricity cost and quality on SME profitability and sustainability.
3. To identify coping strategies adopted by SMEs in response to irregular power supply.
4. To recommend policy interventions that can enhance energy access and enterprise growth.

3. Methodology

The study will adopt a **mixed-methods approach**, integrating quantitative and qualitative data. Structured questionnaires will be administered to selected SMEs across key sectors, while interviews and focus group discussions will elicit deeper insights. Data will be analyzed using descriptive and inferential statistical techniques to determine the nature and strength of relationships between electricity supply variables and SME performance indicators

4. Expected Contribution to knowledge

The study will provide empirical evidence on the economic consequences of electricity deficiencies on SMEs in Kaduna State. Its findings will contribute to academic discourse on energy economics and inform policy frameworks aimed at improving electricity infrastructure, promoting SME competitiveness, and fostering inclusive economic growth in Nigeria.