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## The Effect of Cooperative Professionals in National Development: A Study of Selected Cooperatives in Enugu State

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### **Abstract**

*This study examined the place of cooperative professionals in national development utilizing some selected cooperatives in Enugu state as a case study. The objectives of the study were to determine the effect of cooperatives professionals' activities on economic development of Enugu state and to determine the effect of cooperatives professionals' activities on Political development of Enugu state. The research design used in this study was survey research design. The population for the study comprises of all the members of co-operative societies in the seventeen (17) local government areas of Enugu State and co-operative field staff also in the state. The stratified random sampling technique was used to determine the sample size according to co-operative societies and membership strength (co-operators and field staff) in each local government area of each zone. This gave a total size of 219 members. The instrument used for the collection of data was the structured questionnaire developed by the researcher. The data was analysed using inferential statistical tool and was presented in frequency and percentage table. The hypotheses postulated were tested with various test statistics aided by computer through the application of Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS 23 version). Specifically, the two hypotheses were tested using linear regression analysis. The results of the study revealed that the activities of cooperatives professionals have significant effect on economic development of Enugu state, which is statistically significant at  $p = .000 < 0.05$ . and that the activities of cooperatives professionals have significant effect on the Political development of Enugu state, which is statistically significant at  $p = .000 < 0.05$ . it was therefore recommended among other things that; government should provide cooperative professionals with adequate avenue to partake in the governmental activities of the state and that cooperatives should make it as point of duty to educate the general public more on their activities and how it can be of importance to the national development as this will enable them gain more support from the government and general public.*

**Keywords:** *Cooperatives, Professionals, National Development, Economic development, Political development.*

## **Introduction**

The pride of any nation is to attain high level of development in such a way that its citizens would derive natural attachment to governance. Nigeria as a nation has a lot of potentials for growth and development. The abundant and natural resources of the country remain largely unexplored. These have to be harnessed to the fullest for the general well-being of Nigeria in the world economy. According to Ayanwu et al, (1996) one important way to the realization of this goal is through the encouragement of cooperative movement. A cooperative as posited by UN, (2011) is an autonomous association of people united voluntarily to meet their common economic, social, and cultural needs and aspirations through a jointly-owned and democratically controlled enterprise. Cooperatives are based on the values of self-help, self-responsibility, democracy, equality, equity and solidarity.

Okeke, (2001) identified salient features of co-operative organizations as an association of free and independent persons that is voluntary, joint actions for their mutual benefits on equitable and democratic basis, existence of a business enterprise and the promotion of economics interest of members and its societies at large. Baarda, (2006) reviewed that Cooperative organizations/societies emerge as self help entities to combat economic and social inadequacies. Cooperative organizations serves as an effective community development vehicle by their nature they build economic self reliance and civil society.

Cooperative organizations exist within any aspects of our economy, so long as there is felt need and willingness amongst the people to cooperate. There are therefore various types of cooperative organization in Nigeria prominent among which are: Agricultural cooperative, Consumers cooperatives and Cooperative thrift and loan societies. Cooperative organization can also be defined as a business organization where various entrepreneur cooperators pool their resources together with view of making profit for their own sustainability and economic survival such as the cooperative thrift and loan societies. Incidentally, cooperative despite its old age is not very popular in Nigeria. Only recently cooperatives workers started gaining ground among working class citizens, most of who find it difficult to save part of their salaries/wages for the rainy day. Hitherto, cooperative societies were thought to be associations meant only for farmers, small traders and other very low-income earners. This explains why quite a number of cooperative farmers are found, particularly in southern Nigeria.

The problem is that many people do not know much about cooperative, its mechanisms and role in economic development, and how it is considered in the world as a Third Force, an alternative and countervailing power to both big business and big government. These can lead to non-development of the economy of the country or government. It is therefore against these background, that this study sought to determine the effect of cooperative professionals in national development of Enugu state.

## **Objectives**

- 1) To determine the effect of cooperatives professionals' activities on economic development of Enugu state.

- 2) To determine the effect of cooperatives professionals' activities on Political development of Enugu state.

### Research Questions

The following research questions guided the study;

1. Do the activities of cooperatives professionals have significant effect on the economic development of Enugu state?
2. Do the activities of cooperatives professionals have significant effect on the Political development of Enugu state?

### Research Hypotheses

The following  $H_0$  guided the study and was tested at 0.05 level of significance

**$H_0$ :** The activities of cooperatives professionals have no significant effect on economic development of Enugu state

**$H_0$ :** The activities of cooperatives professionals have no significant effect on Political development of Enugu state

### Review of Related Literature

The International Cooperative Alliance (ICA) Statement on the Cooperate Identity, in 1995, defines a cooperative as "an autonomous association of persons united voluntarily to meet their common economic, social, and cultural needs and aspirations through a jointly-owned and democratically-controlled enterprise. It is a business voluntarily owned and controlled by its member patrons and operated for them and by them on a non-profit or cost basis (UWCC, 2002). The international labour organization (ILO, 2002) defines cooperatives as an association of persons who have voluntarily joined together to achieve a common end through the formation of a democratically controlled business organizations, making equitable contributions to the capital required and accepting a fair share of the risks and benefits of the participation. For Anyanwu (1997) it is a family of people who unite with equal rights and equal duties, to overcome the difficulties that affect them all, working together for their economic and social advantages and sharing the business risks, they run an enterprise to which they delegate the economic function according to their common needs as producers and consumers.

Cooperatives represent a strong, vibrant, and viable economic alternative formed to meet peoples' mutual needs. They are based on the powerful idea that together, a group of people can achieve goals that none of them could achieve alone. In the words of Laidlaw, (1974), cooperatives helps salary/wage earners save for the future through a soft-felt monthly contribution that is deducted from source, enable individual members own what might be difficult for individuals to own by their singular efforts, strengthen.

Historically, many academics argue the origins lie within Europe (Shaffer, 1999; Holyoake, 1908) this is despite the fact vague and inconsistent evidence as to the origin of the co-operative movement. The first recorded co-operatives date back to 1750 in France, where local cheese makers in the community of Franche-Comté established a producer cheese cooperative. Within the decade, co-operatives had developed in France, United Kingdom, United States and Greece. In 1844 the Equitable Pioneers of Rochdale Society (EPRS) was formed. With the goal of social improvement, twenty-eight unemployed community members saw the opportunity to pool their limited resources and attempt cooperation for the good of the group. Even though co-operatives

appeared in the century previous, Rochdale is seen as the first 'modern' cooperative since it was where the co-operative principles were developed (Wikipedia, 2006; Gibson, 2005; and Abell, 2004).

The successful example of cooperative business provided by the Rochdale Society, which also established between 1850 and 1855 a flourmill, a shoe factory, and a textile plant, was quickly emulated throughout the country. By 1863 more than 400 British cooperative associations, modelled after the Rochdale Society, were in operation. Thereafter the English movement grew steadily, becoming the model for similar movements worldwide. Notable among the European countries in which consumer cooperation received early popular support were France, Germany, Belgium, Austria, Italy, Denmark, Finland, Norway, and Sweden (Abell, 2004).

In 1895, International Cooperative Alliance (ICA), a non-governmental organization was established as umbrella organisation to promote friendly and economic relations between cooperative organizations of all types, nationally and internationally. The major objective of the ICA is to promote and strengthen autonomous cooperative organizations throughout the world. In order to achieve its aims, the ICA organizes international, regional, and sectorial meetings. The ICA also aims to promote exchange of information such as news and statistics between cooperatives through research and reports, directories, international conferences, and two quarterly publications: *ICANews* and the *Review of International Co-operation*. It represents the cooperative movement generally, for instance through its membership of the UN.

Since its creation, the ICA has been accepted by co-operators throughout the world as the final authority for defining cooperatives and for determining the underlying principles, which give motivation to cooperative enterprise. World membership in ICA gives some idea of the size of the cooperative movement today. In 1895, the founding congress had 194 members; in the mid-1980s the ICA recorded a membership of about 355 million individuals; in 1999, the ICA's organisations represented 750 million people; and since 2002 it was estimated that more than 800 million people are members of worker, agriculture, banking, credit and saving, energy, industry, insurance, fisheries, tourism, housing, building, retailer, utility, social and consumer cooperatives societies (Levin, 2002; Encarta, 2005; and Wikipedia, 2006).

### **Cooperatives in the Nigerian Economy**

Cooperative movement in Nigeria started with the colonial masters, with the formulation and enactment of cooperative legislation in 1935. During this period, the cocoa farmers in Western Region formed marketing societies with the sole aim of checking the excesses of middlemen and ensuring the marketing of pure and unadulterated cocoa. The initiative was taken following the acceptance, by the Colonial Administration, of Mr. C.F. Strickland's Report in 1934 on the prospects of cooperatives in Nigeria. Subsequently Mr E.E.G. Haig was appointed the first Registrar of Cooperatives (Okone and Ijere, 1986). In September of 1935, the Cooperative Department was inaugurated at Ibadan in Moore Plantation with total staff strength of one registrar, three cooperative inspectors, one clerk and one messenger. The following year, in 1936, the Cooperative Regulation was passed and the Cooperative Department was separated the Department of Agriculture. The inauguration of the first Nigerian cooperative finally took place in 1937 with the registration of Gbedun Cooperative Produce Marketing Society Ltd.

While it is true that Nigerian cooperatives growth has been slow, increasing in membership from 12 in 1935, with membership of 400 to 500 in 1949, and 450,000 in 1975 with more increase in membership in subsequent years, one finds out that there is still room for further and faster improvement (Okorie and Ijere, 1986). For example as at 2005, there was a total 4.3 million members in 5000 Nigerian cooperatives. Since the year 1973, the Federal Government of Nigeria has been utilising the Nigeria cooperative movement as a source of distribution of scarce and essential commodities. This very fact has gone deep into helping greatly to rekindle more interest in the study of cooperatives since it looks as if one has to be a member of a cooperative society before one can obtain any scarce and essential commodity. From 1935 to 1952, there was one central cooperative societies" division located in the Department of Agriculture in Ibadan. It was from there, under the registration of cooperatives that the movement spread to other parts of the country. As time went on, however, the cooperative development became a regional matter, and later Cooperative Society Division was established in the Federal Ministry of Labour for the Federal Territory of Lagos. Subsequently, same were created by various state ministries in the country just as farmers" cooperatives flourished in the then Western Nigeria which built the famous Cocoa House, the cooperative credit society and unions thrived in the Eastern part and later metamorphosed into Cooperative and Commerce Bank Nigeria Limited. The establishment of cooperative societies and agricultural institutions in the old regions of the country contributed to some of the major achievements credited to the good leadership of each of the regions between 1950 and part of 1960s (Ejeakanonu, 2007). The Cooperatives in Nigeria are organised into service and producer cooperatives. The producer cooperative objectives are to promote the use of modern technology and contribute to national development through production. The service cooperatives are responsible for procurement, marketing and expansion services, loan disbursement, sale of consumer goods and member education. The cooperatives have made remarkable progress in agriculture, banking, credit, agro-processing, storage, marketing, dairy, fishing and housing. Service cooperatives are the closest to communities and are organised on a shareholder basis formed by individual members of organisations voluntarily working in a specific geographic area. For instance, primary level cassava farmers cooperatives provide a collection point for the farmers" produce, negotiate the per ton cost of cassava

### **Cooperatives Values and Principles**

Cooperatives are based on basic values and principles. Cooperative values are general norms that co-operators, cooperative leaders and cooperative staff should share and which should determine their way of thinking and acting (Hoyt, 1996). The values, which are articulated by the ICA in a statement in 1995, include self-help, self-responsibility, democracy, equality, equity and solidarity. The values statement further articulates values of personal and ethical behaviour that co-operators actualize in their enterprises. They describe the kind of people cooperators strive to be and the traits they hope to encourage through cooperation. These are honesty, openness, social responsibility and caring for others.

Cooperative principles on the other hand, are guidelines by which cooperatives put their values into practice. The principles rest on a distinct philosophy and view of society that helps members judge their accomplishments and make decisions (Hoyt, 1996). Before 1995, the ICA has made two formal statements of the cooperative principles, in 1937 and 1966. In 1995, the ICA

redefines, restates and expands the cooperative principles from six to seven in order to guide cooperative organisations at the beginning of the 21st century. The principles are: Voluntary and Open Membership; Democratic Member Control; Member Economic Participation; Autonomy and Independence; Education, Training and Information; Cooperation among Cooperatives; and Concern for Community.

The import of the above principles is that cooperatives are voluntary organisations, open to all persons able to use their services and willing to accept the responsibilities of membership, without gender, social, racial, political or religious discrimination.

They are democratic organisations controlled by their members, who actively participate in setting their policies and making decisions. Men and women serving as elected representatives are accountable to the membership. Members contribute equitably to, and democratically control, the capital of their cooperative. At least part of that capital is usually the common property of the cooperative. Members usually receive limited compensation, if any, on capital subscribed as a condition of membership. Members allocate surpluses for any or all of the following purposes: developing their cooperative, possibly by setting up reserves, part of which at least would be indivisible; benefiting members in proportion to their transactions with the cooperative; and supporting other activities approved by the membership. Also, cooperatives are autonomous, self-help organisations controlled by their members. If they enter into agreements with other organisations, including governments, or raise capital from external sources, they do so on terms that ensure democratic control by their members and maintain their cooperative autonomy. They provide education and training for their members, elected representatives, managers, and employees so they can contribute effectively to the development of their cooperatives. They inform the general public - particularly young people and opinion leaders - about the nature and benefits of cooperation. They also serve their members most effectively and strengthen the cooperative movement by working together through local, national, regional and international structures. Further, cooperatives work for the sustainable development of their communities through policies approved by their members.

### **Cooperatives and Business**

Cooperatives operate very much like other businesses. They must serve a market efficiently and effectively, they must be well managed, and they must survive financially. However, there are important distinctions that make cooperatives unique.

Laidlaw (1974) examines the difference between cooperatives and other businesses in relation to three main groups of people responsible for bringing them into existence and keeping them in operation. The three groups are: the persons who own them (the shareholders, the investors), the persons who control them (the effective decision makers) and the persons who use them (the customers). According to him, in typical capitalist business, especially large enterprise and multinational corporations, these three are separate and distinct groups. In small private business the situation is generally much better because of the close connection between shareholders (investors) and control. In a small retail business, for example, the first two components are often identical. But still the users, the customers, are a separate group.

In a cooperative, all three come together to form a unity; those who own, those who control, and those who use are one.

The points of comparison apply also to public enterprise and cooperatives, though in a different way. In public enterprise, the components of ownership, control and use are separate and disjointed, in contrast to cooperatives, where they are unified. In cooperatives, responsibility and accountability are direct; in public enterprise they are indirect and frequently difficult to trace. According to Taimni (1997), combating exploitation, reducing disparities, improving social conditions and gender sensitivity, and helping to create a more just society with pronounced concern for environmental protection and sustainable processes of development all tend to make a cooperative a preferred and more socially desirable form of organization.

### **The Role of Cooperatives in Economic Development**

In a number of ways, cooperatives play important role in global and national economic and social development. With regard to economic and social development, cooperatives promote the “fullest participation of all people” and facilitate a more equitable distribution of the benefits of globalization. They contribute to sustainable human development and have an important role to play in combating social exclusion.

Cooperatives are community-based, rooted in democracy, flexible, and have participatory involvement, which makes them well suited for economic development (Gertler, 2001). The process of developing and sustaining a cooperative involves the processes of developing and promoting community spirit, identity and social organisation as cooperatives play an increasingly important role worldwide in poverty reduction, facilitating job creation, economic growth and social development (Gibson, 2005).

Cooperatives are viewed as important tools for improving the living and working conditions of both women and men. Since the users of the services they provide own them, cooperatives make decisions that balance the need for profitability with the welfare of their members and the community, which they serve. As cooperatives foster economies of scope and scale, they increase the bargaining power of their members providing them, among others benefits, higher income and social protection.

Hence, cooperatives accord members opportunity, protection and empowerment - essential elements in uplifting them from degradation and poverty (Somavia, 2002). As governments around the world cut services and withdraw from regulating markets, cooperatives are being considered useful mechanisms to manage risk for members and keep markets efficient (Henehan, 1997).

Babajide (2016) mentioned that the first thing cooperative societies do to individual members is development of savings culture

In addition to the direct benefits they provide to members, cooperatives strengthen the communities in which they operate. According to Somavia (2002) cooperatives are specifically seen as significant tools for the creation of decent jobs and for the mobilization of resources for income generation. Many cooperatives provide jobs and pay local taxes because they operate in specific geographical regions. According to Wikipedia (2006) and Levin (2002) it is estimated that cooperatives employ more than 100 million men and women worldwide.

In Nigeria, cooperatives can provide locally needed services, employment, circulate money locally and contribute to a sense of community or social cohesion. They can provide their employees with the opportunities to upgrade their skills through workshops and courses and offer youth in their base communities short and long-term employment positions. Students could also be

employed on casual-appointment basis during long vacations. Through these, cooperatives will contribute to economic development.

### **Role of Cooperatives in the Realization of Sustainable National Developmental Goals**

Cooperatives are highly relevant and important in the realization of the proposed sustainable development goals. Cooperatives play an important role in the actualisation and realisation of the following:

#### **Poverty Reduction**

There is a widely held consensus among many actors, including the United Nations (UN), the International Labour Organization (ILO), and the International Co-operative Alliance (ICA), that the cooperative enterprise is the type of organization that is most suited to addressing all dimensions of reducing poverty and exclusion.

The way cooperatives help reduce poverty is important - they identify economic opportunities for their members; empower the disadvantaged to defend their interests; provide security to the poor by allowing them to convert individual risks into collective risks; and mediate member access to assets that they utilize to earn a living.

#### **Gender Equality**

Cooperatives are contributing towards gender equality by expanding women's opportunities to participate in local economies and societies in many parts of the world.

In consumer cooperatives, most members are women, e.g. in Japan, women constitute 95 per cent of membership and have gained a place in the governance structure of their cooperatives.

#### **Quality Education and Lifelong Learning**

Cooperatives support access to quality education and life-long learning opportunities by providing the means for financing education; supporting teachers and schools; establishing their own schools to provide quality education to both youth and adults; and serving as centres for lifelong learning.

#### **Health**

Cooperatives ensure healthy lives by creating the infrastructure for delivering healthcare services; financing healthcare and providing home-based healthcare services to people living with HIV/AIDS, among others.

Healthcare cooperatives include workers' cooperatives that provide health services, patient or community cooperatives that are user-owned, and hybrid multi-stakeholder cooperatives. They can provide anything from homecare to full-scale hospital care.

#### **Food security and good nutrition**

Cooperatives contribute to food security by helping small farmers, fisher folk, livestock keepers, forest holders and other producers to solve numerous challenges that confront them in their endeavours to produce food. Farming and agriculture is where the cooperative business model is most widely utilised. Cooperatives together have an estimated 32 per cent of the global market share in the agricultural sector.

### **Access to Water and Sanitation**

Cooperatives are increasingly becoming major actors in facilitating access to clean water and sanitation services to make up for the failures of both the public and private sectors.

### **Sustainable Energy**

Cooperatives are visible in facilitating access to sustainable energy, where they are playing a significant role in generating electricity and distributing it to consumers. They are also leading the way to the adoption of new and renewable energies like solar and wind power in many parts of the world.

### **Good Governance**

Responsible and effective governance has been identified in the post-2015 process as an enabler for socio-economic transformation and the eradication of structural inequality, as well as an end in itself.

The new development agenda provides the opportunity for societies to shift to a more just world, where resources are shared more equitably and people have a greater say in the decisions that affect their lives. Cooperatives have an important role to play in this process.

### **Promotion of Stable and Peaceful Societies**

In the aftermath of violent social conflict, cooperatives have often emerged as sources of positive social capital, fostering a strong sense of community, participation, empowerment and inclusion among members and restoring interpersonal relationships and peace. In post genocide Rwanda, in addition to dealing with structural causes of grievances, cooperatives provided emotional support for members seeking justice.

The role of cooperatives in setting and achieving organisational goals cannot be overemphasized. Cooperatives professionals are important in every society in order to aid national development.

### **Methodology**

The research design used is the survey, the design used because only a part of the population was studied, and findings from this was generalized to the entire population. The study was carried out in Enugu State, which is one of the thirty six (36) states constituting Nigeria federation. The population of the study comprised of the members of the entire registered co-operatives that are operation in the Enugu State. There are total of 10 registered cooperatives in the state with membership capacity of 219

The study utilized the entire population. Therefore the sample size of the study is -operators and field officer giving a total of 219 respondents. This gave a total size of 219 members. To get the sample, the sample was stratified into 17 local government areas which was further reduced to the 3 senatorial zones, and in each zone, two (2) local governments areas were selected, giving a total of six (6) local government areas. In the six local government areas, a total of ten (10) co-operative societies were selected using simple random sampling technique.

The source of data for the study comprises of primary and secondary. The primary source of data was gotten from the questionnaire and oral interview while the secondary source was from text books, journals, and internet. The questionnaire was designed in two section. Section A of the

instrument solicited information regarding the participants' demographic data while section B represented the questionnaire items as it relates to the study objectives. The items in the instrument was based on likert scale.

Face validity of the instrument was first determined by two experts in co-operatives and rural development (CRD) department and one professional in co-operative sectors. The comments made by these experts were found very useful in restructuring the questionnaire items. In order to obtain the reliability of the instrument, the researcher used test retest. By this, the researcher administered the instrument to other cooperative in Ebonyi state which have similar characteristic but not member of the study group. Data obtained from the test-retest was subjected to reliability testing utilizing Ahpha Cronbach reliability coefficient with the aid of SPSS version 20. The result of reliability, .086 shows that the instrument is reliable

Due to the vastness of the study population, the researcher 2 recruited assistance who assisted in administering and collecting the instrument. The researcher and the assistant collected data different senatorial zone. The data was collected by the researcher and the assistant by first introducing the researcher and the assistant to the participants are the various meeting point before administering the instruments. All instrument were administered and retrieved at same point. All the data collected were analysed using inferential statistical tool and was presented in frequency and percentage table. The hypotheses postulated were tested with various test statistics aided by computer through the application of Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS 20 version).

### Data Analysis and Result Presentation

**Table 4.1 Effect of Cooperatives Professionals' Activities on Economic Development of Enugu State**

S/N	Items	SA Freq. (%)	A Freq. (%)	D Freq. (%)	SD Freq. (%)
1	Cooperative is a could be a source of employment for the youth in the country	119(57.8)	75(36.4)	8(3.9)	4(1.9)
2	With a formidable cooperative in the country, the level of poverty could be reduce as member sees to the welfare of each other.	174(84.5)	1(.5)	16(7.8)	15(7.3)
3	The activities of cooperatives are vital in provision of housing scheme for members	114(55.3)	79(38.3)	0(0)	13(6.3)

**Source:** Field Survey 2018.

Table 4.1 above shows the response of respondents on whether the activities of cooperatives professionals have effect on economic development of Enugu state. It shows that 119(57.8%) of the respondents strongly agree while only 4(1.9%) strongly disagreed that cooperative is a could be a source of employment for the youth in the country. The result also shows that 174(84.5%) strongly agreed and 16(7.8%) disagreed that with a formidable cooperative in the country, the level of poverty could be reduce as member sees to the welfare of each other. In addition, the result shows that 114(55.3%) of the participants strongly agreed that the activities of

cooperatives are vital in provision of housing scheme for members while a handful 13(6.3%) strongly disagreed.

**Table 4.2 Effect of Cooperatives Professionals’ Activities on Political Development of Enugu state.**

S/N	Items	Strongly agree Freq. (%)	Agree Freq. (%)	Disagree Freq. (%)	Strongly disagree Freq. (%)
1	Cooperatives professionals can take decisions that will affect the peaceful existence of the member of the society	121(58.7)	58(28.2)	13(6.3)	14(6.8)
2	Cooperative organization in the state could influence governmental decision that are not favourable to it members by protest	73(35.4)	93(45.1)	24(11.7)	16(7.8)
3	Cooperatives are important in ensuring continuity in the government by educating the member of the society on political leadership	127(61.7)	62(30.1)	8(3.9)	9(4.4)

*Source: Field Survey 2018.*

Table 4.2 above shows the response of respondents on whether the activities of cooperatives professionals have significant effect on the Political development of Enugu state. It shows that 121(58.7%) and 14(6.8%) participants strongly agreed and strongly disagreed that cooperatives professionals can take decisions that will affect the peaceful existence of the member of the society. Also ,the result of the study shows that 93(45.1%) agreed and 16(7.8%) strongly disagreed that cooperative organization in the state could influence governmental decision that are not favourable to it members by protest and 127(61.7%) and 8(3.9) strongly agreed and disagreed respectively that cooperatives are important in ensuring continuity in the government by educating the member of the society on political leadership.

### Test of Hypotheses

#### Hypothesis 1

**Ho:** The activities of cooperatives professionals have no significant effect on economic development of Enugu state

**Table 4.3 Model Summary<sup>b</sup>**

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate	Durbin-Watson
1	.746 <sup>a</sup>	.556	.554	.52865	.139

*Source: SPSS version 23*

a. Predictors: (Constant), Cooperative professionals’ activities

b. Dependent Variable: Economic development in Enugu state

**Table 4.4 ANOVA<sup>a</sup>**

Model		Sum of Squares	Df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
1	Regression	71.396	1	71.396	255.470	.000 <sup>b</sup>
	Residual	57.012	204	.279		
	Total	128.408	205			

*Source: SPSS version 23*

- a. Dependent Variable: Economic development in Enugu state
- b. Predictors: (Constant). Cooperative professionals' activities

**Table 4.5 Coefficients<sup>a</sup>**

Model		Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	t	Sig.
		B	Std. Error	Beta		
1	(Constant)	.681	.067		10.177	.000
	Cooperative professionals' activities	.647	.040	.746	15.983	.000

*Source: SPSS version 23*

- a. Dependent Variable: Economic development in Enugu state

**Result Summary**

R = .746; R<sup>2</sup> = .556; F = 255.470; T = 15.983; DW = .139

**Interpretation of the Result**

A linear regression analysis was conducted to determine the effect of cooperatives professionals' activities on economic development of Enugu state. The result shows that there is strong positive relationship between of cooperatives professionals' activities and economic development of Enugu state (R- coefficient = .746). The R square, the coefficient of determination, shows that 55.6% of the variation in economic development of Enugu state can be explained by of cooperatives professionals' activities with no autocorrelation as Durbin-Watson (.139) is less than 2. With the linear regression model, the error of estimate is low, with a value of about .52865. The regression sum of the square 71.396 is more than the residual sum of the square 57.012 indicating that the variation is due to chance. The F-statistics = 255.470 shows that the model is significant. The extent to which of cooperatives professionals' activities affect economic development of Enugu state with .746 value indicates a positive significance between of cooperatives professionals' activities and economic development of Enugu state which is statistically significant (with t = 15.983) and p = .000 < 0.05. Therefore, the null hypothesis is rejected and the alternate hypothesis accepted accordingly.

**Hypothesis 2**

**Ho:** The activities of cooperatives professionals have no significant effect on Political development of Enugu state.

**Table 4.6 Model Summary<sup>b</sup>**

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate	Durbin-Watson
1	.824 <sup>a</sup>	.678	.677	.43778	.193

*Source: SPSS version 23*

- a. Predictors: (Constant), Cooperative professionals' activities  
 b. Dependent Variable: Political development in Enugu state

**Table 4.7 ANOVA<sup>a</sup>**

Model		Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
1	Regression	82.383	1	82.383	429.850	.000 <sup>b</sup>
	Residual	39.098	204	.192		
	Total	121.481	205			

*Source: SPSS version 23*

- a. Dependent Variable: Political development in Enugu state  
 b. Predictors: (Constant), Cooperative professionals' activities

**Table 4.8 Coefficients<sup>a</sup>**

Model		Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	t	Sig.
		B	Std. Error	Beta		
1	(Constant)	.132	.073		1.806	.072
	Cooperative professionals' activities	.718	.035	.824	20.733	.000

*Source: SPSS version 23*

- a. Dependent Variable: Political development in Enugu state

### Result Summary

R = .824; R<sup>2</sup> = .678; F = 429.850; T = 20.733; DW = .193

### Interpretation of the Result

A linear regression analysis was conducted to determine the effect of cooperatives professionals' activities on political development of Enugu state. The result shows that there is strong positive relationship between of cooperatives professionals' activities and political development of Enugu state (R- coefficient = .824). The R square, the coefficient of determination, shows that 67.8% of the variation in political development of Enugu state can be explained by of cooperatives professionals' activities with no autocorrelation as Durbin-Watson (.193) is less than 2. With the linear regression model, the error of estimate is low, with a value of about .43778. The regression sum of the square 82.383 is more than the residual sum of the square 39.098 indicating that the variation is due to chance. The F-statistics = 429.850 shows that the model is significant. The extent to which of cooperatives professionals' activities affect political development of Enugu state with .746 value indicates a positive significance between of cooperatives professionals'

activities and political development of Enugu state which is statistically significant (with  $t = 20.733$ ) and  $p = .000 < 0.05$ . Therefore, the null hypothesis is rejected and the alternate hypothesis accepted accordingly.

### **Discussion of Findings**

The result of the study shows that the activities of cooperatives professionals have significant effect on economic development of Enugu state. Cooperatives in this part of the world have over time been seen engaging in different economic agenda for members, such activity included provision of soft loan for member for establishment of business and other vital project. The study agrees with Baarda, (2006) which posit that cooperative organizations/societies emerge as self-help entities to combat economic and social inadequacies as such cooperative organizations serves as an effective community development vehicle by their nature. The result further shows that the activities of cooperatives professionals have significant effect on the Political development of Enugu state. Over time, cooperatives have served as a mechanism for peaceful existence of the members of the society by engaging in peace talk especially during crisis. Cooperatives support access to quality education and life-long learning opportunities by providing the means for financing education; supporting teachers and schools; establishing their own schools to provide quality education to both youth and adults; and serving as centres for lifelong learning.

### **Conclusion**

Base on the findings of the study, the following conclusions were drawn; Cooperatives are highly relevant and important in the realization of the proposed sustainable development goals. Cooperatives play an important role in the actualisation and realisation important aspects of national development such as poverty reduction, gender equality, quality education, health, food security, good governance, promotion of stable and peaceful society and so on. This study concludes that the activities of cooperatives professionals have significant effect on economic development of Enugu state and that the activities of cooperatives professionals have significant effect on the Political development of Enugu state.

### **Recommendation**

From the findings and conclusion of this study, it is therefore recommended that;

1. Government should provide cooperative professionals with adequate avenue to partake in the governmental activities of the state.
2. Cooperatives should make it as point of duty to educate the general public more on their activities and how it can be of importance to the national development as this will enable them gain more support from the government and general public.
3. Government should support and encourage cooperative societies by providing to them necessary facilities they need in their activities.

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