AN ASSESSMENT OF NIGERIA'S MULTICULTURALISM IN A DEMOCRATIC DISPENSATION BETWEEN 2007 – 2015 AMONG MAINLAND RESIDENTS IN LAGOS STATE

BY

KAYODE, BANJI (Ph.D)
DEPT. OF EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATIONS
FEDERAL COLLEGE OF EDUCATION (TECHNICAL) AKOKA, LAGOS.

AYEOBASAN, ANTHONY AKINYEMI (Ph.D)
DEPT. OF EDUCATIONAL PSYCHOLOGY
FEDERAL COLLEGE OF EDUCATION (TECHNICAL) AKOKA, LAGOS

&

ODUNAIYA, MARIAN OLUYEMISI (M.Ed, B.Ed)
DEPT. OF CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION
FEDERAL COLLEGE OF EDUCATION (TECHNICAL) AKOKA, LAGOS

ABTRACT

The study investigated an assessment of Nigeria's multiculturalism in a democratic dispensation between 2007-2015 among Mainland residents in Lagos State. The participants in the study comprised 186 participants [96 male and 90 female] who were randomly selected within Mainland Local Government Area of Lagos State. Multiculturalism and Democratic Governance [MDGQ] and Multiculturalism and National Development [MNDQ]instruments developed and validated by the researcher were used. Two research questions were raised and two research hypotheses were equally generated to guide the study. The research design was descriptive survey; t test and Pearson Product Moment Correlation were used to analyze stated hypotheses. The two tested hypotheses were rejected at 0.05 level of significance. It was recommended that there should be cultural policy in terms of communication of Nigerians, irrespective of cultural background and differences to embrace cultural dialogue as a means of solving Nigerians multi-dimensional problems and thereby maintain democratic governance in Nigeria.

Keywords: Multiculturalism, democratic governance, and national development.

Introduction

Democracy is a vital instrument that propels political proficiency, economic development and social stability of any nation state. Democracy is a developing idea and an increasing sophisticated form of political organization.Nigeria, the most populous and wealthiest African nation has led democratic renaissance in Africa since 2007 which has been long viewed as a kind of model and testing ground for other African nations. The practice of democracy in the 21st century in Nigeria is characterized by political instability, cultural balderdash, ethnic discrimination and economic depression which led to hunger, unemployment, indescribable poverty and resulted to all manners of crimes including armed robbery, pen robbery, prostitutionand electioneering bickering (Nwanolue&Ojukwu, 2012).

Nigeria is made up of multiplicity of ethnic groups and amalgamation of pluralistic culture. The diversity of the culture many a times pose integrative problems in the sense that many seems to view their culture as being superior to others. Nigeria is a conglomeration of diverse cultures, ethnic and religious groups which must coalesce to ensure national integration and the survival of the democratic rule.

Adeosun (2011) defines culture as a complex whole that comprises knowledge, art, morals, customs, laws and other capabilities including those acquired by a member of the society. Tanko (2002) submits that Nigeria is a nation of diversities which include ethnic, religious and cultural in which every government has had to grapple with the problem of managing conflicting demands from different segments of our society.

Oloruntimehin(2007) opines that Nigeria's cultural diversity is supposed to be a tool for well articulated democratic governance, under a rule , people has access to the institutions which represent their interest and they are entitled to articulate their views on the basis of full information made available to them. Thus democracy makes it possible for people to participate in and influence the decisions which affect their lives.

Evaluating the trend line of Nigerian democracy requires a critical, yet a realistic perspective about the many barriers confronting Nigerian democrats. In addition to overcoming the authoritarian legacies of colonial and military rules, the enormous

size, ethnical diversity and political complexity of Nigeria would daunt even the most talented and committed democratic reforms. When compared against perilous situations of neighbouring states like Ivory Coast, Chad, Sudan and Congo. Survival of Nigeria as a united, democratic Nation State is an evidence of great achievement in Africa and the world at large. Nigeria being the most populous African State is one of the worlds's most ethnically diverse societies being made up of over 250 ethnic linguistic groups. Formally these groups were conglomerated into a single political unit in 1914 but integration among them was minimal because of British policies of indirect rule sustained and even magnified differences between them. (Ake, 1996)

Oloruntimehin (2007) submits that by allying and strengthening the power of the Northern Muslim aristocracy, colonial policy reduced traditional checks and balances and severely limited access to Western Education in Northern Nigeria. The centralization of power, security and financial resources in the Presidency constitute a major obstacle to the realization of Nigerian democracy, the rule of law, federalism, devolution of power and good governance. Destabilizing violence and conflict are a critical issue of governance. Groups have used violence as a veto to bargain for a greater share of the pie. Ijaw politicians for instance have used violence to seek, squeeze concession like more States from the oligarchy.

Ayeobasan (2011) observes that poverty, unemployment, crime and other vices have become more severe, competition for resources and opportunities such as jobs, land and education, as these have contributed to some of the bloodiest episodes of inter-communal violence in recent past as this made it difficult to engage in democratizing reforms.

Adebola (2013) submits that for the proper advancement of democratic project, the Nigeria public needs to gain confidence in its institution. The public needs to feel that there are organs of the political system that can guarantee fairness and justice and that such organs must not be undermined by wealth through corruption. He further argues that common citizens must have recourse to democratic institutions in order to express demand and resolve conflicts.Oloruntimehin (2007) further asserts that, if Nigeria is ever to become the People's Republic, its politicians must cultivate and nurture the politics of consent and consensus, the politics of

conviction and commitment and the politics of compassion and accountability with justice providing the framework.

Mason (2000)holds that in those things which are certain, let there be freedom, but in all things let there be doubtful, let there be charity and added that let us not allow cultural diversity to serve as our divisive factor but as a source of unity and harmony as well as enriching co-existence that promotes a greater dimension of the quality of life for all. To further his view, Mason(2000) sees cultural diversity as a value to any nation, because diversity in governance allows for innovation through different background information. Cultural Diversity in the population of a country results in a healthy diversity in the use of land and natural resources of all kinds. In governance, cultural conflicts between majority and minority group members are usually resolved in favour of the majority groups. This in turn creates significant barriers to full participation by minority members in a potentially conflict situation.

Statement of the problem

Democracy in Nigeria has been a mere political desideration hanging on a limping utopia. A true democracy is for the development of all sectors of any country's economy irrespective of ethnicity, tribal, culture or religious affiliations. However, the Nigeria Cultural diversity seems to have created unprecedented problems between its populace expressed by many citizenry in form of ethnic suppression, exploitation and marginalization which has become a big threat to the unity of the country with references to the Nations Democratic Governance and National Development.

Purpose of the Study

The purpose of this study is to:

1. Assess the multiculturalism on democratic governance in Nigeria.
2. Examine the impact of Multiculturalism and National Development in Nigeria.

Research Question

1. Would there be any significant difference between Multiculturalism and Democratic governance in Nigeria?
2. Would there be any significant relationship between Multiculturalism and National Development in Nigeria?

Research Hypothesis

1. There is no significant difference between Multiculturalism and Democratic governance in Nigeria.
2. There is no significant relationship between Multiculturalism and National Development in Nigeria.

Methodology

The research design used for the study was descriptive survey. This research design was adopted because it is a very valuable tool for assessing opinions and trends. The population consist members of residents of Mainland Local Government Area of Lagos. A sample of 186 respondents, 96 men and 90 women were used. The sampling procedure was multi stage sampling technique. Mainland Local Government was put into three strata using the three zones in the Local Government (East, West & Central) 32 male and 30 female participants were randonmly selected in each of the stratum. The selected participants were used for the study. A total of 96 male and 90 female participated in the study.

Instrumentation

Two instruments were developed and used for this study.

1. Multiculturalism and Democratic Governance (MDGQ)
2. Multiculturalism and National Development (MNDQ)

Multiculturalism and Democratic Governance questionnaire (MDGQ) is a 40 item instrument, which contains two parts of 20 item each on Multiculturalism and Democratic Governance developed by the researchers on a 4-point scale format. It has stability coefficient of 0.86 when tested during the pilot study using test re-test method in a four week interval. The reliability was obtained using Cronbach's co-efficient alpha to ascertain the internal consistency which also ranged between 0.75 and 0.84.

Multiculturalism and National Development Questionnaire (MNDQ) is a 40 item which contains 2 parts of 20 items each on Multiculturalism and National Development developed by the researchers on a 4 point scale format. It has stability coefficient of 0.81 when tested during the pilot study using test re-test method in a four week interval. The reliability was obtained using Cronbach's co-efficient alpha to ascertain the internal consistency which also ranged between 0.73 and 0.81.

Administration of Instruments

Copies of MDGQ and MNDQ were personally administered by the researchers to the selected participants and retrieved at the stipulated time of one hour30minutes. The data collected were coded and analyzed using t-test.

Results

Ho1: there is no significant difference between multiculturalism and democratic governance in Nigeria.

Table 1: t-test analysis on HO1

Variables	N	$\overline{X}$	SD	Tcal	Tcrit
X	186	48.46	6.40	2.011	1.960
Y		53.1	7.10		

Df = 184, P < 0.05

X = Multiculturalism in Nigeria.

Y = Democratic Governance in Nigeria.

X = Mean

SD = Standard Deviation

Result in Table 1 shows that the mean for multiculturalism in Nigeria is 48.4 while that of Democratic Governance in Nigeria is 53.1. In the t-test analysis, tcal = 2.011 which is greater than tcrit = 1.960 at 0.05 level of significance. Therefore, the null hypothesis is hereby rejected and alternate hypothesis is upheld. Hence, there is a significance difference in multiculturalism and democratic governance in Nigeria.

Ho2: There is no significant relationship between multiculturalism and National development in Nigeria.

Table 2: correlation test on Ho2

Variables	N	$\dot{X}$	S D	r c a l	R c r i t
X	1 8 6	4 8 . 4	6 . 4 0	2 . 1 1 2	2 . 0 1 1
Z		5 4 . 2	7 . 3 2		

Df = 28,   P < 0.05

X = Multiculturalism in Nigeria.

Z = National Development in Nigeria.

$\dot{X}$ = Mean

SD = Standard Deviation

Table 2 result shows that the mean of X is 48.4 while that of Z is 54.2. In the correlation analysis using Pearson moment correlation, rcal = 2.112 which is greater than rcrit = 2.011 at 0.05 level of significant. Therefore, the null hypothesis is upheld. Hence, there is a significant relationship between multiculturalism and National Development in Nigeria.

Discussion of Findings

The result on Table 1 shows that there is a significant difference in multiculturalism and democratic governance in Nigeria, thus findings is in

agreement with the submission of Morgan (1982) who added that Multiculturalism society are found to be better at problem solving and possess better ability to extract expanded meanings and understanding in politics.

This finding also concerned with the submission of Trotman (2002) which argues that Multiculturalism is valuable in governance because it uses several disciplines to highlight neglected aspects of our social history, particularly that of women and promotes respect for the dignity of lives and voices of the forgotten especially in Nigerian democratic governance. The result on Table 2 shows that there is a significant relationship between Multiculturalism and National Development in Nigeria.

This finding aligned with the submission of Perkins (1993) which states that another strategy that can be used to rescue democracy is economic. To him, apart from proper financing of culture, the country must uphold a culture of moral egalitarianism especially where the society is polarized between the have and the have not and thus call for new economic and cultural values capable of strengthening the National Development.

Recommendation

Based on the findings of this study the following recommendations are made.

1. There should be Cultural policies in terms of communication of Nigerians, irrespective of their Cultural background and differences to embrace Cultural dialogue as a means of sowing Nigerians multi dimensional problems and thereby maintain Democratic Governance in Nigeria.
2. There should be fair sharing of the Nation's wealth among the diverse groups in Nigeria. The issue of dominant group taking over almost completely the control and distribution of the Nation's wealth should be discouraged as this affect National Development in Nigeria.

Conclusion

In the light of the proceeding discussions, the following conclusion can be drawn.

1. There is a significant difference in Multiculturalism and Democratic governance in Nigeria.
2. There is a significant relationship between Multiculturalism and National Development in Nigeria.

References

Adebola, A. (2013) Politics and Culture, Ilorin, Afab Publishers.

Adeosun, M. (2011) Democratic Governance in Nigeria. Lagos; Bibi publishers.

Ake, C. (1996) Democracy and Development in Africa: Abuja; African Centre for Democratic Governance.

Ayeobasan, A. (2011) Counseling on Economic Meltdown and family stability in Lagos State: Lagos Counselor Journal Vol. 3 (1).

Mason, B. (2000) Democracy in Diversified Culture, Newyork, Albans Publishers.

Morgan, V. (1982)Transition from Military to Civilian regime in Nigeria, Onitsha, Nally Publishers.

Nwanolue and Ojukwu, C. (2012) Politics in Nigeria between 1953 and 1983. Lagos, Abaden Publishers.

Oloruntimehin, K. (2007) Dynamism in our Culture and Politics. Lagos; Adler Publishers.

Perkins, A. (1993) Diversity. Havard Business review 5 (14)

Tanko, P. (2002) Conflict Management in a Multi-Ethnic and and Multi-Religions society; Journal of Pan African Studies 2 (3)

Trotman, C. (2002) Introduction to Multiculturalism: Roots and Realities. Indiana Universal Press.