

INFLUENCE OF POOR GOVERNANCE ON NIGERIAN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

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ABSTRACT

Every country in the world craves for good governance so as to enhance economic development of the country in particular and the entire citizens in general. Unfortunately, Nigeria and Nigerians have over the years experienced retarded economic development occasioned by poor governance. This has brought about poverty, poor infrastructural facilities, poor quality education, and absence of quality health, corruption and insecurity. Three objectives of the study, three research questions and three hypotheses guided the work. The research design employed was survey research design; the area of the study is Idemili South Local Government Area. The population of the work was 300 stakeholders (that is 50 stakeholders from the six towns in Idemmili south L.G.A). A sample size of 180 stakeholders (i.e 30 stakeholders from the six towns in Idemmili South L.G.A) was achieved through the simple random sampling techniques; 190 research questionnaire instruments were distributed and chi square statistical tool was used to analyze the data. It was found out among other things that lack of patriotism by democratic politicians have inhibited the development strategies of Nigeria. It was recommended that the democratic politicians should change their attitude by embracing patriotism.

Keywords: Patriotism, good governance, service delivery, economic policies, living standard.

INTRODUCTION

Nigeria is a country that has been favoured in terms of mineral and natural resources; to the extent that if these resources were harnessed very well, the country would have been one of the richest countries in the world. But poor governance has reduced the country into a wobbling entity with 40.1 percent (83 million people) of her population living in abject poverty; 25 percent are vulnerable while the per capital income as at the first quarter of 2021 stood at 2,208.5 USD (Jibunoh, 2018). Meanwhile, Nigeria prides herself as the sixth richest oil providing state, a country with one of the best brands of bitumen, rich arable lands and clement weather.

However, all these have not translated to good and healthy living for the populace, as many Nigerians still groan in poverty while the democratic politicians luxuriate in mindless affluence; to the extent that the prices of goods and services are out of the reach of the masses. Uzozie (2020), observed that Nigeria is a society that is deeply rooted in corruption, mediocrity, nepotism, unaccountability, and lack of stewardship where politicians are not only incompetent and irresponsible, but also apathetic and insensitive. Part of the issue as Arodoye, Izeubigie and Omo-Ikirodah (2017) observed was because the economic policies formulated and implemented by Nigerian government have not positively affected the generality of the people including the poor in the society. This is because the system of democratic governance in Nigeria is characterized by some limiting factors such as over bloated and unsustainable cost of governance, existence of systemic corruption, weak institutions and political will, massive embezzlement of public fund and favouritism. Governance in a layman's language is the process of leading a state, country or nation to growth and development. On the contrary, if a country drifts from this pattern of development, the country will be poor and less developed as such the citizens are neglected, abandoned and shabbily treated. This is the case with Nigeria where poor governance has been the order of the day from independence till date. Unfortunately, the democratic politicians in the fourth republic have no answers on how to jump start the economy for growth; ostensibly because they lack the

patriotism to do that. No wonder why they are deeply involved in acquiring mindless wealth for themselves and their cronies. True to fact, these poor conditions of the country namely stricken poverty, lack of infrastructure, poor healthcare facilities, poor educational facilities, increased insecurity and general poor living standard are all the ingredients that sustain underdevelopment of the country. Disappointingly, the political leaders have decided to shrug off this aspect of poor governance as nothing seems to have changed; rather the corruption index of Nigeria dipped to 149th position in the world and 2nd in Africa in 2021 (Uzoezie, 2020)

Statement of the Problem

Nigeria since independence has not bequeathed quality of good life to her citizens; not because the resources are not there to aid in the transformation of the country into a rich and wealthy nation but poor governance has dominated the mainstream of governance. Series of administrations have constantly churned out quality and good policies aimed at the development of the country but severally, these policies end up on the desk of the formulators. Hence, the constant agitations, secessionist tendencies are avenues through which Nigerians vent their anger and if this is not checked might lead to breakdown of law and order or total revolution. The reason for this poor governance might be as a result of lack of patriotism by the democratic politicians, who perhaps have not bothered to draw the masses out of the dungeon of military rule as their woes have continued to increase. Again, Nigeria has good economic policies for growth and development; the issue of every economic policy was to better the country for the overall goods of the masses. However, it does appear that the poor implementation of the economic policies in Nigeria have not really translated the life of Nigerians for good; as the per capital income has not substantially increased, more so, the inflation rate has hit double digit since 2020. More importantly, service delivery is key in every society perhaps the service delivery in Nigeria was poor as a result, the masses could not get quality service in hospitals, schools, government offices as well as police stations.

Objectives of the Study

The main objective of the study is to ascertain the influence of poor governance on Nigerian economic development. Specifically, the objectives of the study include:

1. To examine whether lack of patriotism by political leaders has hindered good governance in Nigeria.
2. To ascertain whether poor implementation of economic policies has retarded Nigeria's growth and development.
3. To determine whether poor service delivery has affected economic development of Nigeria.

Research Questions

1. How does lack of patriotism of political leaders affect good governance in Nigeria?
2. How does poor implementation of economic policies retard Nigeria's growth and development?
3. How does poor service delivery affect economic development of Nigeria?

Hypotheses

H₀: There is no significant relationship between lack of patriotism of political leaders and good governance in Nigeria.

H₁: There is significant relationship between lack of patriotism of political leaders and good governance in Nigeria.

H₀: There is no significant relationship between Poor implementation of economic policies and Nigeria's growth and development.

H₁: There is significant relationship between Poor implementation of economic policies and Nigeria's growth and development.

H₀: There is no significant relationship between Poor service delivery and economic development of Nigeria.

H₁: There is significant relationship between Poor service delivery and economic development of Nigeria.

Review of Related Literature

Lack of Patriotism and Poor Governance

Patriotism is indeed a phenomenon that passionately guides the leaders of a country towards the development of that country. This passion triggers off good thoughts, ideas and directions as regards the way the country will be led. It equally involves the overall change of the peoples psyche towards the general growth of the country.

In Nigeria however, the leaders have not been able to demonstrate patriotism for the overall development of the country, rather lack of patriotism has been at the heart of the country's underdevelopment as Ezeogidi (2015) argued that the major cause of corruption in Nigeria is lack of patriotism by her leaders which according to him has placed Nigeria on the ladder of underdevelopment. In collaborating the above, Dakuku (2020), opined that

Between 2015 and 2019 the number of criminal cases being prosecuted by Independent Corrupt Practice and other Related Offence Commission (ICPC) doubled from 142 in 2015 to 378 in 2019. In a similar pattern, the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC). EFCC got 103 convictions in 2015 but the number of convictions grew exponentially to 1286 by 2019. The rise is clearly a function of public office holders playing their self-interest above common good.

Furthermore, Jibunoh (2020), observed that Nigeria has had a deficient and decadent political class and leadership elite that robbed the nation of its well-deserved chance to sport among its peers and superiors as an eminent member of the comity of nations, both in terms of development and prosperity for its citizens. Nwabudike (2020), observed that lack of patriotism by Nigerian leaders has caused serious developmental crisis for the country. The massive unemployment rate, rampant, insecurity, crumbling public infrastructure, poorly funded healthcare system, irregular electricity supply and general rots in the country were pointers to the fact that Nigerian leaders have failed and these obvious lapses were the basis for the Endsars protest.

Poor Implementation of Economic Policies and Nigeria's Growth and Development

Nigeria by all standards is a poor country where all the basic necessities of life such as food, clothing and shelter are out of the reach of the poor, and the hope of correcting the ills of the society so as to make the country prosperous seems a mirage. Good policies for economic development are made but the implementation of these policies has been the bane of Nigeria's underdevelopment; thus, four poverty stricken groups have gradually surfaced in the economic climate of Nigeria. These groups include, the rural landless, the peasant farmer, the urban underemployed and the unemployed. Albeit, economic programmes according to Osinubi and Gafaar, (2005), have been developed in the past; these programmes included the establishment of People's Bank, Community Bank, Small-Scale Industries Credit Scheme, the Family Support Programme etc; all these were geared towards uplifting Nigerians out of poverty, but decades after their establishments, poverty is still unabated in the country; rather the inequality gap between the rich and the poor has widened astronomically, which shows that the principle of "trickle down" phenomenon was negated.

Poor Service Delivery and Economic Development

Service delivery, as a component of every society entails provision of quality services to the citizen of a country. Most countries of the world ensure quality service delivery so as to make the citizens happy but Nigerians appear to be unhappy with the poor service delivery experienced in the country. This ranged from poor policy implementation to overall bad governance that has reduced

the masses to mere beggars in the midst of plenty. As Ojewale (2020), observed that economic crisis, institutionalized corruption and state profligacy occasioned by poor service delivery have drawn more Nigerians into poverty. Collaborating the above, Ogunmodede, (2020) opined that EndSARS protest was a movement against the political class and their poor service delivery that have resulted to loss of jobs, closure of universities; and poor economic policies. In view of this, Nigerians were not happy because of the harsh economic policies that have caused serious hunger in the land occasioned by poor service delivery.

METHODOLOGY

Research Design

The research design for this study is survey research design. Survey research design entails the use of questionnaire instrument to elicit information from a small group and this information would be used to generalize for the entire population. Thus, this study will make use of the survey research design.

Population

The population of this study is 300 stakeholders from the six towns in Idemmili South L.G.A. in Anambra State. These stakeholders are made up of religious leaders, opinion leaders, traditional leaders, market leaders etc the breakdown is as follows:

Table 1: Respondents from Six towns in Idemmili South LGA

Geopolitical Zones	Number
Ojoto	50
Oba	50
Nnobi	50
Nnokwa	50
Awka Etit	50
Akwaukwu	50
Total	300

Source:Field Survey, 2021

Sample size

The sample size for this study is 180 political leaders from the six towns in idemmili south LGA. Simple random sampling technique was used to get 30 leaders each from the six towns in idemmili south LGA.

Validity

The questionnaire instrument was validated by two lecturers from Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Awka. These lecturers are experts in measurement and evaluation. The corrections given were adequately affected.

Reliability

The reliability of the instrument was carried out through a test retest method. A 15 number questionnaire instruments were designed and given to 15 respondents to fill, after three weeks, the same number of instruments were given to another set of respondents.

Data Analysis

The data collected were analyzed through the aid of the chi square statistical tool and SPSS package was used to arrive at table below

Table 2: Lack of patriotism by political leaders and good governance in Nigeria

Options	f_o	f_e	$f_o - f_e$	$(f_o - f_e)^2$	$(f_o - f_e)^2 / f_e$
Strongly agree	258	85.9	172.1	29618.41	344.8
Agree	159	52.9	106.1	11257.21	212.9
Strongly disagree	60	19.9	40.1	1608.01	80.8
Disagree	60	19.9	40.1	1608.01	80.8
Undecided	3	0.9	21	4.41	4.9
Total	540				$x^2 = 724.1$

Source: Field Survey, 2021

At 0.05 significance level, $df(4) = 9.488$ (i.e. according to chi-square statistical table)

Thus, the calculated chi-square value is 724.1 and the tabulated chi-square value is 9.486

H_0 : There is no significant relationship between lack of patriotism by political leaders and good governance in Nigeria.

H_1 : There is significant relationship between lack of patriotism by political leaders and good governance in Nigeria.

H_0 is rejected and H_1 is accepted because the calculated value of chi-square (724.1) is greater than the table value chi-square 9.488. This shows that lack of patriotism by political leaders has significant relationship with bad governance in Nigeria.

Hypothesis 2

H_0 : There is no significant relationship between poor implementation of economic policies and Nigeria's growth and development.

H_1 : There is a significant relationship between poor implementation of economic policies and Nigeria's growth and development.

Table 3: Poor economic policies and development in Nigeria

Options	f_o	f_e	$f_o - f_e$	$(f_o - f_e)^2$	$(f_o - f_e)^2 / f_e$
Strongly agree	270	90	180	32400	360
Agree	165	54.9	110.1	12122.01	220.8
Strongly disagree	69	22.9	46.1	2125.21	92.8
Disagree	30	9.9	20.1	404.01	40.8
Undecided	6	1.9	4.1	16.81	8.84
Total	540				$x^2 = 723.24$

Source: Field Survey, 2021

At 0.05 significance level, $df(4) = 9.488$ (i.e. according to chi-square statistical table). Thus, calculated chi-square value is 723.24 and the tabulated chi-square value is 9.488 H_0 is rejected and H_1 is accepted because this calculated value of chi-square (723.24) is greater than the table value chi-square (9.488).

This shows that poor implementation of economic policies retard Nigeria's growth and development.

Hypothesis 3

H_0 : There is no significant relationship between poor service delivery and economic development of Nigeria

H_1 : There is significant relationship between poor service delivery and economic development of Nigeria.

Table 4: Poor service delivery and economic development

Options	f_o	f_e	$f_o - f_e$	$(f_o - f_e)^2$	$(f_o - f_e)^2 / f_e$
Strongly agree	243	81	162	26244	324
Agree	186	61.9	124.1	15400.81	249.8
Strongly disagree	45	14.9	30.1	906.01	60.8
Disagree	45	14.9	30.1	906.01	60.8
Undecided	21	6.9	14.1	198.81	28.8
Total	540				$\chi^2 = 723.2$

Source: Field Survey, 2021

At 0.05 significance level $df(4) = 9.488$ (i.e. according to chi-square statistical table). Thus the calculated chi-square value is 723.2 and the tabulated chi-square value is 9.488. H_0 is therefore rejected and H_1 is accepted. This shows that poor service delivery affects economic development.

Summary of Findings

1. It was found out that lack of patriotism by democratic politicians negatively affects good governance in Nigeria.
2. It was found out that poor implementation of economic policies retarded Nigeria's growth and development.
3. It was found out that poor service delivery negatively affects economic development of Nigeria.

Discussion of the Findings

Good governance is very essential and in fact the main ingredients of any decent clime. No wonder countries of the world strive to achieve good governance through patriotism. However in Nigeria, lack of patriotism has enthroned poor governance as Dakuku (2020) observed that Nigerian leaders lack patriotism as such, the country is on the dark side of developments, this accounts for the reason why the wellbeing and welfare of Nigerians are not met.

More importantly, Anaodo, Igbokwe-Ibeto and Nkah (2015), opined that Nigeria's democratic politicians are deeply involved in corruption an odious behavior that impedes patriotism. As such, they are busy enriching themselves, their friends and families while the masses are shrouded in poverty and neglect. Again, poor implementations of economic policies retard Nigeria's growth and development. as Obamwonyi and Aibiaji (2014) argued that economic policies are not implemented because, they are not targeted to the people and the leaders lack the political will to implement these policies. The implications for these failed economic policies include lack of motivation on the part of the citizens, Alienation of the people from the policy as well as underdevelopment of Nigeria. In support of the above, Ejere (2011) opined that the Nigerian economic policy is at a critical juncture and there are many complicated challenges around which public debate is currently raging. These include questions about fiscal consolidation, the business environment, infrastructure development, budgeting and public spending, public subsidy and market deregulation.

Similarly, Ishaka (2019), argued that poor service delivery attitudes have impacted negatively on developmental programmes in Nigeria. Thus, for Nigeria to achieve speedy development there must be a positive change of attitude on the part of government and its officials towards service delivery.

RECOMMENDATION

1. We therefore recommend that the democratic politicians should change their attitude by embracing patriotism
2. That economic policy should not be done in isolation of the people for whom the policies are made, therefore the masses should be involved in policy formulation and implementation.
3. The administrative institution should be made strong so as to achieve the much needed service delivery to the populace.

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