Globalization and Conduct of Election in Nigeria

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Abstract

From 1960 to date, electoral process in Nigeria has been a problem. The hope that conduct of election will improved in Nigeria in the face of globalization is the focus of this paper; it examines the relationship between globalization and conduct of election in Nigeria. The study has a scope of 1999 to 2019. Data for the study were generated from secondary sources, the paper adopts trend research analysis, and discovered that globalization has not aided conduct of elections in Nigeria. The study recommends the development of indigenous communication technology blue print on conduct of elections.

Keywords: Globalization, Conduct of Election, Communication Technology, Indigenous Blueprint, Nigeria

Introduction

Globalization is derived from the word 'global' that refers to things affecting the World. The Oxford Dictionary (2000) defines globalization as the emergence of a global cultural system. A global culture is a kaleidoscope of transnational socio-cultural characterization which includes the existence of global consumption pattern, the existence of a world satellite information system; the cultivation of cosmopolitan lifestyle; the standardization of strategies to address critical world problems.

Robertson in Okpo (2016) sees globalization as the unitarisation of the world. It has been viewed as the compression of the world and the intensification of the consciousness of the world as one whole entity. Globalization is about an increasingly interconnected and interdependent world' it's all about international trade, investment and finance that have been growing faster than national incomes (World Bank, 1990). Globalization is simply the dismantling of barriers for a free flow of finance, technology, goods and services among nations social.

Election is a central tool in the process of representative democracy and its success depends largely on the constructive interplay of all stakeholders including the voter, the security agencies and the electoral empire, Zubolum (2018) however, history of democratic election in Nigeria has not been pleasant hardly any election conducted has been completely, free of change of irregularities and electoral malpractice. the conduct of the return of Nigeria in 1999 offers a lot of hope that conduct of election in the face of a global world will promote, free, fair, peaceful and credible election, but the reverse is the case as Nigeria election have been characterized by arson, greed, irregularities in the face of global world this paper seeks to examine weather globalization has significantly promoted the conduct of free, fair, peaceful and credible election in Nigeria from 1999-2019 the objective or the paper is to enhance the conduct of free, fair and credible election in Nigeria.

Methodology

Conceptual Review

Globalization

Globalization is one concept that has no universally accepted conceptual clarification globally, Jhonvbere (1996), Maldini (2008) and Adedeji (2005) believe that globalization shapes demoralization process through establishment interdependence and integration of the world economy to a global village, adding his voice Navyor (2005) says that globalization is therefore the increasing breakdown of barriers and obstacles to the world wide diffusion of economic ideas, doctrine, products services and practice originating from the western industrialized nations. Simple put globalization is the process of harmonization of the difference types of cultural beliefs and tradition in the world into one entity (Salimono, 1999; Kura, 2005).

Election

Election: Idoniboye – Obu and Gilbert (2004) describe election as a procedure recognized by the laws of a country or organization whereby all or some of the members choose a smaller number of person to hold an offices of authority for a specified period. To Okareke (2011) election is a means through which people make choice of leadership; it is the process of selecting one person or more for leadership position in both public and private establishment. Election can simply be described as a process which allows a small group of person to run the affairs of a group or state for a specified period.

Review of Related Literature

The stream of studies explored the relationship between globalization and conduct of election; specifically the general opinion among scholars is that globalization is the

continuation of capitalist ideology from the western world to foster dependency by increasing their own influence on the global security.

Orga (2016) in Globalization and democracy, a study on the Nigerian Experience. examined the concept of globalization and the place of Nigeria in the web of international relationships involving trade in goods and services and financial intermediation. The study noted that the world has witnessed increased interdependence in the last two decades as a result of globalization. This was made opposable due modern technology, policy and competition and it subordinated domestic economies to global market conditions and practices. The study lamented that developed nations benefits from globalization through trade and enough expansionist the detriment of the developing countries. The study observes that globalization exacerbated and fans the ember of inequality and enhances poverty in the developing countries. The study further asserted that Nigeria has not benefited enough from globalization due to her largely dependence on crude oil, inability to attract increased foreign investments and her huge indebtedness. The study recommended the domestication of globalization through diversification of exports, debt reduction and expanded development, cooperation etc. with other countries. Another point is that Nigerian state needs to be strengthened as a bulwark against the dictates of foreign capital stakeholders. Specifically, identifying the prospects challenges to include: increased specialization and efficiency, economies of scale in production and increased global awareness. The challenges include: the design of appropriate. Framework to ensure that domestic monetary management is not impaired, and that the domestic economy is not unduly destabilized owing to adverse developments in other parts of the globe.

In Cerny European Journal of Political Research (1999) Globalization and the erosion of democracy despite the apparent development and spread of liberal democratic state forms in the 1980s and 1990s possibilities for genuine democratic governance overall are declining. Firstly, the emergence and consolidation of modern liberal democracy was inextricably intertwined with the development of the nation-state and is profoundly socially embedded in that structural context. Secondly, in today's globalizing world, cross-cutting and overlapping governance structures and processes increasingly take private, oligarchic (and mixed public/private) forms; hegemonic neoliberal norms are delegitimizing state-based governance in general; and democratic states are losing the policy capacity necessary for transforming democratically generated inputs into authoritative outputs. Consequently, robust constraints limit the potential for (a) reinstitutionalizing the 'democratic chain' between accountability and effectiveness, (b) rearticulating the multitasking character of authoritative institutions and (c) renewing the

capacity of authoritative agents to make the side—payments and to undertake the monitoring necessary to control free-riding and assimilate alienated groups. Rather than a new pluralistic global civil society, globalization is more likely to lead to a growth in inequalities, a fragmentation of effective governance structures and the multiplication of quasi-fiefdom reminiscent of the middle Ages.

Dantani (2017), the study examines the social contexts of the development and innovation of the science of global communication technology. It further shows the significant roles the internet plays in the democratic process and ways globalization influences the outcomes of elections across developed and developing societies. He discovers among other things that Facebook, Twitter, Whatsapp, blogs and LinkedIn etc. serve as the mediums through which civil rights and democratic activism are expressed. Again, the 2011 and 2015 general elections, the electoral bodies made use social media and many electronic devices and online programs were developed and used. It assists on vote count, access to polling unit results, transmission of collated results and information about the entire electoral processes. The study affirms that the use of social media networks by both political candidates and electorates promoted civic engagement, credible elections and democratic activism in pre-election and post-election periods The study recommends and opines that internet technology may soon assume the position of an effective and critically vital Para-human actor in most global election outcomes in the near future in the developed and developing countries The study lacks a pattern of methodology in its analysis as was not also rooted in theoretical framework.

The scholar failed to specifically study how globalization has improved the conduct of free, fair, peaceful and credible election in Nigeria.

Globalization and Conduct of Election in Nigeria

Table Voter Registration and Voter Turnout at Presidential Elections in Nigeria, 1999. 2003, 2007, 201 I, 2015 and 2019

S/N	**Election date**	**Election Statistics**		**% voter Turnout**		No valid votes
1	February 27, 1999 Presidential Elections	No. of Reg. Voters Total Valid Votes No. of Rejected Votes Total Votes Cast	57,938,945 29,882,736 397,316 30,280,052	526%		

2	April 19, 2003 Presidential Elections April 21, 2007 Presidential Elections	No. of Reg. Voters Total Valid Votes No. of Rejected Votes Total Votes Cast No. of Reg. Voters Total Valid Votes No. of Rejected Votes Total Votes Cast	60,823,022 39,480,489 2,538,246 42,018,735 61,567,036 35,288,984 N/A N/A	69.08% 57.32%	28,587,564 No Of Rejected votes 844,519 No of cast votes 29,432,083	42.40%
3						6. March 9
4	April 16, 2011 Presidential Elections	No. Of Reg. Voters Total Valid Votes No. of Rejected Votes Total Votes Cast No of rejected votes	73,528,040 33,209,978 1,259,506 39,469.484 67,422.005	53.67%	2019 No of Reg. 84.004.084	86.6 /o

Source: INEC. 1999-2019

The table 1above illustrates the level of voter's registration and voter's turnout at Presidential elections for 1999, 2003, 2007, 2011, 2015 and 2019 to access the global impact on enhancing free and fair election in Nigeria. The 1999 Presidential election recorded 52.26% of' voters turn out with 30,280,052 as total votes cast, (total valid votes 29.882,736 and 397,3 l rejected voles). The total registered voters for 1999 general election was 57,1.938,945.

In 2003 Presidential election recorded '69.08%, of voters turnout, total votes cast 42,018,735 (total valid votes 39,480,489 rejected votes, 2.538, 246). Total registered voters 60,823.022. There, was an improvement of 16.82% of voter turnout and an increase of 28. 8% of 28, 840, 77, (60,823,022 - 57,938,945) of registered voters from 1999-2003 indicating low Voters confidence in the electoral process.

In 2007, 57.32% was recorded in voter turnout, there is short fall of 5.06% in 1999, and 11.76% in 2003 in voter turnout, total votes cast, and number of rejected votes were not available, but Valid votes is 35,288,984. Total registered voters increased from 60,823,022 in 2003 to 61,567,036, in 2007. This showed increased voter registration from 2003 general elections of 7.4% of 7,440, 14 and 36.2% of 36, 280, 91 of 1999 general elections. The voters confidence declined in voters turn out but increased very little in voter registration.

In 2011, recorded voter turnout of 53.67% of 39,469,484 of total votes cast (total valid votes, 33,209,978 and number of rejected votes 1,259,506). It still reduced from 57.32% of 2007 to 53.67% of 2011(3.65%), short fall. It recorded 73,528,040 registered voters, 73.5% in 2011 general elections showing an increase of 11. 9% of 11,961,004 of 2007 voter regist) ration. The data above showed that voter registration also increased little but voter confidence in exercising their franchise reduced further.

In 2015, recorded voter turnout of 42.40% of 29,432,083 of total votes cast (total valid votes, 28,587,564 and number of rejected votes 844,519). It still reduced from 57.32% of 2007 to 53.67% of 2011 (3.65%), and 40.42% of 2015 of 11.27% short fall. It recorded 73,528,04() registered voters, 73.5% in 2011 general elections showing an increase of 11. 9% of 11,961 ,004 of 2007 voter registration. And 67, 422,005, and 2015 registered voters showing further reduction of 6106035 differences. The data above showed that both voter registration and voter confidence in exercising their franchise drastically reduced. This was attributed to malfunctioning of Card Reader arid biometric data machine. It was in line with the observation of Chief Observer of the European Union Election Observer Mission. Who noted that Sharaug (2015) "there was an evident of reduction in turnout from the March 28 presidential elections.

The 2019 presidential general election recorded voter turnout of 28, 613 990, total votes cast (total valid votes, 28, 61 990 and 1, 289 407 invalid votes). The votes cast in 2015 for presidential election is higher to that of 2019 with the difference of 28, 613 990 of 2019 minus 29,432,083 in 2015 = 818093 voters reduction. The actual voting for the periods under review showed that, 30,280,O52iii, 42,018,735rn, (Not Available, 2007), 39,469.484m, 29,432083, 28, 613 990 for 1999, 2003, 2007, 2011, 2015 and 2019 respectively were very insignificant as 1999 and 2011, 2015 and 2019 witnessed deteriorating outcomes as citizens participation continued to decline indicating that election process is not free and fair despite global integration and universe laws to conduct democratic elections with similar rules and regulations, forms and values.

For registered voters, 57,938,945, 60,823,022, 61,56,7036 and 73,528,040, 67,422,005. 84,004,084 of 86.6% for 1999, 2003, 2007, 2011, 2015 and 2019 respectively. The use of biometric machine and card reader increased voter's registration but failed to increases voters turnout. European Union Election Observer Mission (2019) noted that INEC did not remove the names of the deceased from the previous till 2018.

Discussion

The data above showed that voters' registration increased voters' confidence which increased citizen participation in the electoral process though reduced little in 2015 because of the efforts to use biometric machine and card reader.

The increase recorded in 2019 election was accused on manipulation of figures as deceased name were not removed from the figure (EU Election Observation Mission, 2019). Accessing the voter's turnout, on the national turnout for the presidential election was 28,614,190, a reduction of 817,893 from 2015, even though Nigeria's population has increased, as has the number of registered voters. While the national turnout was 34.1 per cent, 169 there was significant variation between states, ranging from 54.5 pet- cent in Jigawa to 17.6 Per cent in Lagos. The 96.8 of the total vote cast were valid, 55.6 and 41.2 for President Buhari of APC and Atiku of PDP. While 3.82 were invalid and rejected. Of the 29 elections concluded the APC had won 15, the PDP 14. According to EU Election Observation Mission, 2019, p. 17).

On 7 January 2019, INEC announced 14.3 million new registrants during the continuous voter registration exercise, bringing the official total number of registered voters for the elections to 84,004,084, a 22 per cent increase from 2015. However the voter register is significantly inflated as now eight-years-old. And, given the death rate in the country, there are estimates that up to eight million deceased persons are still on the register. A further problem is that there can be duplicate entries across different states because the cleaning process was only undertaken at state level as reduplication across states is more complex and reportedly difficult to complete. INEC has no reliable process for the removal of the names of the deceased.

Concludion

Globalization and conduct of election are concepts that scholars are yet to reach a consensus on the definition because of its multi-dimensional nature Globalization goes beyond free trade of economic perspective to include both social, political, cultural issues, values, rules and regulations etc. election is fair beyond periodic context. In Nigeria, in many cases, international election observers recommendation are in line with creating

global market for information and communication technology innovation such as card reader. The paper recommends that Nigeria should develop their own blue print on election policy framework on modern technology to reduce over dependence an importation and use of foreign information and communication technology in the conduct of election since globalization is far from improving Nigerians conduct of free and fair election in Nigeria.

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