Volume 19 Issue 22
Originally issued as F2

Global Journal of HUMAN-SOCIAL SCIENCE: F
Political Science
Volume 19 Issue 2 Version 1.0 Year 2019
Type: Double Blind Peer Reviewed International Research Journal
Publisher: Global Journals
Online ISSN: 2249-460x & Print ISSN: 0975-587X

2019 General Elections in Nigeria and the New Dimension of Youth Involvement in Osun State

By Aliyu, M. Kolawole, PhD
Obafemi Awolowo University

Abstract- The study examined the extent to which the Nigerian youths were able to participate in the 2019 general elections compared to the previous ones from 1999. It also examined the fate of the Nigerian youths with the passage of the Not Too Young to Rule (NTYTR) Act. The study also assessed the effect of the NTYTR Act on the 2019 general elections in Nigeria. The study adopted quantitative method of research with the use of a self-structured questionnaire that was administered on 200 youth respondents between the ages of 18 and 35 years in Osun State. Data were analyzed quantitatively and presented in bar charts, tables and chi square statistics. The study found that the Nigerian youths did not participate fully in previous general elections compared to 2019 after the passage of the NTYTR Act in the country. The study showed that the NTYTR Act made the outcomes of the 2019 general elections to be better than previous elections because youths are now more encouraged to take part in the electoral contest unlike what it used to be.

Keywords: *election, youths, not too young to rule act, new dimension, fourth republic.*

GJHSS-F Classification: *FOR Code: 360199*



Strictly as per the compliance and regulations of:

© 2019. Aliyu, M. Kolawole, PhD. This is a research/review paper, distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution-Noncommercial 3.0 Unported License http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc/3.0/), permitting all non-commercial use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original work is properly cited.

2019 General Elections in Nigeria and the New Dimension of Youth Involvement in Osun State

Aliyu M. Kolawole Ph. D

Abstract- The study examined the extent to which the Nigerian youths were able to participate in the 2019 general elections compared to the previous ones from 1999. It also examined the fate of the Nigerian youths with the passage of the Not Too Young to Rule (NTYTR) Act. The study also assessed the effect of the NTYTR Act on the 2019 general elections in Nigeria. The study adopted quantitative method of research with the use of a self-structured questionnaire that was administered on 200 youth respondents between the ages of 18 and 35 years in Osun State. Data were analyzed quantitatively and presented in bar charts, tables and chi square statistics. The study found that the Nigerian youths did not participate fully in previous general elections compared to 2019 after the passage of the NTYTR Act in the country. The study showed that the NTYTR Act made the outcomes of the 2019 general elections to be better than previous elections because youths are now more encouraged to take part in the electoral contest unlike what it used to be. The study concluded that NTYTR Act significant influenced the participation of youths in the 2019 general election and that more youths are likely to be more involved in future elections in the country, if the trend is sustained.

Keywords: election, youths, not too young to rule act, new dimension, fourth republic.

I. Introduction

After the return of democratic rule in May 29th 1999, Nigeria has witnessed four different general elections into various political offices within an interval of four years. They include the 2003, 2007, 2011 and 2015 general elections respectively. The Nigerian citizens have also exercised their civic rights and duties through the formation of political parties, electoral contest and voting during the various election periods. Since the independence of Nigeria till date, the aged have virtually occupied most electoral positions including the presidency with the average age of past heads of state (president) being 50.3 years old starting from the first president Nnamdi Azikiwe; who was 59 years of age when he became the head of state in 1960 during the Nigerian first republic till the current president Mohammed Buhari who was 73 years old when he came into power in 2015 (2015 Nigerian General Election). The youngest; being Yakubu Gowon, who came into power at the age of 32 years and the oldest being current President Mohammed Buhari who came into power at the age of 73 years (Ugwueze, 2010).

The young ones have not been allowed enough participation in the political space of the country, hence agitations for more of their involvement in the governance of Nigeria. Various individuals, groups and institutions supported the movement. One of such groups is YIAGA Africa that started a movement called the Not Too Young to Run (Wikipedia, 2018). The group is headed by Samson It odo, a human right activist and good governance campaigner, who is also the Executive Director of YIAGA Africa. Thus, Not Too Young to Run is a campaign that sought to reduce the age limit for elective offices globally and in Nigeria. The campaign started at the National Assembly in Nigeria with the sponsor of a bill by Tony Nwulu in the House of Representatives and Abdul Aziz Nyako in the Senate (Wikipedia, 2018). The bill sought alteration in sections 65, 106, 131, 177 of the Federal Republic of Nigeria Constitution, which was to reduce the age for elective positions for House of Assembly and House of Representatives from 30 years to 25 years, Senate and Governorship from 35 years to 30 years and office of the president from 40 to 30 years and independent candidature in Nigeria (Wikipedia, 2018)

In April 2018, the Nigeria's senate resolved to transmit the Not Too Young to Run bill to the President of Nigeria. On May 21, 2018, 55 youth-led organizations gave President Buhari 8-day ultimatum to give his assent to the bill. On 29 May, 2018, Nigeria's President, Muhammed Buhari announced in his ' democracy day ' address to the nation that he planned to sign the bill into law. True to his promise, he signed the bill on 31st May, 2018. Prior to the signing of the NTYTR Bill by President Muhammed Buhari, the level of participation of Nigerian youths in the political administration of Nigerian has been very low and particularly disappointing due to the age restriction. But, upon the signing of the NTYTR Bill, it is important to find out the influence of the "act" on the outcome of the 2019 general elections. Also, studies on youth perceptions and participation in electoral matters in Nigeria are rarely prioritized when scrutinizing voting patterns, campaign outcomes, and electoral processes in the political administration of Nigeria. In view of the above, this study finds out the new dimension that the Not Too Young to Rule Act has on the 2019 general elections in Nigeria.

Author: Department of Political Science, Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife, Nigeria. e-mail: aliyukolawale2014@yahoo.com

© 2019 Global Journals

Research Questions

The following questions will guide this research:

(i) What is the level of participation of the Nigerian youths in the previous elections before the passage of the NTYTR Act in 2018?
(ii) What is the fate of the Nigerian youths in the 2019 general elections with the passage of the NTYTR Act?
(iii) What effect does the NTYTR Act have on the 2019 and future general elections in the country?

Research Objectives

The objectives of this study are as to:

(i) examine the level of participation of the Nigerian youths in the previous general elections from 1999 till 2015 before the passage of NTYTR Act;
(ii) examine the fate of the Nigerian youths in the 2019 general elections with the passage of the NTYTR Act; and
(iii) assess the effect of the NTYTR Act on the 2019 and future general elections in Nigeria

Research Hypotheses

The following research hypotheses were tested in this study:

(i) Nigerian youths have participated excellently in previous general elections from 1999 till 2015 before the NTYTR Act;
(ii) Nigerian youths have better opportunities to contest positions in the 2019 general elections with the passage of the NTYTR Act; and
(iii) NTYTR Act allows more participation of Nigerian youths in future general elections.

II. Methodology

This study was a survey research one, where a self structured questionnaire was used to collect data from respondents. Young Nigerians which made up about 50.35% of the total population of the country, according to Index Mundi (2018) constitutes the population of this study from which a sample of 200 youths (18 years of age and above) were randomly selected in Osun state, Nigeria. The breakdown are: Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife (10 respondents); Osun State University, Osogbo (10 respondents); The Federal Polytechnic, Ede (10 respondents); Osun State College of Education, Ilesa (10 respondents); Osun State College of Education, Ila (10 respondents); College of Technology, Esa Oke (10 respondents); Osun State Polytechnic, Ire (10 respondents; Redeemer's University, Ede (10 respondents) and Fountain University, Osogbo (10 respondents). Others are 10 members from major political parties (All Progressive Congress and Peoples Democratic Party) who were selected purposively from major towns. The towns are Osogbo, Ikire /Apomu, Ile-Ife, Ede, Iwo, Iragbiji, Ejigbo, Esa-Oke, Ikirun, Ila and Ilesa. The study made use of a self-designed 5-scale likert questionnaire to give respondents who would not want their voice, name or images recorded the opportunity to express their views without any form of fear, bias or restrictions. The instrument was made up of four sections. Section A addressed personal data of the respondent such as Age, Sex, Religion and Educational background. Other sections involved statements that were related to the researched topic variables. The researcher personally administered the questionnaires to the respondents at the study areas. Respondents were assured of the confidentiality of all the information given. The data collected were later analyzed using the simple percentage and chi–square statistics to determine the extent of the relationship between/among the variables.

a) The Extent of Youth Preparation and Involvement in the 2019 General Election

The 2019 presidential election was closely contested between two aged personalities, the incumbent president Mohammed Buhari of the All Progressive Congress (APC) and his strongest rival from the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP); in person of former vice president Atiku Abubakar. On the part of the youth, about four young Nigerians between the ages of 35 and 40 years contested the presidential seat (VenturesArica.com). They were Mathias Tsado (40 years), Ahmed Buhari (40 years), Enyinnaya Nwosu (40 years) and 39-year old Eniola Ojajuni. The signing of the NTYTR bill by President Muhammed Buhari on the 31st May 2018 was more or less the primary influencing factor that awoke the political consciousness of the Nigerian youths. Another notable influencing factor is the visit of one of the world's youngest and most powerful head of government of France to Nigeria. It should be recalled that in July 2018, the 40-year old French president, Emmanuel Macron visited Nigeria. Speaking on Tuesday, 3rd July, 2018 when he visited the Afrika Shrine, Agidingbi, Ikeja, home of the late Afrobeat legend, Fela Anikulapo Kuti, during an event tagged 'Celebration of African Culture' to inaugurate the African Cultural Season 2020 (Adebayo, 2018). Another notably event worth mentioning is the European Union's position on low participation of Nigerian youths in politics. European Union (EU) on Thursday 3rd May 2018 decried the shortage of Nigerian youths participating in partisan politics. Mr Ketil Karlsen, Ambassador and Head of the EU Delegation to Nigeria and ECOWAS, decried the poor level of youth participation when he visited the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) Continuous Voter Campus Outreach at University of Abuja. According to Karlsen, for democracy to be representative, it must represent all the demographic population of a country, and the youths are an important reference point. According to him "there is a shortage of

© 2019 Global Journals

youth's participation in politics in many countries including Nigeria. He then urged electoral stakeholders in the country to ensure that Nigeria's politics was not necessarily about the person with biggest pockets. He advised that politics in Nigeria should be about the person with the biggest ideas coming into power (Urowayino, 2018).

One of the impacts of the above mentioned series of events on youth involvement in the 2019 general elections is that it made the youths to be more determined than ever to get involved in jostling for power in the country. Ahead of the 2019 elections, some youths formed political parties. For example, Alliance for New Nigeria (ANN) was formed in March, 2017 by some politically concerned Nigerians, adopting "Technoticianism" as its ideology - an ideology which they explained was aimed at replacing the old breed politicians (Wikipedia, 2018). Some youth organizations such as YIAGA Africa also suddenly demanded for the reduction in the prices of the nomination forms to enable them affordable by the youths. The youths also engaged the social media platforms (facebook, whatsApp instagram and twitter) to sensitize colleagues on the latest happenings in the political realm. Many youth organizations conducted door to door sensitizations to encourage one another to collect their Permanent Voters Card (PVC) ahead of the 2019 general elections.

In addition, youths also engaged aspirants/candidates in robust debates which also revealed that it was not business as usual. Some young Nigerians such as Senator Ben Bruce, Pastor Poju Oyemade, Fela Durotoye and so on also gave their support. For youth to also advance their cause, a movie titled "power of one" was launched on Saturday 20th October, 2018 at the Eko Convention Centre, Victoria Island, Lagos. According to the director, Izu Ojukwu, "Power of one" is a movie which is a phenomenal work of art aimed at entrenching in the hearts of Nigerians, the acceptance of the power of an individual and making a significant difference in the society. According to the producers, one of the foremost purposes of the movie is to reawaken civic responsibility in young Nigerians. The movie had an impressive stars on ground which included Ramsey Nouah, Annie Idibia, Jide kosoko, Alexx Ekubo while the likes of legendary music icon 2Baba, popular actor Falz, comedian Kenny Blaq, singer Timi Dakolo and other actors in entertainment industry gathered for a press conference put together by Buckwyld Media Network to provide valuable insight about the movie (Onikoyi, 2018)

b) Hindrances and Challenges against the Participation and Involvement of the Youths

The involvement of youths in the political contests of the country during the 2019 general elections faced myriad of obstacles. According to Yiaga.org (2019), the NTYTR movement engaged political parties and made the following three demands to strengthen their involvement with enormous funds:

1. That Political parties reserve party tickets for young men and women with character, capacity and competence disaggregated as follows:

State House of Assembly Election

S/N	Geo-Political Zone	No. of State Constituencies	Requested No. of Party Tickets for Youths
1.	South West	176	53
2.	South East	129	39
3.	South South	160	48
4.	North West	216	65
5.	North East	156	47
6.	North Central	153	46
	TOTAL	990	298

Also for the House of Representatives Election, the following demands were made by the youth movement

Geo-political Zone	No. of Fed. Constituencies tickets for Youths	Requested No. of
South West	71	21
South East	43	13
South South	55	17
North West	92	28
North East	48	15
North Central	49	15
TOTAL	360	109

© 2019 Global Journals

2. That Political parties should prescribe and enforce spending limits for party nomination fees and charges and that the cost of nomination of candidates should not exceed the followings:

House of Assembly Aspirant – N200, 000
House of Representatives Aspirant – N400, 000
Senatorial Aspirant – N600, 000
Governorship Aspirant – N1, 000,000
Presidential Aspirant – N2, 000,000

3. That Political parties should adopt open, transparent and direct party primaries in the selection process of candidates for the 2019 elections.

Aside of the challenge of funds that most youths faced, the demands of the NTYTR movement were not followed by most political parties. According to Vanguard (2018), at the last nationwide vote in 2015, the Peoples Democratic Party (P.D.P) of the then-president Good luck Jonathan charged 22 million naira per nomination form, the All Progressive Congress (APC) where President Muhammed Buhari contested levied 27.5 million naira (Vanguard,2018). But following persistent youth pressure, the PDP reduced the cost of its presidential nomination to 12million naira and the governorship from 11million naira to 6million naira. Yet, the sums were on the high side in a country where about 87million of its 180million are still in extreme poverty (World Poverty Clock, 2018).

Another challenge that posed a serious threat to youth involvement in the 2019 general elections is youth nonchalant attitude. In a recent interactive session with Dr. Jay Osi Samuels, the national coordinator of Alliance for New Nigeria, ANN, the nation has been held back by years of recycled leadership to the extent that one could even predict who the regular front runners would be during every election. According to him, the percentage of those who actively involved in politics, both as contestants and voters are less than 35% of the total population of Nigerians who are above the age of 18 years. The remaining 65% are made up of young professionals, both male and female, who hardly get involved in the political process as contestants (This Day, 2017). Samuels lamented that for long, the nation has left its political destiny in the hands of few career politicians who only think of the next election and nothing more.

Another hindrance was the socio-economic factors such as poverty and unemployment. In Nigeria, the federal government in 2008 acknowledged that about 80% of Nigeria's youth are unemployed and 10% underemployed (Daily Trust, 2008). In 2011, the Minister of Youth Development, Bolaji Abdullahi reported that 42.2 per cent of Nigeria's youth population is out of job. Depo Oyedokun, the Chairman of the House Committee on Youth and Social Development revealed that of the over 40 million unemployed youths in the country, 23 million are unemployable. These statistics are grim for a nation whose children and youths of age 0 - 35 constitute about 77per cent or 105 million of its over 180 million population. Various studies in the past revealed that youths form bulk of the perpetrators of election related violence in Nigeria and around the world. This is in congruence with the view of Akinboye (1987), McAllister (2004), Nweke (2005), Bazza (2008), that youths have been repeatedly used as instruments of violence. Answers to why youths are ever available and vulnerable instruments in the hands of unscrupulous politicians to perpetrate electoral violence have also been advanced to the unskilled, uneducated or ill-educated, or unemployment of youths parents or their poor socio-economic status. This view tallies with Nweke"s (2005) postulations who posited that factors responsible for youth's poor involvement or use for electoral violence include economically poor homesteads; poor education or being school drop-outs, high rate of unemployment and underemployment and psycho-cultural dispositions by political elites. This largely explains why some politicians explore the weakness of youths to involve them in destructive anti-social behaviours.

III. Presentation of Results and Discussion

Table 1: Extent to which Nigerian Youths have participated in Previous Elections from 1999 till 2015 before the passage of NTYTR Act

With the use of six statements with 5-likert options, the following represent the findings from respondents on the questionnaires administered on them.

Statements	Strongly Disagree		Disagree		Undecided		Agree		Strongly Agee	
	Freq.	%	Freq.	%	Freq.	%	Freq.	%	Freq.	%
Youths have satisfactorily contested elections since 1999 in Nigeria	63	31.3	76	37.8	9	4.5	34	16.9	19	9.5
The Nigerian electoral system long ago gave opportunity to the youths to contest elections	64	32.0	69	34.5	2	1.0	48	24.0	17	8.5

© 2019 Global Journals

Youths have been the front-runners in Nigerian politics since 1999	95	47.5	64	32.0	2	1.0	20	10.0	19	9.5
The youths have being the main beneficiaries of Nigeria's democracy	88	44.0	68	34.0	2	1.0	30	15.0	12	6.0
Most political parties in Nigeria are youth-oriented	89	44.9	68	34.3	0	.0	22	11.1	19	9.6
There have been more young Nigerians in government than older politicians	97	48.5	62	31.0	1	.5	24	12.0	16	8.0

Source: Researcher's Field Survey, 2018

Table 1 above examined the respondents view on the level of youth participation in previous elections since 1999 up till 2015 before the passage of Not Too Young to Rule Act. The results revealed that only few of the respondents (26.4%) agreed that youth have satisfactorily contested in elections since 1999 while majority of (69.2%) disagreed. Also, 66.5% of the respondents disagreed that Nigerian electoral system gives the youths the opportunity to take part in governance. About 80% of the respondents disagreed that youths have been the front-runners in Nigeria politics while 78% of the respondents believed that youths are not beneficial of Nigeria's democracy. Also 79.3% of the respondents disagreed that most political parties in Nigeria are youth oriented while 80% of the respondents disagreed that Nigeria have more young leaders in government since 1999.

Table 2: Fate of Nigerian Youths in the 2019 General Elections with the passage of the NTYTR Act

With the use of six statements with 5-likert options, the following represent the findings from respondents on the questionnaires administered on them.

Statements	Strongly Disagree		Disagreed		Undecided		Agree		Strongly Agree	
	Freq.	%	Freq.	%	Freq.	%	Freq.	%	Freq.	%
The NTYTR Act has given more youths the opportunity to contest 2019 election	33	16.6	40	20.1	12	6.0	80	40.2	34	17.1
Most political parties now sell their nomination forms at affordable prices to enable youth more participation	68	34.0	50	25.0	14	7.0	51	25.5	17	8.5
The NTYTR Act has given the youths equal chances with the older politicians in the forthcoming election	42	21.1	41	20.6	9	4.5	81	40.7	26	13.1
The NTYTR Act has closed the gap between the youths and the older politicians in Nigeria's electoral process	47	23.6	32	16.1	10	5.0	78	39.2	32	16.1
The NTYTR Act has awakened the political consciousness of most Nigerian youths	25	12.6	24	12.1	6	3.0	95	47.7	49	24.6
The 2019 election will mark the beginning of youth engagement in Nigeria's partisan politics	42	21.1	34	17.1	35	17.6	55	27.6	33	16.6

Source: Researcher's Field Survey, 2018

Table 2 showed that 57.3% of the respondents agreed that more youths were given the opportunity to contest 2019 general elections with the new Act passed while 36.7% disagreed. Also, only 34% of the respondents agreed that most political parties in Nigeria now sell their nomination forms at affordable prices to enable more youth's participation, while 59% of the respondents disagreed. Moreover, 53.8% of the respondents agreed that the new Act has given the youth equal chances with the older politicians while 41.7% disagreed. 55.3% of the respondents also agreed that the new Act has closed the gap between the youths and the older politicians in Nigeria while 39.7% disagreed. About 72% of the respondents agreed that the new Act has awakened the political consciousness of most Nigerian youths while 24.7% say otherwise. Also, about 44% of the respondents agreed that the 2019 general election will mark the beginning of youth engagement in Nigeria's partisan politics.

© 2019 Global Journals

Table 3: Effect of the NTYTR Act on Future General Elections in Nigeria.

This section presents the respondents' opinions on the effect of the Not Too Young To Run Act on future elections in Nigeria.

Statements	Strongly Disagree		Disagree		Undecided		Agree		Strongly Agree	
	Freq.	%	Freq.	%	Freq.	%	Freq.	%	Freq.	%
More youths will take part in future elections as contestants	38	19.5	45	23.1	10	5.1	67	34.4	35	17.9
After 2019 elections, good governance would emerge as outcome of more youth involvement	38	19.4	33	16.8	32	16.3	68	34.7	25	12.8
More young ladies would contest alongside their male counterparts	65	33.2	34	17.3	18	9.2	50	25.5	29	14.8
Vote rigging would be almost difficult	61	31.1	43	21.9	22	11.2	33	16.8	37	18.9
Electoral violence would not be witnessed anymore	47	24.0	39	19.9	37	18.9	40	20.4	33	16.8
As a youth, I can never sell my vote again	20	10.2	11	5.6	11	5.6	37	18.9	117	59.7

Source: Researcher's Field Survey, 2018

The results in Table 3 shows that majority of the respondents agreed that more youths will contest future elections (52.3%) after 2019, good governance would emerge as outcome of more youth involvement (47.5%); and that as a youth, and they can no longer sell their votes again (78.6%). On the other hand, most respondents disagreed that more young ladies would contest alongside their male counterparts (50.5%), vote rigging would be almost difficult in 2019 elections (53.0%); or that electoral violence would not be witnessed in the forthcoming elections (43.9%).

Test of Hypotheses

This section presents the results of the tested three hypotheses using chi-square test of association at 0.05 level of significance. The result is shown in the following tables.

Hypothesis One

The first hypothesis stated that 'The Nigerian youths have partaken excellently in previous elections from 1999 till date without the NTYTR Act'

Table 4: Nigerian Youths have partaken excellently in Previous Elections from 1999 till 2015 without the NTYTR Act

		Youths have partaken excellently in previous elections from 1999 up to 2015 in Nigeria									
		Strongly Disagree		Disagree		Undecided		Agree		Strongly Agree	
		Freq.	*%*	*Freq*	*%*	*Freq*	*%*	*Freq.*	*%*	*Freq.*	*%*
More youths will take part in 2019 elections as contestants	strongly disagree	18	29	11	14.9	2	22.2	5	15.2	2	11.8
	Disagree	12	19.4	23	31.1	1	11.1	6	18.2	3	17.6
	Undecided	3	4.8	3	4.1	1	11.1	2	6.1	1	5.9
	Agree	21	33.9	20	27	5	55.6	16	48.5	5	29.4
	strongly agree	8	12.9	17	23	0	0	4	12.1	6	35.3

Chi-sq. = 20.39; df = 16;; p = 0.203

© 2019 Global Journals

The result showed that there was no significant association between the respondents' opinion on whether more youths have taken part in the previous elections as contestants and whether the youths have satisfactorily contested in previous elections since 1999 in Nigeria ($\chi^2 = 20.39$; df = 16; $p > 0.05$). Based on the above, the hypothesis is rejected and the null hypothesis that Nigerian youths have not partaken excellently in previous elections from 1999 till 2015 without the NTYTR Act is accepted.

Hypothesis Two

The second hypothesis stated that 'The Nigerian youths have better opportunities to contest positions in the 2019 General Elections with the passage of the NTYTR Act'

Table 5: Nigerian Youths have Better Opportunities to Contest Positions in the 2019 General Elections with the Passage of the NTYTR Act

		Youths have satisfactorily contested the 2019 General Elections with the passage of NTYTR Act									
		Strongly Disagree		Disagree		Undecided		Agree		Strongly Agree	
		Freq.	*%*	*Freq.*	*%*	*Freq.*	*%*	*Freq.*	*%*	*Freq.*	*%*
The NTYTR Act has given more youths the opportunity to contest in the upcoming election	strongly disagree	16	25.8	7	9.3	2	22.2	5	14.7	3	15.8
	Disagree	6	9.7	26	34.7	2	22.2	3	8.8	3	15.8
	undecided	5	8.1	4	5.3	2	22.2	1	2.9	0	0
	Agree	27	43.5	27	36	2	22.2	18	52.9	6	31.6
	strongly agree	8	12.9	11	14.7	1	11.1	7	20.6	7	36.8

Chi-sq. = 34.12; df = 16; p = 0.005

The results showed that there was a significant association between respondents' opinions on whether the NTYTR Act will give more youths the opportunity to contest the 2019 general elections and whether the youths have satisfactorily contested in previous elections since 1999 in Nigeria ($\chi^2 = 34.12$; df = 16; $p < 0.05$). Based on the above, the hypothesis is accepted that the Nigerian youths had better opportunities to contest positions in the 2019 elections with the passage of the NTYTR Act.

Hypothesis Three

The third hypothesis stated that 'NTYTR Act allows more participation of Nigerian youths in future general elections'

Table 6: NTYTR Act allows more Participation of Nigerian Youths in Future Elections

		NTYTR Act allow more participation of Nigerian youths in future elections									
		strongly disagree		disagree		undecided		Agree		strongly agree	
		Freq.	*%*	*Freq.*	*%*	*Freq.*	*%*	*Freq.*	*%*	*Freq.*	*%*
The NTYTR Act has awaken the political consciousness of most Nigerian youths	strongly disagree	9	14.8	7	9.2	1	11.1	5	14.7	3	15.8
	disagree	9	14.8	8	10.5	2	22.2	4	11.8	1	5.3
	undecided	2	3.3	2	2.6	2	22.2	0	0	0	0
	Agree	24	39.3	43	56.6	3	33.3	16	47.1	9	47.4
	strongly agree	17	27.9	16	21.1	1	11.1	9	26.5	6	31.6

Chi-sq. = 20.169; df = 16; p = 0.213

The results showed that there was no significant association between respondents' opinions on whether the NTYTR Act would give more youths the opportunity to contest in future elections and whether The NTYTR Act has awoken the political consciousness of most Nigerian youths ($\chi^2 = 20.169$; df = 16; $p > 0.05$). Based on the above, the hypothesis is accepted that NTYTR Act will enhance more participation of Nigerian youths in future elections. -

IV. Discussion

Based on the first objective, it was observed that the Nigerian youths have not participated well in previous elections since 1999 up to 2015. They have not

© 2019 Global Journals

allowed also exercised their civic rights to contest political positions other than voting. Instead, they were used as political thugs and agents for rigging and causing violence during election periods in the country. Reasons for this low level of participation by the Nigerian youths in previous elections include: the corrupt nature of the Nigerian electoral system, the win-at-all cost mentality of most Nigerian politicians, the lack of orientation and political awareness on the path of the youths as well as unfavorable economic conditions prevalent in the country like unemployment, poverty and hunger that pushed the youths to do whatever they were asked to do just to earn enough money to cater for their immediate needs. The youths cannot be blamed for their previous failure because of numerous challenges earlier discussed in this paper. This finding is supported by Omoede and Ojibara (2017) who found that youths in Kwara State were used as an instrument of electoral violence by the political elites because of unemployment and inadequate political education, among other factors.

Findings on objectives two showed that the passage of the NTYTR Act has allowed more youth participation in the 2019 general elections. It also revealed that the political consciousness and awareness of the Nigerian youths have increased. The youths are now setting up talk-shows, robust debates and seminars to educate and scrutinize aspirants/candidates on what they have to offer if voted into power. The youths also used the social media to attack or commend aspirants' actions or inactions during the 2019 general elections campaign period via face book and twitter platforms, all of which were due to the passage of the NTYTR Act. Thus, more young people such as Fela Durotoye of Alliance for New Nigeria (ANN) and Omoyele Sowore of African Action Congress (AAC) contested for the Presidency and popular musician Banky W contested for the Federal House of Representatives, Eti-Osa in Lagos state, among many others across Nigeria. Most incumbent politicians are on their toes and all pointing to the fact that the youths are no longer prepared to continue to sit on the back seat.

Lastly, findings from the respondents based on the third objective showed the Not Too Young to Run Act will encourage more youth participation in future elections. It is evident that youths are now prepared to take part in the political administration of the country. This is because, most political parties have reviewed their ideologies in favour of the youths with more dialogues, debates, seminars to sensitize them. The effect this will have on future elections is that more youths are now encouraged with minimal or no electoral violence. Election rigging and vote buying will also be reduced since the youths are not likely to sell their votes again. The implication of all this is that after the 2019 general elections, the governance of Nigeria will witness a new era, an era where more youths will become more refined ( ).

The results on hypothesis one showed that there was no significant association between the respondents' opinion on whether more youths will take part in the 2019 general elections as contestants and whether youth have satisfactorily contested in elections since 1999 in Nigeria ($\chi^2 = 20.39$; df = 16; $p > 0.05$). Based on the above, the hypothesis is rejected and the null hypothesis that Nigerian youths have not partaken excellently in previous elections from 1999 till date without the NTYTR Act is accepted. Also, the results on hypothesis two showed that there was a significant association between respondents' opinions on whether the NTYTR Act has given more youths the opportunity to contest the 2019 elections and whether the youths have satisfactorily contested in previous elections since 1999 in Nigeria ($\chi^2 = 34.12$; df = 16; $p < 0.05$). Based on the above, the hypothesis is accepted that the Nigerian youths have better opportunities to contest positions in the 2019 general elections with the passage of the NTYTR Act. While the result on hypothesis three showed that there was no significant association between respondents' opinions on whether the NTYTR Act have effect on future elections ($\chi^2 = 20.169$; df = 16; $p > 0.05$). Based on the above, the hypothesis is accepted that NTYTR Act will enhance more participation of Nigerian youths in future elections.

In summary, the results of the data showed that most youth in Nigeria, according to the respondents, have not satisfactorily participated in previous elections in Nigeria. However, the NTYTR Act provided better opportunity for the youth during the 2019 general elections and significantly marked the beginning of such involvement. The Act will see more youths participating in future Nigeria's electoral process. This finding is however contrary to the position of Fidelis (2018) who noted that the trend will not last for long.

V. Conclusion

It is apt to say that the time for the youth is now. Everything is pointing towards the direction of the youths, more or less; for the first time in the political history of Nigeria. The youths are determined more than ever to get involved and eventually take over the governance of the country. The NTYTR Act increased level of participation and political awareness in the country with political consciousness and civic responsibility on the increase and more inactive political parties presenting candidates for election to meet the ambitions of the youths as well as serving as a bridge in actualizing their dreams.

© 2019 Global Journals

Recommendations

Based on the researcher's findings, the following recommendations are hereby offered:

Equipping the Nigerian youths through education or enlightenment is needful. Nigerian youths have a role to play in the nation's political process. Equipping the youths by educating them is predicated on the explicit relationship between knowledge and development and in the conviction that it is the key element in the development of a nation and its people. It is also necessary that youth advocators and change agents should concentrate on young graduates to enhance their political participation.

Also, the youths should be given the opportunity to be committed to the future of the country through constructive engagement as opposed to the win at all cost mentality that is prevalent in the electioneering process. Civil societies and Electoral umpire (INEC) should organize more workshops and seminars to engage the youths in meaningful dialogue, especially where the ethnic divide is deep.

In addition, the youths should learn and acquire the necessary skills for campaign management, fund raising and recruitment. There should be focused effort on assisting young party members to develop and implement coordinated strategies on important issues facing their communities. As the nation continues to grow, the need for diverse participation in the electoral process by young folds becomes compelling. Voter's registration and participation should not merely be encouraged but stressed as a necessity for all citizens especially the youth. They should also engage in exchange of knowledge and expertise that would strengthen their participation in building democratic processes.

References Références Referencias

1. Adebayo, M. (2018). Get Involved In Politics, Macron Urges Nigerian Youths Retrieved From: Https://Get%20involved%20in%20politics,%20Macron%20urges%20Nigerian%20youths%20%E2%80%93%20The%20Sun%20Nigeria.Html (Accessed 30th October 2018)
2. Adelabu,M. & Akinsolu, A. (2009). Political educationthrough the university: A Survey of Nigerian university students. *African Journal of Political Science and International Relation, 3(2) 046-053.*
3. Baba, T. K. & Ogugiya, I.S. (2005). "Electoral Violence and the Prospects of Democratic Consolidation in Nigeria. Proceedings of 23rd Annual Conference of Nigerian Political Science Association, Lagos.
4. Balogun, B.O. (2010). *Nigeria Youths Mobilized.* Enugu: Providence Press.
5. Barnes, S. and Noble, B. (2018) Political culture and public opinion summary. Retrieved from: https://www.sparknotes.com/usgovernmentandpolitics/political-science/political- culture-and-public-opinion/section4/(Accessed 20th October 2018)
6. Busola, O. (2018). Nigerians React As Buhari Signs Not Too Young to Run Bill. Retrieved From: Http://Www.Naijanews.Com/2018/06/01/NigeriansReact-As-Buhari-Signs-Not-Too-Young-To-Run-Bill/(Accessed 20 September, 2018)
7. Coleman, J.S. (2007). *Nigeria :Background to Nationalism.* California; University of California.
8. Dalton, R. J. (2008). Citizenship Norms and the Expansion of Political Participation. *Political Studies, 56(1), 76–98.*
9. Dimitrova, D. V.; Shehata, A., Stromback, J., and Nord, L. W. (2011). The Effects of Digital Media on Political Knowledge and Participation in Election Campaigns: *Evidence From Panel Data. Communication Research, 41(1), 95–118.*
10. Emma, C. and Sunday, C.E. (2010). Democratization and Women's political space in Nigeria: A Critical Appraisal. *Journal of Public Administration and Governance, Vol. 1(1), 221.229.*
11. Fedlis, O. (2018). Socio-Economic Side of Not Too Young To Run Act Retrieved from: Http://punchng.com/socio-economic- side- of- Not-Too-Young-to-Run- Act/(Accessed30January 2019)
12. Gorsuch, R. (2000). How to Achieve Effective Political Participation. *International Journal of Humanities. Vol. 3(4), 80-91.*
13. Inde x Mundi (2018) Nigeria Age Structure Retrieved from:www.indexmundi.com/nigeria/age_structure.html
14. INEC (2018). List of Registered Political Parties in Nigeria.Retrieved From:Http://Www.Inecnigeria.Org (Accessed20September, 2018)
15. McManimon, S. J. (2014). Political Engagement and the Shifting Paradigm from Traditional to Social Media. Indiana University of Pennsylvania.
16. Nigeria's Demographic profile Retrieved from: https://www.indexmundi.com/nigeria/demographics_profile.html (Accessed 15 October 2018
17. Nuhu, Y. (2015).The Mass Media And the 2015 General Elections.
18. Omede, A & Ojibara, I. (2017). Youth and political participation in Kwara state, Nigeria. *Afro Asian Journal of Social Sciences, Vol. 8(3), 2229 – 5313.*
19. Omotola, I.S. (2002). *State Youth and Electoral Violence in Nigeria.* Ibadan, University Press.
20. Onikoyi, A. (2018). 2Baba, Falz, Timi Dakolo, others gather for Buckwyld "n" Breathless, Power of One retrievedfrom:https://www.vangaurdngr.com/2018/10/2Baba-Falz- Timi- Dakolo- others- gathe r-for-Buckwyld -n- Breathless-Power of One / (Accessed 30th October 2018).

© 2019 Global Journals

21. Opejobi. S. (2018). Not Too Young To Run: Buhari's Full Speech At Signing of Bill. Retrieved From: Http://Dailypost.Ng/2018/05/31/Not-Too-Young-To-Run-Buhari's-Full-SpeechAtSigningOfBill/(Accessed 21 September 2018)
22. Preye, K.I. & Agnes, E.M. (2011). "Youths, Electoral Violence and Democratic Consolidation in Nigeria: *The Bayelsa Experience. Anthropologist, Vol. 13(3), 217.225*
23. Prior, M. (2007). *Post-Broadcast Democracy: How Media Choice Increases Inequality in Political Involvement and Polarizes Elections. United Kingdom:* Cambridge Press.
24. Puja. M. (2018). Elite Theory of Power: Propounded by Vilfredo Pareto Retrieved from: https://www.yourarticlelibrary.com/sociology/politicalinstitutions / elite - theory of power (Accessed 3rd October 2018)
25. Punch (2018). Not Too Young To Run: Should The Age Limit For Senators, Govs Be Reduced RetrievedFrom:Http://Punchng.Com/NotTooYoungToRunShould-The-Age-Limit-For-Senators-Govs-Be-Reduced/(Accessed22Sptember 2018)
26. Richard, S.L (2004). *Nigerian Political Parties: Power in an Emergent African Nation.* Lagos; Africa World Press.
27. Sani, T. (2018). Buhari Signs "Not Too Young To Run"BillRetrievedFrom:Http://Www.Premiumtimesng.Com/News/Headlines/270538BreakingBuhariSigns-Not-Too-Young-To-Run-Bill.Html (Accessed 22 September 2018)
28. Steve, A.,Collins, E. and Adegboyega, O. (2017). Election Data Analytics: Analysis of 2015
29. General Elections in Nigeria. *International Journal of Computer Techniques, Vol. 4, no. 1, January 2017*
30. ThisDay (2017). Ann Technoticianism: A Movement whose Time has Come retrieved from: https://www.thisdaylive.com/index.php/2017/06/03/ann technoticianism-a-movement-whose-time-has-come/ (Accessed 30th October 2018)
31. Ugwueze, H. (2010). The Nigerian Democratic Experiment: Problems and Prospects. *Journal of Policy and Development Studies, 2(2) 23-38.*
32. United Nations Development Programme UNDP (2013). Enhancing Youth Political Participation through the Electoral Cycle
33. Urowayino, W.(2018). EU decries low participation of Nigerian youths in politics retrieved from: https://EU%20decries%20low%20participation%20of%20Nigerian%20youths % 20 in %20 politics.html (Accessed 25th October 2018)
34. Vanguard (2018). Costs of nomination forms show how APC, PDP have "monetized political environment"retrievedfrom:https://www.vanguardngr.com/2018/09/costs-of-nomination-forms-showhow-apc-pdp-have-monetized-political-environment/
35. Venturesafrica.com a list of 18 Presidential Aspirants for Nigeria's 2019 General Elections. Retrieved from: Venturesafrica.com/a-list-of-18-presidentialaspirants-for-Nigeria's-2019-general-elections/(accessed30th October 2018)
36. Wikipedia (2018). Not Too Young To Run Retrieved From:Http//En.Wikipedia.Org/Not-Too-YoungToRun/(Accessed20September,2018)Yiaga.org (2018). Statement by the Not Too Young to Run Movement on the National Day of Action on Youth Candidacy and Democratic Party Primaries retrieved from: yiaga.org/nottoo young torun/statement-by-the-not–too-young-to-run-movement-on-the-national-dayof-actiononyouthcandidacyanddemocraticpartyprimaries/(accessed 30th October 2018)
37. 2015 Nigerian General Elections Retrieved from: https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/2015_Nigerian_general_election (Accessed 22nd October 2018)

© 2019 Global Journals