



Nigerian Electoral Process: Its Viability Through Adult Education Programmes In Akuku-Toru And Ogu/Bolo Local Government Areas In Rivers State

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ABSTRACT

The paper examined Nigeria electoral process; its viability through adult education programmes in Akuku-Toru and Ogu/Bolo local government area in Rivers State. Three research questions and three hypotheses guided the study. Descriptive research design was adopted for the study and with Taro Yamen's formulae a sample size of 890 adults was realised and used for the study. Nigeria Electoral Process; its viability through Adult Education Questionnaire (NEPVAEQ) was main instrument used for data collection. The instrument for data collection was duly validated by test experts in the faculty of Education, Rivers State University Port Harcourt. Also passed through reliability test using Pearson's product moment correlation co-efficient and obtained 0.71 co-efficient. Some major findings emerged from the study as follows low cultural education, low voter awareness, violence prone environment which makes electoral processes not credible. Also, research question 1 has grand mean of 3.69 meaning Very High Extent towards cultural education, research question 2 with grand mean of 3.78 shows Very High Extent of voters awareness and research question 3 has grand mean of 3.69 which shows Very High Extent and further indicates that civic education would enable cubing electoral violence in the study areas in the state and the country at large. Based on the findings, recommendations were prescribed.

Keywords: Nigerian electoral process, viability, adult education, programmes.

INTRODUCTION

Stable electoral process is the most desirable democratic experience Nigerians have looked out for in the twenty years of our uninterrupted democratic atmosphere. This atmosphere had been heated up at various moments leading to abuse of power, fraudulent elections, oppression of political opponents and intimidation of journalists and corruption of the electoral process. Joseph in Agi, (2012) viewed these anti-democratic tendencies as some of the dilemmas of the Nigerian democracy. Nevertheless, most nations in the world with stable electoral process have often prided themselves with waves of positive or negative transition which gave credence to the said electoral process at times as "free and fair". Agi (2012) noted that, the prevailing political experience of various nations directly informs the political institutions, structures and activities, inclinations, loyalties and associations which are identifiable.

Sequel to the above, there is no meaningful electoral process without the citizens and education. To this, Ojie (2006) states that in a democracy, those whose responsibility is to exercise political authorities in a society perform it with the explicit consent and genuine mandate expressed at periodic intervals by the electorate through an open, free and fair electoral process. This implies that, the pivot of any electoral process is the citizen 18 years and above (adult). Also, these citizens (adults) are compulsorily given voter education, to enable them have high quality information to enhance effective electoral process. In the absence of this, imposition of different sorts will be experienced in the execution of the electoral process

which is part and parcel of the community development programmes as expressed by Amirize in Kobani and Alozie (2016). Adult Education is a branch in education which is geared towards the sensitization of the people at every stage of their development which include political development, social development, economic development, cultural development, spiritual development, physiological development, psychological development, gerontology development and functional development.

However, some assumed this concept as education for the elderly members of the community who attend evening classes or people who desire to remedy an educational deficiency they may have suffered earlier on in their lives which lead to terminating of their academic pursuit. According to Amirize in Kobani and Alozie (2016), Adult education is pragmatic and functionally related to needs of individual and society, whether short-term or long-term. It is also change oriented in the area of felt-needs which it seeks to address. Hence, adult education is instilling in the individual the ability to get along with other people without behaving like a beast. Amidst other adult education programmes the following are considered: cultural education, voter awareness education and civic education. Cultural education: This is derived from the concept known as culture, in which Gbefwi (2004) opined that culture is established patterns of behaviour and way of life of any groups of people or society which has been handed down from generation to generation, either verbally and / or by practice. She added that most cultural practices are linked with religion, folklore and superstition. These are carefully reflected in the forms of marriage, dressing and style of living, values beliefs and attitudes. When this knowledge attitude and skills are carefully and consciously transmitted other citizens or the people with its resultant effects which may be positive or negative. Thus, when good learning has taken place, positive change or action towards every aspect of the nation's growth is visibly.

Also, Voter Awareness Education programme is part of the electoral process aimed at enlightening the voters on the importance of the election through activities like discussion, quizzes, competitions, and other activities. This has also been a vital source of successes in Indian's general Election 2019 (Election Commission of India (ECI), 2019). Nevertheless, Civic Education programme is an integral part of Adult education programmes and its importance is not only mirrored to Nigeria alone but in all countries of the world. According to Education Bureau (2008), ignorance of the law is no excuses. This is why it is vital for adult citizens to have basic knowledge of their constitution reasons for good governance and participating in it. Being equipped with the fundamentals of democracy and also shaping our belief systems that affect the community and national life. In the light of the above, civic education programme will afford the adult citizens the opportunity to know the meaning of democracy, the role, responsibility and their rights, the strength and weakens of good governance democratic principles and procedures and democratic institution and laws. This paper shall carefully view the Nigerian electoral process: its viability through Adult Education programmes.

Elections in Nigeria

These are forms of choosing representatives into the Nigerian Federal Government and various states in Nigeria. Nigerians elect at the federal level the Head of State (the President of Nigeria) and the legislature (the National Assembly). The President is elected by the people. The National assembly has two chambers. The House of Representatives has 360 members, elected for a four-year term; each of the 36 states is divided into 3 senatorial districts, which is represented by one senator, the federal capital territory is represented by only one senator.

Nigeria has a multi-party system, with two leading political parties namely: All Progressive Congress (APC) and Peoples Democratic Party (PDP). However, members of the Peoples Democratic Party founded in 1998, 21 years ago, controlled the presidency until 2015 when Muhammadu Buhari of the APC won the presidential election. The genesis of the electoral process began with the establishment of the electoral umpire through the Nigerian Constitution in 1998 by the then Military administration of General Abdulsalam Abubakar after dissolving the National Electoral Commission of Nigeria (NECON) which was established in December 1995 by the then General Sani Abacha's government (INEC, 2010).

This body is a juridical person that may sue and be sued in its own name (Federal Republic of Nigeria (FRN), 1999).

Election Administration and Procedures

Administration

a. *Independent National Election Commission*

National Assembly, Presidential and Gubernatorial election are disinterred by a multi-tiered Federal Administrative structure organized under the authority of the independent National Election Commission (INEC). INEC is a constitutionally mandated body. The President of the Republic appoints the Chief Electoral Commissioner and 12 national Electoral Commissioners with advice from the council of State. They cannot be members of any political party, nor can they vote. Among the responsibilities Nigeria's 1999 Constitution gives INEC are the following:

Responsibilities of Nigerian INEC

1. Organize, undertake and supervise all elections to the offices of the president and Vice President, the Governor and Deputy Governor of a State, and to the membership of the Senate, the House of Representative, and the House of Assembly of each State of the Federation;
2. Register political parties;
3. Monitor the operation of parties, including their finances.
4. Audit the funds and accounts of parties, and issue annual public reports on such;
5. Register eligible voters, and maintain accurate voter registration lists for all elections;
6. Monitor political campaigns and provide rules and regulations for such.

b. *Resident Electoral Commissioner (REC)*

Next in line of federal administrative authority are Nigeria's resident Electoral Commissioners, each of whom is appointed by the president to exercise administrative authority over the electoral apparatus of the individual states with respect to Federal Elections and maintain custody over the State's voter registry under the supervision of INEC. The REC appoints the state's Senatorial District returning officers, Federal constituency Returning officers and Local Government Area Electoral Officers. The REC is responsible for announcing the winner of state gubernatorial elections and for forwarding the State's presidential vote tally to INEC.

c. *State Returning Officer (SRO)*

Each state has one state returning office. They are responsible for collating gubernatorial and presidential ballot totals passed up from lower collation levels in the state. They announce the winner of State gubernatorial elections and forward the collated results of presidential voting in their state to INEC.

d. *Senatorial District Returning Officers*

Each state has three Senatorial district Returning Officers. The FCT has one. They are responsible for collating Senate ballots and announcing the winner of the Senate races in their respective senatorial districts.

e. *Federal Constituency Returning Officers*

Each State has a number of Federal Constituency Returning Officers equal to the number of constituencies in that state. They are responsible for collating House ballot and announcing the winner of the races for their respective constituencies.

f. *Local Government (LGA) Electoral Officer*

Nigeria is divided into 774 LGAs, each with an Electoral Officer. The number of LGAs in each state varies. LGA Electoral Officers are appointed by and responsible to the Resident Electoral Commissioner in their State. They have custody over the voter register for their LGA under the supervision of the State's REC. They are responsible within their areas of jurisdiction for the organization of approximately 156 Electoral Wards and 150 voting Stations, a responsibility that includes appointment of all election officers and polling station clerks at these levels. They are also responsible for overseeing the collation of the vote coming up from the individual polling stations through the electoral wards in their area, and for the forwarding of those collated election results.

g. Supervising Presiding Officers (SPOs)

Supervising Presiding Officers will each be responsible for assuring that election materials are made available to clusters of about 10 Voting Stations and for providing general oversight of those stations on Election Day.

h. Presiding Officers (POs)

Presiding Officers are the officers in charge of individual Voting Stations on Election Day. The presiding officers' decisions on any matter relating to the marking of ballots or the declaration of results at the Voting Stations are final.

Eligibility to Vote

All Nigerian citizens 18 years of age and above are eligible to register to vote in elections. INEC is responsible for organizing and implementing the registration process compiling and distributing the registration lists to states and localities, providing citizens with voter registration cards, and regularly updating the registration lists.

Voter Registration

INEC was charged with the task of creating a new computer registry of Nigerian's estimated 84.27 million eligible voters nationwide. INEC's voter registry serves as the basis for national / gubernatorial and local elections in Nigeria. The latter is under the administrative control of the State Independent Election Commissions (SIECs) and not INEC. Note the creation of the registry as identified as a critically important step forward in the development of the Nigeria's electoral system.

Balloting and Vote Tabulation Processes

The following are the processes:

- Voting Station
- Voter Identification
- Ballots
- Tendered Ballots
- Voting
- Vote tabulation

Political Party Registration and Candidate Filings

Overall, candidates from 30 political parties competed in the elections. Most of the 30 registered political parties were newly constituted and had not participated in an election campaign before. In 1999, the Nigerian government only recognized three parties. It wasn't until 2002 that INEC conferred recognition first on three additional parties and then in December, on 24 others. To be officially recognized, parties must pay a fee equivalent to about \$800. The parties must also submit evidence that attests to their senior officers' identity and the fact that the officers were duly elected. The parties must have by laws and a platform conforming to Nigeria's 1999 constitution. They must also show evidence of membership and functioning office locations in at least 24 states. However, the present political atmosphere has 92 officially registered political parties.

Filing and Adjudication of Complaints

Nigeria's 2002 Election Law and the Federal Constitution establish the framework for bringing and resolving electoral complaints. Complaints regarding the result of the presidential Election are under the jurisdiction of the Federal Court of Appeals.

Complaints regarding the results of National Assembly Elections are under the jurisdiction of National Assembly Election Tribunals. Furthermore, complaints pertaining to the results of elections for governorship or state legislatures are under the jurisdiction of Governorship and Legislative Houses Electoral Tribunals. Electoral Tribunals must be constituted no later than 14 days prior to an election.

Only candidate in an election, or a political party which has fielded a candidate in an election have standing to file an election petition. The petition must be filed within 30 days of the time the election result was declared. Grounds for bringing a complaint include: questioning the winning candidate's legal

standing to have run in the election; allegations that the balloting and tabulation processes were not administered in compliance with the provisions of the election law; that the petitioner was validly nominated but unlawfully excluded from the election.

The court of appeals and Electoral Tribunals can nullify the result of an election and either declare a new winner (in the case where it can be established that the person has won a majority of the valid vote) or order a new election. The winning candidate against whom the court or Tribunal declares has 21 days in which to file an appeal.

Campaign Financing

All registered political parties in Nigeria are entitled to receive public funding to support general operations and the costs of campaigning. For operating expenses, 30 percent of an annual grant is divided equally by each of Nigeria's 30 parties. The remaining 70 percent is distributed based on the percentage of seats held by the party in the National Assembly. For election campaigns, 30 percent of a grant is divided equally and the remaining 70 percent is allocated based upon how many House and Senate seats the party actually wins in the election. Reliable information on the overall size of the campaign grants is not available. Parties are not limited to public finance and the larger parties raise substantial sums from private contributors. Parties may neither raise nor hold funds outside of Nigeria.

Though there are no limits on fund raising, campaign spending is capped. No party may spend more than 20 naira (about 15 cents) times the number of names on the voter registration lists where the party is fielding candidates. Thus, if a party has a candidate running for a seat in the House of Representatives from each of Nigeria's 360 Federal Constituency Districts, and the nationwide total number of names appearing on the Voter Registry was 65 million, the party could spend no more than about \$10 million. The fine for overspending is 500,000 naira (about \$3,759).

Parties are subject to annual audits by INEC, which also audits their election campaigns. The parties must make the information in these audits available to the public, including annual party operating budgets, campaign spending, and the names of all financial contributors and the sums they contributed. INEC has the authority to establish limits on the contributions of individuals and corporate entities.

Preview of Past Elections in Nigeria

2007 Election

The Nigerian general elections of 2007 were held on 14 April and 21 April 2007. Governorship and state assembly elections were held on 14 April, while the presidential and national assembly elections were held a week later on 21 April. Umaru Yar'Adua won the highly controversial election for the ruling People's Democratic Party (PDP) and was sworn in on 29 May. The ruling PDP won 26 of the 32 states, according to INEC, including Kaduna State and Katsina State, where the results were contested by the local population. Following the presidential election, groups monitoring the election gave it a dismal assessment. Chief European Union observer Max van den Berg reported that the handling of the polls had "fallen far short" of basic international standards, and that "the process cannot be considered to be credible. A spokesman for the United States Department of State said it was "deeply troubled" by election polls, calling them "flawed", and said it hoped the political parties would resolve any differences over the election through peaceful, constitutional means.

2011 Elections

A parliamentary election was held in Nigeria on 9 April 2011. The election was originally scheduled to be held on 2 April, but was later postponed to 4 April.

A presidential Election was held in Nigeria on 16 April 2011, postponed from 9 April 2011. The election follows controversy as to whether a Muslim or Christian should be allowed to become president given the tradition of rotating the top office between the religions and following the death of Umaru Yar'Adua, who was a Muslim and Goodluck Jonathan, a Christian assuming the interim presidency. Following the election, widespread violence took place in the northern parts of the country as Goodluck Jonathan was declared the winner on 19 April. The elections were reported in the International media as having run smoothly with relatively little violence or voter fraud in contrast to previous elections, in particular the

widely disputed 2007 election. The United States Department said the election was “successful” and a “substantial improvement” over 2007, although it added the vote rigging and fraud also took place.

2015 Election

The 2015 general election was originally scheduled to hold 14 February but was later postponed to 28 March (Presidential, senatorial and House of Representatives) and 11 April 2015 (Governorship and state house of Assembly. General Muhammadu Buhari of the All Progressive Congress emerged as the winner of the presidential elections and was sworn in on 29 May, 2015. It was the first time in the history of Nigeria that an incumbent President lost an election. Goodluck Ebele Jonathan of the People Democratic Party lost his seat to Muhammadu Buhari of the All Progressives Congress.

2019 Elections

Presidential, National Assembly Election was scheduled for 16 February 2019 while state and local government elections were scheduled for 2 March, 2019. Elections were postponed by one week after INEC cited logistic challenges. The rescheduled dates were 23 February and 9 March, 2019.

Current President, Muhammadu Buhari is seeking re-election. The primary contender is former Vice President, Atiku Abubakar of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP). Kingsley Moghalu of the Young Progressives Party (YPP), Yele Sowore of the African Action Congress (AAC) and Fela Durotoye of the Alliance for a New Nigeria (ANN) and other popular candidates who are all relatively young, late last year these three parties alongside some others attempted to form a coalition. However the candidates pulled out of the coalition and decided to continue running on their respective platforms. There are 73 candidates contesting in the presidential election.

The 2019 governorship and state house of assembly election was earlier scheduled for 2 March 2019 was rescheduled for Saturday 9, March 2019. With two major political parties; All Progressive Congress (APC) and Peoples Democratic Party Fielding candidates in the elections across various states except Rivers where a court order prohibits The all Progressive congress from fielding candidates as a result of internal crisis with the state chapter of the party.

Voters Education

This means providing citizens of a democracy with basic information about participating in elections. It is often provided by the state itself, often through a national electoral commission, so it is therefore important that it is politically non-partisan. An appropriate voter education would provide citizens with the following knowledge regarding stages of election in Nigeria as listed below:

Stages of Election in Nigeria

It is evident that the presidential election will be very fierce because in this case both candidates have approximately equal chances of ascending unto the seat of power. However, the difficult and unstable relationship between the two major parties is a big issue. The leaders of the presidential race are caused not so much by ideological differences as by the struggle for the seat of power. Difficult relationships also became a hindrance to the introduction of changes in the electoral legislation, which were designed to prevent fraud when using electronic cards for voting.

Also drawing your attention to the steps to be taken to vote in the election process in Nigeria 2019

1. A Nigerian citizen must go to the INEC website and find his polling station
2. You need to come to the selected polling station for registration
3. You will be photographed, and information about you is recorded
4. You will be given a card, which is the right to vote on election day

Accreditation of the Polling Station

1. Go to the polling station and join the queue
2. Make sure that your name is on the list and is assigned to the area in which you came
3. Leave your prints to get accredited.

Voting Day

1. Get a list of candidates
2. Got to a special booth and mark who you want to vote in the ballot
3. Put your ballot paper in the ballot box

The election campaign in Nigeria is on the final stages. And it remains only to expect transparent and fair elections, as well as an honest election campaign from each of the candidates. Of course, besides the two main leaders, dozens of other candidates will also try to get the maximum electoral support. We wish all the candidates well and Nigerians the best.

Record of Registered Voters and PVCS Collected

It is worth-while mentioning that a total number of registered votes and collected permanent voters lands are as follows: 84,004,084 and PVCs collected studs at 72,775,585 representing 86.3% of the total PVCs provided uncollected PVCs is 11,228,582 representing 13.7% (INEC 2019). A total number of 2,833,101 PVCs were collected in Rivers State as against the total number of registered voters of 3,215,273 in the state. Also, there are two major electoral bodies in Rivers State namely Rivers Independent Electoral Commission (RSIEC) and the independent National Electoral Commission (INEC). There are 23 local government areas, 319 electoral wards and 4,442 polling units, in the state.

Effects of Violence in Nigeria Electoral Process

Violence is the use of physical force so as to injure, abuse, damage or destroys. Violence have been a recurrent decimal in the Nigerian Electoral Process right from 1999, till present day, thousands of live list and properties worth billions of Naira destroyed. Amidst all that have happened in the just concluded presidential election were the incidence at Abonnema Community in Akuku-Toru Local Government Area and that of Ogu/Bolo Local Government Area all of Rivers State.

Among the two sisters LGAs, the Akuku-Toru LGA is most affected with scores of people dead, properties destroyed, inhabitants deserting their homes for safety, molestation and other atrocities (INEC, 2019).

However, the Ogu/Bolo Local Government Area of Rivers State was not as violent as the former. Hence, voting was not achieved in the former, while it was a remarkable success in the latter (INEC, 2019). In furtherance to the above, there was pronounced rigging, vote buying and selling, snatching of ballot boxes by security agencies, adoption of electoral officers and so on (INEC, 2019).

Education

Education is undoubtedly the bedrock of any nation's growth and development. It is to the nation what blood is to the human body and the woman to child-bearing. It is the promise of open, the mind-exposer to the challenges of life and promise of modern of age. In the view of Ihejirika (2007), a truly educated man or woman is indeed an asset to the society. Education according to Osokoya in Okoroma (2006) is a distinctive way in which the society inducts its young ones into full membership. Also, the federal Republic of Nigeria (FRN) (2008) defined education as the act or process of imparting or acquiring general knowledge, developing powers of reason and judgment and generally preparing oneself or others intellectually for mature life. In addition, it is the process of facilitating learning, or the acquisition of knowledge, skills, values, beliefs, and habits.

Sequel to the view of Oyebamiji and Adekola (2008), the community people have the issue of illiteracy which makes it impossible for them to keep accuracy records of events as they occur. In the same vein, ignorance is closely related to illiteracy which makes the grass root people unable to perceive and pursue good things of life within and around them this fact was also buttressed by Onyeosu (2007:33) while discussing problems of felt need opined that: 'Because of historically rooted fatalism, over-dependence on others, lack of self-confidence and loss of all opportunities to go to school earlier in their lives, many traditional rural people relax in ignorance and resort to total reliance on luck and magic for their welfare and that of their families and community'.

Based on all the above, Freire in Oyebamiji and Adekola (2008) was emphatic that, only constant education of the people can solve the problem of ignorance. This also has a direct bearing on the people coming out of poverty and not forgetting that, the Federal Office of Statistics (2004) pegs the average poverty level in Nigeria at 54.4%. According to the world Poverty Clock (2018), Nigeria ends 2018 with

90.8 million people living in extreme poverty constituting a staggering 46.4% of its estimated 195.6 million total population.

Adult Education

This as a branch in education is geared towards the sensitization of the people at every stage of their development which include political development, social development, economic development, cultural development, spiritual development, physiological development, psychological development, gerontology development and functional development.

However, some assumed this concept as education for the elderly members of the community who attend evening classes or people who desire to remedy an educational deficiency they may have suffered earlier on in their lives which lead to terminating of their academic pursuit. According to Amirize in Kobani and Alozie (2016), Adult education is pragmatic and functionally related to needs of individual and society, whether short-term or long-term. It is also change oriented in the area of felt-needs which it seeks to address. Hence, adult education is instilling in the individual the ability to get along with other people without behaving like a beast.

Kobani and Taylor (2017) sees adult education as a practice in which adults engage in systematic and sustained self-educating activities in order to gain new forms of knowledge, skills, attitudes or values. It can mean any form of learning adults engage in beyond traditional schooling, encompassing basic literacy to personal fulfillment as a life-long learner. Basically, adult education builds on specific philosophy about learning and teaching based on the assumption that adults can and wants to learn, that they are able and willing to take responsibility for that learning, and that the learning itself should respond to their needs.

Adult education, just like the concept adults has varied definitions for varied social settings (Ezimah, 2004). However, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), International conference in Nairobi, Kenya, (1976) as reported in Nzeneri (2010:10) and adopted the definition of adult-education Kobani and Alozie (2016) as:

The entire body of organized educational process, whether the content, level and method, formal or otherwise, whether they prolong or replace initial education in schools, colleges and universities as well as apprenticeship, whereby persons regarded as adults by the society to which they belong develop their abilities, enrich their knowledge, improve their technical or professional qualifications and bring about changes in their attitude or behaviour in the two fold perspective of full personal development and participation in balanced and independent social, economic and cultural development (p.74).

This definition is indeed comprehensive as it illuminates the meaning, content and scope of Adult education. Fasokun in Kobani and Taylor (2017) opined that, Adult education is not concerned with preparing people for life, but rather helping or enabling people (Adults) to live more successfully as useful, acceptable members of their societies and contribute meaningfully to the development of those societies.

Townsend-Coles in Kobani and Alozie in Kobani and Taylor (2017) sees Adult education as all forms of educative experiences needed by both men and women (Adults) according to their varying interests and requirements at their differing levels of comprehension, ability and in their changing roles and responsibilities throughout life. However Nzeneri (2008) added that, adult education is any education given to adults based on their social, political, cultural and economic needs or problems to enable them adjust to changes and challenges in their lives and society.

In the light of the above, Nyerere in the most recent mirrored adult education as a life-long activities that is relevant not only to development but to life and adjustment to it (development). This concept endows adults (males and females) with the requisite knowledge, attitude and skills to employ quickly to address day-to-day life challenges the adult experiences in his/her environment which also include: physical, social, economic, political and cultural setbacks. The beam of light called Adult Education should emphasize total involvement of the community at micro and macro levels without delay or exception. To this, Abdi, Ellis and Shizha (2005) carefully agreed that democratic culture can be achieved through

programmes such as social conscientization, teaching target population issues of civic responsibilities, teaching classes that expose target audience to their right as citizens of the community and country, programmes of political awareness regarding their role in development, citizenship education that educate about political processes, education that emphasizes the value of participation in democratic processes, education that teach acceptable political behaviour, programmes designed to boost democracy in the community, programmes designed to teach local values comparatively, programmes that emphasis gender equity, programme that encourage public discussion, education on rule of law, education on social and economic justices etc.

Objectives of the Study

The main purpose of this study is to access the Nigerian electoral process; its viability through Adult education programmes in Akuku-Toru and Ogu/Bolo local government areas in Rivers State. Specifically to:

1. determine the extent in which cultural education will aid hitch-free electoral process in Akuku-Toru and Ogu/Bolo local government areas in Rivers State.
2. determine the extent in which voter awareness will aid hitch-free electoral process in Akuku-Toru and Ogu/Bolo local government areas in Rivers State.
3. determine the extent in which civic education will curb electoral violence in Akuku-Toru and Ogu/Bolo local government areas in Rivers State.

Research Questions

The following research questions guided the study.

1. To what extent will cultural education aid electoral process in Akuku-Toru and Ogu/Bolo local government areas in Rivers State?
2. To what extent will voter awareness aid electoral process in Akuku-Toru and Ogu/Bolo local government areas in Rivers State?
3. To what extent will civic education curb electoral violence in Akuku-Toru and Ogu/Bolo local government areas in Rivers State?

Hypotheses

The following null hypotheses were tested at 0.05 level of significance guided the study:

HO1: There is no significant difference between the opinions of the respondents on the extent of cultural education aiding hitch-free electoral process in Akuku-Toru and Ogu/Bolo local government areas in Rivers State.

HO2: There is no significant difference between the opinions of the respondents on the extent of voter awareness aiding hitch-free electoral process in Akuku-Toru and Ogu/Bolo local government areas in Rivers State.

HO3: There is no significant difference between the opinions of the respondents on the extent of civic education will curbing electoral violence in Akuku-Toru and Ogu/Bolo local government areas in Rivers State.

METHODOLOGY

Descriptive survey design was used in the study. Population of the study was three hundred and thirty two thousand one hundred (Akuku-Toru 206,300 and Ogu/Bolo 105,800) (Census 2016).

Simple random sampling technique was used in choosing sample size of eight hundred and ninety (890) adults as generated through the Taro Yamen sample size determination formulae. The study areas were (Akuku-Toru and Ogu/Bolo Local Government Areas in Rivers State). Akuku-Toru Local Government Area was created on the 29th September, 1991 by the then Military Administration and under the leadership of Major general Ibrahim Badamasi Babangida. At creation, the pioneer chairman was Chf. (Hon.) David T. Briggs and other chairmen in succession such as Late Chf. (Hon.) Ngo Reuben, Briggs, Dr. (Mrs) Daba Boyle, Dr. (Hon.) T.W. Danagogo, Hon. Paul Awoye-Suku, Hon. Theodore Georgewill, Hon. Benebe George and many other caretakers and 17 (seventeen) political wards were created alongside. These political wards covers the following communities which are: Abonnema (headquarters),

comprising of wards 1-13; Obonoma (ward 14); Kula (ward 15 and 16), Abissa, Idama, Soku and Elem-Sangama (ward 17). The population of Akuku-Toru Local Government Area was 102,169 (census, 1991), however the population increased to 161,103 (census, 2006) and projected population for 2016, 226,300 (NPC, 2018). The said LGA is one of the foremost seaports in the then Eastern Nigeria during the colonial era. The present headquarters of the Akuku-Toru Local Government Area was host to many European companies and the Royal Nigeria Company which changed name to United African Company (UAC). Abonnema is located on an Island. The LGA comprises of other communities to mention but a few, Kula Kingdom, Soku, Idama and Elem-Sangama all endowed with natural resources such as oil and gas. The said LGA shares borders with Degema LGA, the Atlantic ocean, Asari-Toru LGA and Nembe LGA of Bayelsa state. The vast majority of the area's dwellers are members of the Kalabari ethnic division. The major languages spoken within Akuku-Toru include Kalabari and English languages while Christianity and traditional religion are the common practiced faiths. Popular festivals held in Akuku-Toru include the Kalabari Masquerade festival; social clubs such Minapu Ogbo of Abonnema, Ekine-Seki-apu OF Kula, the various age-grade groupings in all the communities.

Akuku-Toru Local Government Area has postal code of the area as 504 (NIPOST, 2009). The LGA also covers a total area of 4350Km squared with over 65 percent i.e, (2827.5km squared) of this area covered by water. The area has a humidity of 90 percent with average temperature at 25 degrees centigrade, the LGA has two main seasons the dry and rainy seasons with the rainy season characterized by frequent and heavy showers. The main occupation of the Akuku-Toru Local Government Area is fishing owing to the vast areas covered by water within the area.

The historical antecedents of this local government area shall be incomplete without mentioning the outstanding contributions and fame brought to this LGA. They include: Mr. A Igoni Barrett (first writer and freeborn of Abonnema); Miss Agbani Daerego (former Miss World from Jack's Compound, Abonnema), Late Chief (Dr) Nabo Graham Douglas (the first legal Icon and pace-setter of legal education in Abonnema) to mention just a few. Whereas, the Ogu/Bolo Local Government Area is also one out of the 23 Local Government Areas in Rivers State was created on the 1st of October, 1996 with Navy Captain (RTD) Erasmus Victor as the pioneer Chairman. They are Okrikans of the Ijaw ethnic nationality situated in the South-East Senatorial District of Rivers State. The Ogu Community is the administrative and traditional headquarters of the Ogu/Bolo Local Government Area. It is bounded by Onne (North), Bonny (South), Okrika (WALGA) in the East and Nonwa in the West. The people are predominately fishermen, little farming such as in plantain, cassava and cocoyam; they are also progressive traders. Politically, they have 12 Wards covering Ogu Community, Bolo Community, Wakama Community and all other sub-communities. The Local Government is rich in oil and gas in commercial quantity and endowed with human and material resources in every sphere of their development.

A self-developed questionnaire titled Nigeria Electoral Process: it's Viability true adult education programme questionnaire (NEPVAEPQ) was instrument used to gather data. The instrument was validated by test experts in the faculty of education Rivers State University. The reliability of the instrument was established using fifteen respondents outside the study area with same characteristics. Pearson product moment correlation co-efficient was to analyse their responses and the co-efficient of 0.71 was obtained. Mean scores were used to analyse the research questions while t-test was used to test the hypotheses at 0.05 level of significance. To further answer the research question very high extent (VHE) will be from 3.50 to 4.0, high extent (HE) will be from 2.50 to 3.49, low extent (LE) will be from 2.00 to 2.49 and very low extent (VLE) will be from 1.00 to 1.99

RESULTS

Research Question 1: *To what extent will cultural education aid electoral process in Akuku-Toru and Ogu/Bolo local government areas in Rivers State?*

Table 1: Main scores of respondents on the extent cultural education will aid hitch-free electoral process (n=890)

S/N	Items	VHE (4)	HE (3)	LE (2)	VLE (1)	Total Score	Mean Score	Decision
1.	The behaviour of the people in your area can bring about hitch-free electoral process.	800	80	8	2	3200	3.88	Accepted
2.	The valve of the people in your area will aid hitch-free electoral process.	700	100	80	9	2800	3.67	Accepted
3.	The attitude of the people in your area will aid hitch-free electoral process.	600	50	200	40	2400	3.35	Accepted
4.	The religion of the people in your area will aid hitch-free electoral process.	750	50	80	10	300	3.73	Accepted
5.	The way people around your area communicate will aid hitch-free electoral process.	800	60	20	10	3200	3.85	Accepted
Grand Mean							3.69	

From the data on table 1, having means of 3.88, 3.67, 3.35, 3.73 and 3.85 shows that most of the respondents agreed that the behaviour of the people will bring about a hitch-free electoral process. Also, majority of the people in their area have the right valve, majority of the people in their have the attitude that aids hitch-free electoral process. Majority of the respondents also affirmed that, religion and communication enhances hitch-free electoral process. Based on all the means above the criterion mean of 2.50 made all items to be accepted. In the same vain the grand mean of 3.69 indicates that, cultural education aided the 2019 electoral process to a large extent in Akuku-Toru and Ogu/Bolo local government area in Rivers State.

Research Questions 2: *To what extent will voter awareness aid electoral process in Akuku-Toru and Ogu/Bolo local government areas in Rivers State?*

Table 2: Mean scores of respondents on the extent voter awareness will aid hitch-free electoral process.

S/N	Items	VHE (4)	HE (3)	LE (2)	VLE (1) Score	Total Score	Mean	Decision
6.	Provision of electoral rules will aid hitch-free electoral process.	700 2800	100 300	70 140	20 20	3260	3.66	Accepted
7.	Ease of voting registration Will bring about hitch-free electoral process.	750 3000	75 225	50 100	15 15	3340	3.75	Accepted
8.	Provision of voting facilities will bring about hitch-free electoral process.	800 3200	50 150	30 60	10 10	3420	3.84	Accepted
9.	Radio jingles will bring about hitch –free electoral process in your area.	800 3200	50 150	30 60	10 10	3420	3.84	Accepted
10.	Television adverts bring about hitch-free electoral process in your area.	800 3200	50 150	30 60	10 10	3420	3.84	Accepted
Grand Mean							3.78	

On table 2, it shows that provision of electoral rules, ease of voting registration, provision of voting facilities, radio jingles and television adverts aided hitch-free electoral process with mean scores 3.66, 3.75, 3.84, 3.84, 3.84 and 3.84. All mean scores were accepted with grand mean of 3.78 which indicates that voter awareness to a very high extent aids hitch-free electoral process in Akuku-Toru and Ogu/Bolo local government area in Rivers State.

Research Questions 3: *To what extent will civic education curb electoral violence in Akuku-Toru and Ogu/Bolo local government area in Rivers State?*

Table 3: Mean scores of the extent Civic Education will curb electoral violence (n=890).

S/N	Items	VHE (4)	HE (3)	LE (2)	VLE (1)	Total Score	Mean Score	Decision
11.	The valves of the people in your area brings about electoral violence	800 3200	70 210	15 30	5 5	3445	3,87	Accepted
12.	The social norms of the people in your area will curb electoral violence.	650 2600	150 450	40 80	50 50	3180	3.57	Accepted
13.	The behaviour of the people in your area will curb electoral violence.	650 2600	150 450	40 80	50 50	3180	3.57	Accepted
14.	Knowledge and skills acquired will curb Electoral violence.	800 3200	70 210	15 30	5 5	3445	3.87	Accepted
15.	The attitude of the people in your area will curb electoral violence.	650 2600	150 450	40 80	50 50	3180	3.57	Accepted
Grand Mean							3.69	

From the data on table 3, vast majority of people in their area agreed that electoral violence can be curbed through the impartation of right valves, social norms, behaviour to the people in the area based on the mean scores of 3.87, 3.57, 3.57 and also acquisition of knowledge and skills including attitude of the people in their area with mean scores of 3.87 and 3.57 respectively. All items were accepted since their mean scores are greater than the criterion mean of 2.50. Also, the grand mean is 3.69 which indicated that civic education can curb electoral violence in Akuku-Toru and Ogu/Bolo local government area in Rivers State.

Hypotheses

H₀₁: There is no significant difference between the opinions of the respondents on the extent of cultural education aiding hitch-free electoral process in Akuku-Toru and Ogu/Bolo local government area in Rivers State.

Table 4: t-test analysis on significant different on the opinions of the respondents on the extent of cultural education aids hitch-free electoral process.

Status	of Respondents	\bar{X}	SD	DF	t-cal	t-crit	Decision
Akuku-Toru (Abomerna)	445	3.46	1.70	888	0.27	1.96	Accepted
Ogu/Bolo (Ogu)	445	3.40	1.65				

Result in table 4 reveals that the t-cal (0.27) is less than the t-crit (1.96). This implies that there is no significant difference on the opinions of respondents on the extent cultural education aids hitch-free electoral process in Akuku-Toru and Ogu/Bolo local government area in Rivers State.

H₀₂: There is no significant difference between the opinions of the respondents on the extent of voter awareness aiding hitch-free electoral process.

Table 5: t-test analysis on significant difference on the opinion of the respondents on the extent voter education aids hitch-free electoral process.

Status of Respondents	\bar{X}	SD	DF	t-cal	t-crit	Decision
Akuku-Toru (Abomerna)	445	3.80	2.01			
Ogu/Bolo(Ogu)	445	3.75	2.03	888	0.39	1.96
						Accepted

Result in table 5 indicates that the t-cal (0.39) is less than the t-crit (1.96). This means that there is no significant different on the opinions of respondents on the extent of voter awareness aid hitch-free electoral process in Akuku-Toru and Ogu/Bolo local government area in Rivers State.

Table 6: t-test analysis on significant difference on the opinion of the respondents on the extent of civic education curbing electoral violence process

Status of Respondents	\bar{X}	SD	DF	t-cal	t-crit	Decision
Akuku-Toru LGA (Abomerna)	445	3.58	2.79			
Ogu/Bolo	445	3.79	1.97	888	0.76	1.96
						Accepted

Result in table 6 shows that t-cal (1.76) is less than t-crit (1.96). This implies that there is no significant difference on the opinion of the respondents on the extent civic education aids the curbing of electoral violence in Akuku-Toru and Ogu/Bolo local government area in Rivers State.

DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

The result of the findings for research question one revealed that the culture of the people with regards to their behaviour, values attitude, religion, and the way they communicate would enable them to achieve a hitch-free electoral process in Akuku-Toru and Ogu/Bolo Local Government areas in Rivers State. This view agrees with Nyerere in Kobani and Alozie (2016) that Adult education as a life-long activity is relevant not only to the development but to life and adjustment to it. This concept endows adults (Males and Female) with the requested knowledge, attitude and skills to employ quickly to address life day-to-day life challenges. Also, results from table 4 reveals that there is significant difference on the opinions of the respondents as records the extent that cultural education would aid hitch free electoral process.

Reponses to research question two revealed that voter awareness with regards to provision of electoral rules, ease of voting registration, provision of voting facilities radio enable the people to achieve hitch-free electoral process in Akuku-Toru and Ogu/Bolo Local Government Areas in Rivers State. The above view corroborates with Frère in Kobani and Alozie (2016) as conscientization was mirrored as: the process of which man, not as a negative recipient but as a knowing subject reaches a deeper awareness both o the socio-cultural reality on which his life is built and of his ability to transfer, that reality. Also, results from table five shows that there is no significant difference on the opinions of the respondents as regards the extent voter awareness would aid hitch-free electoral process.

Responses to research, Question three further revealed that civic education with regards to values, social norms, behaviour, knowledge and skills and attitude would enable the curbing of electoral violence in Akuku-Toru and Ogu/Bolo Local Government Areas in Rivers State. This assertion is in line with Kobani and Alozie (2016) that, the catalytic power of civic education as it equips the recipient with the necessary information for confronting the norms of society. Also results from table six reveals that there is no significant difference on the opinions of the respondents as regards the extent civic education would curb electoral violence.

CONCLUSION

This paper has carefully and extensively examined on the title, Nigeria electoral process: its viability through adult education programmes. It is pertinent to understand that, a better and improves electoral process in Nigeria can only be achieved when the adults(Males and Females) are adequately informed through cultural voter and civic education that change them mere recipients to a sound creative think-tanks for positive change. Through this the electorates are liberated from an irrational thinking which achieve aided the poor ranking Nigeria electoral process to a more assuring process as electorates will now come into a realistic and conscious dialogue among themselves at all levels of our nation's development.

Owing to the above, electorates will now have a creative mind-set of been initiative, innovative and industrious towards doing what is when comes to the issue of electoral process and other spheres of life.

RECOMMENDATIONS

From the findings above the following recommendations are prescribed.

1. The National Orientation Agency (NOA) of all states and the 774 Local Government Areas of Nigeria should be reawakened without delay, ensuring realistic and conscious social mobilization programmes. This effort should not neglect the cultural peculiarities of the people.
2. All registered political parties should ensure a pragmatic and all-inclusive campaign process bases on their sound party ideologies. Also manifesto presentations which would enable the electorates to make conscious decisions, during and after the electoral processes.
3. All political parties should be called to order not flood the Nigerian electoral process with known and unknown things and men decorated in military attires in other not to carryout illegal activities in line with their pay-masters biddings.
4. Nigerian Government should as a matter of urgency make education available to all citizens at every stage of our development. Also, create Jobs in the country that would engage all workable citizens of the country. In addition to that make provision for conducive environment for investors.

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