YOUTH PARTICIPATION IN NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT IN NIGERIA: PROBLEM AND PROSPECTS

BY

DANIEL GIDEON

MATRIC NUMBER: 17012222023

COMBINATION: POL / SOS

A PROJECT SUBMITTED TO THE DEPARTMENT

OF POLITICAL SCIENCE,

SCHOOL OF ARTS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES,

TAI SOLARIN COLLEGE OF EDUCATION, OMU-IJEBU,

OGUN STATE, NIGERIA.

IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT FOR THE REQUIREMENT

OF NIGERIA CERTIFICATE IN EDUCATION (N.C.E)

AUGUST 2021

CERTIFICATION

This is to certify that this project work was written by **Daniel Gideon** with **Matriculation Number: 17012222023** under my supervision in the

Department of Political Science, School of Arts & Social Sciences, Tai Solarin College of Education, Omu-Ijebu.

_____   _____

Mr. Agoro, F.A   *Date*

Supervisor

DEDICATION

This project work is dedicated to Almighty God, who gave me the wisdom, the knowledge and inspiration to complete my academic programme.

I also dedicate this project to my loving parents Mr.& Mrs. Daniel.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I am very grateful to God Almighty for His protection, compassion and infinite mercy which enable me to start my academic pursuit in peace, and also end it in peace.

My profound gratitude and appreciation goes to Mr. Agoro, F.A (My Supervisor) for his able, intellectual role and assistance during the course of writing this project. Thank you Sir, and God bless you.

Moreso, my special thanks goes to Mr. Akinmeji and Dr. Okedele, for their moral and diligent support.

And also my sincere appreciation goes to my Mummy and Daddy, my guidance and my entire family.

My caring course mates and friends are not left out, their encouragement, advice, guidance and effort throughout my entire stay in school is worthy of appreciation.

Thank you all.

ABSTRACT

This research work examined youth participation in national development in Nigeria: problem and prospects. The challenge to Nigerian policymakers is how to harness young people's desire for change that has the potential to translate into positive outcomes; the consequences of not fully developing and harnessing youth's potential could be dire, including significant economic losses, armed conflict, and political and social and upheaval and instability as demonstrated recently by the Arab Spring. The main objective of this study is to examine youth participation in national development in Nigeria by examining the programme put in place by the government to mobilize youths for national development. A standard questionnaire with 15 items of 4 point modified likert scale was used to collect data for the study. The instrument was structured along a four rating scale. The researcher found out that youth are the engine room of every nation, the role of youths in nation building in recent times has generated serious discussions and clear-cut policy agenda which are necessary for the development, plan and policy action of any country. In summary, the present day youth are still trying their best in making sure that the effort of their heroes past is not in vain. It is important to state clearly that the civic role of every Nigerian youth in promoting nationalization should dwell on these five concepts; patriotism, reading culture, critical reasoning, skill acquisition and policy making. The following recommendations are discernibly based on the foregoing: youth should be given the opportunity to develop their capacities through balanced education and exposure. Government should create a stable global economic system that equitably benefits youth, both poor and rich.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Page

CHAPTER ONE

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY

The emerging global and regional consensus on youth development clearly underscores the need to ensure the inclusion of youth perspectives in the development process along with the effective participation of youth in national development practice. Over the years, there has been a gradual increase in global awareness about the vital role of young people in sustainable development. The United Nations, in 1985 drew the attention of the world to the important role of young people, by declaring that year. The International Youth Year for Development and Peace (Giwa, 2018).

The task of nation building has been argued to be historically contingent due to the fact that the process is inextricably tied to the formation, growth and demise of nations as well as factors that influence the process (Oghi&Ajayi, 2011). Nation building therefore, involves not only the implementation of political and economic policies that will improve the lives of the citizenry, but also a recognition of values and other aspects of the state that would act as a national catalyst to bind the people (Elaigwu, 2013). Culture, which is the totality of a people's way of life, is crucial to nation building because its non recognition could promote fissiparous tendencies among the citizenry.

The role of youths in nation building in recent times has generated serious discussions and clear-cut policy agenda which are necessary for the development, plan and policy action of any country. Unhunmwuangho

andOghator (2013) succinctly elucidated that current happenings appear that the majority of our youths are on not a good conduct. It is shocking to realize that the constructive attitudes of youths in traditional society of Nigeria had gone with the wind (Aghahowa, 2016).

Johnson (2018) viewed that role is the dynamic or behavioural aspect of status or a role is the manner in which an individual fulfills the obligations of status and enjoys its privileges. It is a part on which someone is given to participate on. Yakine (2018) said youth means young and aspiring person male or female ranging from the age of 18 to 35 years, that is the period of adolescence and early adulthood.Jacki (2011) viewed that nation is a large body of people united by common decent, culture, language, inhabiting a particular state, or tertiary. A nation could be seen as a group of people with the same language, culture and history, who live in a particular geographical boundary under one government.

Interestingly, governments at all levels of governance, parents, guardians and all the stakeholders in our youth developmental processes are finally waking up to the realities that the surprisingly negative attitudes of our youths can be traced to the fact that we have tens of millions of unemployed Nigerian youths, and million others living in abject poverty, having seen the four walls of universities.

The significant of youth participation in nation building is of apt relevance considering their vast majority in the world's population. According to Udensi,Daasi, Emah and Zukbee (2013), the numerical strength of the youth folk is an unlimited avenue to which the socio-economic development of any nation can strive and national development improved. Hence, f the youths are sidelined in the articulation of any nation building programme, experts have argued, that it will be impossible to reach the Millennium Development Goal

(MDG) targets, particularly on extreme poverty and hunger, child mortality, maternal health and environmental sustainability. With this knowledge, youths are better able to make choices that support the pursuit of educational goals and the development of skills necessary for national and local leadership positions. Ignoring maximum commitment and engagement of youth in national development today will have dire global consequences for decades. To better understand how to move the youth forward towards nation building, this paper examines the rationale for expanding the youth frontier for active participation in nation building.

There exist mixed feelings among researchers, countries, cultures and development exports including governments on the actual delimitation of who a youth is. Thus, this has generated controversies on a unified definition of youth. The difficulty to bring out a clear-cut definition for youth prompted Uhunmwuangho and Oghator (2013) to posit that:

The growing commitment to the involvement of the youth in global development process is a clear recognition of their potentials as change agents within the civil society. This awareness has attracted scholarly attention in an attempt to clarify and articulate a conceptual category for youth. In most literatures, scholars have often employed the criterion of age to define youth. However, sociological studies have shown that this criterion is fluid and therefore vary from one society to another.

The foregoing raises definitional issues and implications for the meaning of youth to include biological, sociological and cultural criterion. The presiding paragraph will carry out definitional x-ray on the issues and implications in his regard.

Youths, according to the dictionary, is seen as "the state or time of being young-young men and women" (Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary,

Current English, 2011). Hornby (2017) defined youth as the time of life when a person is young especially the time before a child becomes an adult. It is also used to mean the quality or state of being young. MacMillan English Dictionary (2017), adds that youth refers to the time in peoples life when they are young or looking young. Generally, the term youth refers to a time of life that is neither childhood nor adulthood.

The National Youth Policy (2010) in its position on the meaning of youth posited that the way in which a nation defines its youth is related to the object conditions and realities that exist on ground especially historical and contemporary socio-economic and political issues that need to be addressed".

1.2   STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

This study is concerned with the role of youth in national development in Nigeria. The condition of Nigerian youth still leaves a lot to be desired, more needs to be put in place by the government to empower and get them fully involved with the task of nation building and socio-economic development. The socio-economic and political environment in Nigeria poses a great challenge to the Youths. Economic and social statistics present a sober picture that leaves much to be desired. The challenge to Nigerian policymakers is how to harness young people's desire for change that has the potential to translate into positive outcomes. The consequences of nor fully developing and harnessing youth's potential could be dire, including significant economic losses, armed conflict, and political and social upheaval and instability-as demonstrated recently by the Arab Spring. Youths are more likely to become frustrated because of legitimate grievances, including a lack of employment opportunities, low educational attainment, little participation in decision making and low social mobility. In this volatile context, greedy and

opportunistic politicians could even exploit these grievances by involving these frustrated youths in violent overthrows of legitimate governments – creating massive instabilities that could limit the economic growth of Nigeria (Collier and Hoeffler 2014). It therefore become imperative to carry out a study that examines the participation of youths in national development in Nigeria; specifically focusing on the problems and prospects.

1.3   PURPOSE OF THE STUDY

The main objective of this study is to examine Youth Participation in National Development in Nigeria. Other objectives are;

1. To examine programme put in place by the government to mobilized youths for national development.
2. To examine if youth is part of the greatest assets any nation can be proud of.
3. To examine the impact of youth in the development of Nigeria.
4. To examine the area in which youth participate in building the society.

1.4   RESEARCH QUESTIONS

1. What are the programmes put in place by the government to mobilized youths for national development?
2. To what extent does youth be part of the greatest assets any nation can be proud of?
3. What are the impacts of youth in the development of Nigeria?
4. What are areas in which youth participate in building the society?

1.5   SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

The role of youth has continued to be a major concern by the government and other stakeholders who are unable to contribute to the development of the youth in nation building. Successive Nigerian government have initiated programmes and projects aimed at the youth, these range from in-social education programme for physical and mental development of our school programme aimed at shaping the character and behaviour of the youth, as well as promoting competitive spirit and national unity and integration include formation of clubs, encouragement of sporting activities, instilling organization such as boys courts, girls guide, and man O' war and include facilitation of the emergency and development of voluntary self-help association which contribute to community development, skills and vocational training programme, competitive activities and cultural festivals.

The following are the significance of this study:

1. The study will open doors for further studies into the participation of youths in national development.

2. It will serve as an academic material for all students.

3. To add to the avalanche of knowledge and scholarship.

4. It will also serve as yet another study that will proffer relevant suggestions and recommendations from the findings which will in turn improve Nigeria's electoral process.

1.6 SCOPE OF THE STUDY

The scope of the study is limited to the entire student in Tai Solarin College of Education, Omu-Ijebu, Ogun State.

1.7 DEFINITIONS OF TERMS

Youth: A young person (especially a young man or boy), the time of life between childhood and maturity.

Nations: A politically organized body of people under a single government, the people who live in a nation or country.

Development: A process in which something passes by degrees to a different stage (especially a more advanced or mature stage).

CHAPTER TWO

2.0   LITERATURE REVIEW

Youth are one of the greatest assets any nation can be proud of not only are they legitimately regarded as the future leaders, young women and men are potentially and actually the vital resources worth of investment by a country as well as the valued possession for national development. As critical stakeholders, they are the center of reconstruction and sustainable development of any nation.

In the world today, youth are estimated to be over one billion (World Youth Report, 2017). In Nigeria with a population of over 140 million (NPC, 2016), the youth are estimated to be over 1/3 of the population (NYP, 2018). The youth are both demographically significant, and an essential and dynamic part of the world's human resources. They make tremendous contributions to society at all levels as actors, players, partners and strategic catalysts for development. Yet, in spite of their valuable inputs to human development, youth contributions for development process have for centuries remained unacknowledged by societies that favor adult aged person. People have been so distrustful of the youths' capability that they doubted if civilization could continue. A formidable barrier has been created, which young people must

surmount if they are to take on their responsibilities and work in partnership with adults to contribute meaningfully to national development and improve a world that is also theirs.

Youth have been making enormous contributions to the improvement of life on the planet. There is hardly any function, be it social, cultural or economic, where youth have not played part: from leaders of crusades to national presidents, from prolific writers to media pundits. Yet the acknowledgement of their contributions to human and societal development has not been fully appreciated. Their contributions were not also proportionate to their demographic weight as youth have remained mostly excluded from society's important and critical socioeconomic decisions. There are also instances where youth are exploited through their labor and courage in militant and insurgent groups and as instruments of political struggle though they end up being the least beneficiaries. Thus, one can fairly say that attempts by youth and youthhl groups at participating in national development have been greater by barriers that come in varied forms and styles.

On the political dimension, youth have become victims of their own cynicism about politics in spite of the fact that politics is the terrain of participation where most influential decisions are made. This cynicism has also had its roots partly in the lack of youth-friendly structures and methods of work. Existing political and organizational settings are mostly replete with a culture of patronage and change resistance.

On the economic front, poverty, underemployment and unemployment have barred young people from committing their fresh energy and intellect to their own good as well as that of the society. The problem of unemployment and underemployment is compounded by the lack of access to affordable, functional and qualitative education and training that is oriented to local and

global employment markets. According to a study, "youth unemployment affects youth from low-income backgrounds and those with limited education". Chigunta, (2012:2).

Additionally, youth are plagued by problems of attitude that can be attributed to the gerontocracy and conservative adults and their patronizing sentiments as well as their own mind-set about adults and old people. There are cultural norms that still favourhierarchical relationships between the old and the young. The problem of attitude of adults towards youth has extended into the realm of government operations. Most governments have not only failed to provide constructive outlets such as recreational facilities for youth, but also have proclaimed laws that keep youth from streets which constitute an important sphere of youth social participation and integration and have even taken repressive measures to the effect of labeling the youth with derogatory names.

Democratic societies are built by opening opportunities and creating structures to involve all segments of society in matters that affect them. Youth, whatever age definition one uses, constitute a demographic majority of the population that cannot and should not be left out from taking part in society's affairs. Realizing meaningful youth participation in intergenerational structures for debating and taking action on national development is a challenging enterprise that requires profound changes in how societies think about their youth. These changes need to be reflected in new language, in new structures and norms and in appropriate funding that welcome youth voices in the development of relevant policies and actions.

Youth people's contributions to their communities and nations are not entirely understood or maximized. Youth are making a difference as activists, as leaders in community development, and by their record levels of

volunteerism. UNICEF (2017). Between January 2012 and December 2016, 414,655 youth corps members benefited from a training on reproductive health and HIV prevention funded by UNICEF and CIDA. Within the same period, 22,195 volunteer corps members have been trained as peer education trainers. They were developed to 10,612 secondary schools nation-wide to train and mentored over 600,000 peer educators who in turn reached out to millions of adolescents and young people.

In many parts of the world, they may be perceived as apathetic or disengaged, but this is largely inaccurate. Youth have repeatedly demonstrated willingness and an ability to contribute to the national development process from identification of issues to implementation and monitoring.

Without the guidance, understanding, support, and recognition of government leaders, and other decision-makers, young people are often unequipped for full participation in the decisions that are affecting their lives. As motivated and inspired citizens, young people are agents of change with the potential for taking a leading role in tackling national development challenges for themselves, their families and the larger society.

2.1   VARIOUS DEFINITIONS OF YOUTH

The way by which a nation defines its youth is related to the objective conditions and realities that exist on the ground especially historical and contemporary socio-economic and political issues that need to be addressed. Most national youth policies attempt to define 'young peoples in order to determine the main beneficiaries of policy interventions. Defining 'youth', however, is not a simple task since there is no international consensus on what the term implies or a clear-cut indicator such as a intervals to define it. Who is designated a 'youth' in every country will depend on a variety of factors

(Cultural & Political). Flexibility of interpretation is essential in overcoming the difficulties of age definition. It is equally significant to acknowledge that young people may not be seen as a single demographic unit, but must be considered as a broad category encompassing many specific subgroups, which might require specifically targeted policies.

According to Tsegaye, (2016) recently, academics attempt to conceptualize and define youth as a special group that makes diverse socioeconomic contributions. Yet, some among these recent texts have portrayed youth as deviants, criminals or simply ill-informed. One of them portrays them as irresponsible and subject to caprice. Mudaly, (2019) goes further, dismissing the idea that youth are a homogenous group and arguing that the concept is flawed because it infers there are more similarities than differences between young people. The concept of youth homogeneity ignores the diversity of their experiences, levels of maturity, gender sexuality, abilities, cultural and linguistic backgrounds. Further, the concept overlooks the role relationships between groups of young people, and geographical location, institutions, economics and politics play in forming identity. Youth is therefore more accurately defined as a relational stage, where young people develop into unique individuals (Wyn& White, 2017). Kenway, (2013) moves the conceptual discourse forward, arguing that "young is a fluidity that transcends demarcation." Kenway further argues that there are instances in any adult life where behavior or attitudes could be construed as 'childish' and, in the same way, young people can display remarkably adult actions or perceptions.

Many countries see youth as ending at the age when a person is given equal treatment under the law-often referred to as the 'voting age'. In many countries this happens when the young person is 18 years old. After this age, the young person is considered adult. In spite of the disparity in these views it

is generally agreed that youth is the period that marks the physical, psychological and social transition into adulthood. Based on this characterization, many government policies consider youth to include people 13 to 25 years old (Wyn and White, 2017).

The Pan-African Youth Charter (2016) defines youth or young people as "every human being between the ages of 15 and 30 years". The Charter, however, makes this qualification: "considering the transitional nature of youth that is influenced by social, economic, political, cultural and others factors, this definition does not exclude youth or young people below and above the specified age-range who may be engaged in this transition".

The United Nations General Assembly first defined youth as people between the ages of 15 and 24 in 1985 for the International Youth Year (UNIDESA, 2014). In 2015, when the General Assembly adopted the World Programme of Action for Youth to the year 2010 and beyond, it again defined youth as people aged 15-24 years-old, but acknowledged that the age range included in the term varies among different countries and societies (UNDESA, 2014). In Nigeria for the purpose of executing the National Youth Policy, the youth is defined as comprising all young persons between the age of 18 and 35 who are citizens of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (NYP, 2011, 2018).

Traditionally, the transition from youth to adulthood was marked by indicators including marriage, beginning a job, leaving home, and becoming a parent as well as the successful participation in rites of passage. However, according to Sercombe et al (2012), being perceived as an adult may no longer be important to many young people. They may now seek to define their graduation into adulthood by engaging in adult behaviors.

Exploring the concept of youth in a 21st century context has led some authors to believe that many of the routes into adulthood that were previously

open to young people are no longer available because of social and economic changes. This leads to the period of their dependency being extended. The age of transition from youth to adulthood will thus increase as young people's capacity to achieve adult status by carrying out certain tasks or reaching goals decreases (Sigudhla, 2014).

These conflicting definitions prompted asking the following questions: Can we define what is meant by youth? Do we mean the same thing every time we use the term?

2.2   NATION BUILDING

However, Irele (2018) defined nation building as "the process whereby people transfer their commitment and loyalty from smaller tribes, villages, or pretty principality to the larger central political system". Nation building can also be defined as a process of bringing diverse groups together to develop their common land.

This process as Eme and Onyishi (2014) noted aims at the unification of the people within the state so that it remains politically stable and viable in the long run. Nation-building can involve the use of propaganda or major infrastructure development to foster social harmony and economic growth. It is also the development of behaviours, values, language, institutions, and physical structures that elucidate history and culture, concretize and protect the present, and insure the future identity and independence of a nation. For the purpose of this presentation, nation-building is viewed as purposeful interventions in the affairs of a nation-state for the purpose of changing the state's method of governance. It includes deliberate efforts to promote institutions which will provide for a people's enhanced economic well-being and social equity.

2.3   THE SITUATION OF YOUTHS IN NIGERIA

Nation building is a dynamic process involving all segments of the locality, including the often-overlooked and undermined youth population. Youths represent a vast and often untapped resource for immediate and long-term community development efforts. They also provide an invaluable resource for the progress of any society as well as its development. As youth are brought into and connected with national issues and programmes (they have often times been ignored/excluded), they can participate actively and contribute to decision-making at multiple levels. As youths are engaged in more sustained positive relationships with adults, other youths, and national development programmes, apart from realizing that they are valued citizens of their nations, such collaborations and participation may lead to skill enhancement, empowerments and confidence-building traits, which will help prepare them for active interest and involvement in nation building (even in future).

The total population of those between the ages of 15 and 34 was about 30 million in 1991, equivalent to one of every three Nigerians. It was projected that by the year 2010, the total population of this category of young persons would be about 38 million (National Youth Policy, 2011). In 2016, a nation-wide population and housing census was conducted to update the records. It indicated that the youth profile in the Nigerian population has tremendously improved to 53 million (NPC, 2016). Apart from the issue of numerical strength, global trend is towards emphasizing the primacy of youth in the developmental process, with deliberate efforts by national governments to create conditions that will encourage youth to utilize their energies and resourcefulness for growth and sustainable development of their nations.

However, the prevailing condition is much of the developing nations, especially Nigeria, have seriously extenuated the potentials of the youth as agents of social change. These challenges range from the economic and social to the cultural. The treacherous triangle of poverty, illiteracy and unemployment in which the bulk of Nigerian youths are currently trapped, has severely challenged their sensibility and has in the long run given rise to what sociologists term attitudes of fatalism, resignation and acceptance of the situation (Haralambos, 2011). The persistence of these social problems has created an environment where youth are cheaply available for manipulation by self-seeking politicians. Poverty, illiteracy and unemployment are interrelated conditions that generate human needs and therefore constitute a state of deprivation.

As the youth continue to remain in this state, there are pent-up emotions and untapped energies. They provide cheap labour to execute the design of political gladiators and ethnic champions. In an apparent indictment of Nigerian politicians, Togbolo observed: "they take advantage of the poverty-stricken nature of the country to exploit the people; politicians are fond of using the youth restive nature as a political strategy to have their way" (Togbolo, 2016).

2.4 THE IMPORTANCE OF INVOLVING YOUTHS IN NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

According to (Gribble, 2014) more than half of world's population is under the age of 25 (between ages 15 and 24) are in greatest need of empowerment, those who are younger will quickly come of age and share these same needs. This segment of the population (15 to 24) is expected to continue growing faster than other segments for at least 20 more years

(Gribble, 2010). With the swelling wave of young people, access, empowerment and their engagement in nation building becomes critical if they are to contribute effectively.

Uhunmwuangho and Oghator (2013) suggested two (2) major motivations which have brought the converge of youth (young persons) into the policy agenda of national governments, thus, fascinate and prioritized youth inclusion to the building process of any nation. According to them, the first is the global process of democratization, beginning in southern Europe, extending to Lation America, Asia and Africa, and more recently to Eastern Europe (Almond, 2014). The second is the phenomenon of globalization that has seriously challenged the capacity of nation-state to govern and which according to Heady, et al, embodied a transformation of the spatial organization of social relations and transaction (Headym2016). The combined effects of these global trends has confronted and dismantled authoritarian regimes in a decisive way, and at the same time rekindled the spirit of civil society in the political process (Sulelman,2016). The young as an important component

CHAPTER THREE

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.0   INTRODUCTION

This chapter deals with the methods and techniques used in the research work. The methods and techniques will be discussed under the following sub-headings.

3.1   RESEARCH DESIGN

The method adopted by the researchers in the execution of the study was the descriptive survey research design.

3.2   RESEARCH POPULATION

The population of this research work include all the five (5) school in Tai Solarin College of Education, Omu-Ijebu.

S/N	SCHOOL	NO.
1.	School of Vocational and Technical Education	250
2.	School of Sciences	100
3.	School Arts and Social Sciences	200
4.	School of Languages	120
5.	School of Education	80
	Total	**750**

3.3   SAMPLING AND SAMPLING TECHNIQUES

The researcher used purposive sampling to select twenty (20) students from each school making a sample of hundred (100) students. However, the five schools used was selected by the use of table random numbers.

S/N	SCHOOL	NO.
1.	School of Vocational and Technical Education	20
2.	School of Sciences	20
3.	School Arts and Social Sciences	20
4.	School of Languages	20
5.	School of Education	20

3.4   INSTRUMENT FOR DATA COLLECTION

A standard questionnaire with 15 items of 4 point modified likerty scale was used to collect data for the study. Thus, the instrument is structured along a four rating scale. The respondents are to tick as appropriate from the rating scale. Strongly Agree (SA), Agree (A), Disagree (D), Strongly Disagree (SD). The questionnaire consists of two (2) sections.

SECTION A

Deals with the biographical data of the respondent.

SECTION B

Deals with fifteen (15) items designed to be rated by the respondents.

3.5   VALIDITY OF THE INSTRUMENT

The items that will make up the questionnaire is constructed by the researcher and validated by the lecturer supervising the project work.

3.6   RELIABILITY OF THE INSTRUMENT

Test-retest reliability method will be used to ascertain the reliability of the instrument. The questionnaires will be administered in the selected schools.

3.7   ADMINISTRATION AND COLLECTION OF DATA INSTRUMENT

The researcher visited the category of people involved and pleads for their co-operation for the administration of data, the instrument is administered personally to respondents and the collection was done on the spot to prevent delay and to reduce loss and stress.

3.8   METHOD OF DATA ANALYSIS

The data collected was analyzed through the use of simple frequency table and percentage scopes.

CHAPTER FOUR

4.1 INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents the data collected from respondent the analysis of the data collected, as well as discussion of findings emerging from the study. The data analysis is based on responses to the questionnaire items. However, each of the items is discussed independently.

4.2 DATA ANALYSIS

Research Question 1: Youth Participation is Crucial to National Development

The table below shows the analysis

Responses	Percentage	Responses	Percentage	Remark
SA = 50	90	SD = 6	10	A
A = 40		D = 4		
Total 90		**Total 10**		

Table 1: From the above table, the percentage of the SA and A is 90% while D and SD is 10%. Therefore it can be deduced that the roles of the youth have an advantage in the nation development.

Research Question 2: The youth are fully involved in national development in Nigeria.

Table 2

Responses	Percentage	Responses	Percentage	Remark
SA = 32	55	SD = 35	45	A
A = 23		D = 10		
Total 55		**Total 45**		

Table 2: From the above table, the percentage of the SA and A is 55% while D and SD is 45%. Therefore it can be deduced that the youths are fully involved in nation development in Nigeria.

Research Question 3: Youth Participation has positive impact on National Development in Nigeria.

Table 3

Responses	Percentage	Responses	Percentage	Remark
SA = 32		SD = 20		
A = 39	71	D = 9	29	A
Total 71		**Total 29**		

Table 3: From the above table, the percentage of the SA and A is 71% while D and SD is 29%. Therefore it can be deduced that youth constitute Nigerians the hope for a greater nation.

Research Question 4: Youth benefit in participation in national development in Nigeria.

Table 4

Responses	Percentage	Responses	Percentage	Remark
SA = 45		SD = 20		
A = 18	63	D = 7	37	A
Total 63		**Total 27**		

Table 4: From the above table, the percentage of the SA and A is 63% while D and SD is 37%. Therefore it can be deduced that the youths benefit in participation in National development.

Research Question 5: Youth Participation is important for National development in Nigeria.

Table 5

Responses	Percentage	Responses	Percentage	Remark
SA = 55		SD = 3		
A = 35	90	D = 7	10	A
Total 90		**Total 10**		

Table 5: From the above table, the percentage of the SA and A is 90% while D and SD is 10%. Therefore it can be deduced that youth participation is important for National development in Nigeria for easy development of the country.

Research Question 6: Youth Participation in politics will promote political stability in Nigeria.

Table 6

Responses	Percentage	Responses	Percentage	Remark
SA = 70		SD = 0		
A = 30	100	D = 0	0	A
Total 100		**Total 0**		

Table 6: From the above table, the percentage of the SA and A is 90% while D and SD is 0%. Therefore it can be deduced that youth participation in politics

will promote political stability in Nigeria because youth possess the largest population in the country and they also stand as the leaders of tomorrow.

Research Question 7: Youth Participation in nation building will promote unity among Nigerians.

Table 7

Responses	Percentage	Responses	Percentage	Remark
SA = 28	50	SD = 18	50	A
A = 22		D = 32		
Total 50		**Total 50**		

Table 7: From the above table, the percentage of the SA and A is 50% while D and SD is 50%. Therefore it can be deduced that youth participation in nation building have a balance equation to promote unity among Nigerians.

Research Question 8: Youth represent a vast and often untapped resource for immediate and long term National Development.

Table 8

Responses	Percentage	Responses	Percentage	Remark
SA = 48	60	SD = 16	40	A
A = 14		D = 24		
Total 60		**Total 40**		

Table 8: From the above table, the percentage of the SA and A is 60% while D and SD is 40%. Therefore it can be deduced that youth represent a vast and often untapped resource for immediate and long term National development because they stand as the future of every country.

Research Question 9: Youth participation contributes to decision making at multiples levels.

Table 9

Responses	Percentage	Responses	Percentage	Remark
SA = 67		SD = 12		
A = 21	88	D = 0	12	A
Total 88		**Total 12**		

Table 9: From the above table, the percentage of the SA and A is 88% while D and SD is 12%. Therefore it can be deduced that youth participation largely contributes to decision making at multiples levels which encourage different sectors to see the future and to also follow the trend.

Research Question 10: Unemployment is a problem of youth participation in National development in Nigeria.

Table 10

Responses	Percentage	Responses	Percentage	Remark
SA = 10		SD = 55		
A = 5	15	D = 30	85	A
Total 15		**Total 85**		

Table 10: From the above table, the percentage of the SA and A is 15% while D and SD is 85%. Therefore it can be deduced that unemployment is not a problem of youth participation in National development in Nigeria because every youths need to see beyond gaining employment and think of being self employed by improving the economy of the country.

Research Question 11: High rate of illiteracy affects youth participation in National development in Nigeria.

Table 11

Responses	Percentage	Responses	Percentage	Remark
SA = 48		SD = 24		
A = 18	66	D = 10	34	A
Total 66		**Total 34**		

Table 11: From the above table, the percentage of the SA and A is 66% while D and SD is 34%. Therefore it can be deduced that the high rate of illiteracy affects youth participation in National development in Nigeria because this does not encourage most of the youth that are not literate to showcase themselves by participating in the most lucrative business in the world which can actually affect the economy of a nations positively.

Research Question 12: Economic empowerment promotes youth participation in National development in Nigeria.

Table 12

Responses	Percentage	Responses	Percentage	Remark
SA = 19		SD = 10		

A = 14	33	D = 57	67	A
Total 33		**Total 67**		

Table 12: From the above table, the percentage of the SA and A is 33% while D and SD is 67%. Therefore it can be deduced that economic empowerment will promotes youth participation in National development in Nigeria which can make the youth be creative enough by providing jobs even for others.

Research Question 13: Provision of qualitative education to Nigerians youth will enhance National development.

Table 13

Responses	Percentage	Responses	Percentage	Remark
SA = 27		SD = 16		
A = 48	75	D = 9	25	A
Total 75		**Total 25**		

Table 13: From the above table, the percentage of the SA and A is 75% while D and SD is 25%. Therefore it can be deduced that provision of qualitative education to Nigerians youth will enhance National development which will open them up to innovation andcreativeness.

Research Question 14: Employment opportunities for the youth will promote National development in Nigeria.

Responses	Percentage	Responses	Percentage	Remark
SA = 27		SD = 22		
A = 40	67	D = 11	33	A

Total 67		**Total 33**		

Table 14: From the above table, the percentage of the SA and A is 67% while D and SD is 33%. Therefore it can be deduced that creating of employment opportunities for the youth will promote National development in Nigeria.

Research Question 15: The involvement of youth politics will promote National development in Nigeria.

Table 15

Responses	Percentage	Responses	Percentage	Remark
SA = 30	71	SD = 20	29	A
A = 41		D = 9		
Total 71		**Total 29**		

Table 15: From the above table, the percentage of the SA and A is 71% while D and SD is 29%. Therefore it can be deduced that involvement of youth politics will promote National development in Nigeria because the youth are aspiring for a better position since the bill has been passed in the house of assembly.

5.0 CONCLUSION, SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 SUMMARY

The National Youths Policy recognizes that the youths are a key resource that can be tapped for the benefit of the whole country. Thus, the policyendeavours to address issue affecting young people by including broad-based strategies that would provide the youth meaningful opportunities to realize their potential. The policy provides a broad framework within which all stakeholders, including the private and civil society, will contribute to youth development. An implementation mechanism is inbuilt in the policy. This policy is prepared within the context of existing sectorial policies, national development plans, international policies and charters to which Kenya is a signatory; as central to the holistic integration and inclusion of the youths in Kenya's development. Cognizance is given to the Charter of United Nations, the Commonwealth Youths Charter, Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the United Nations World Programme for the Youths to the year 2010 and beyond (UNESCO, 2016).

National development in most of the cases depends a lot on the population of the country and the current generation also. National development is a product of the collective effort of the people of the country more than the effort of the government. The work is done by people and the advancement happens because of the working class and thus, the responsibility of the national development falls on the shoulders of the citizens of the country. Youth are the engine room of every nation. The similitude of the importance of youth to nation building could be likened to a car engine, without which, vehicles can't move, so also without youth, a nation cannot thrive. The role of the youth in nation building is too relevant to be jettisoned—

they serve as the back-bone of a society.They can make or mar a nation based on what is programmed in them. They are a feedback system because if they are well equipped and garnished with the best available resources, they give a positive outcome, but, if otherwise, negative outcome should be expected.Nigerian youth are surely among the most talented and creative youths in the world.they are fast learners; they have the ability to work under pressure and bring out desired result for any organization or institution. The role of Nigerian youth cannot be underestimated in nation building. Nigerian youths from time immemorial have been contributing their quota towards national development.

5.2   CONCLUSION OF THE STUDY

The role of youths in nation building in recent times has generated serious discussions and clear-cut policy agenda which are necessary for the development, plan and policy action of any country. Uhunmwuangho and Oghator (2013) succiently elucidated that current happenings appear that the majority of our youths are on not a good conduct. It is shocking to realize that the constructive attitudes of youths in traditional society of Nigeria had gone with the wind (Aghahowa, 2016). Young people's contributions to their communities and nations are not entirely understood or maximized. Youth are making a difference as activists, as leaders in community development, and by their record levels of volunteerism. UNICEF (2017). Between January 2002 and December 2006, 414,655 youth corps members benefited from a training on reproductive health and HIV prevention funded by UNICEF and CIDA. Within the same period, 22,195 volunteer corps members have been trained as peer education trainers.They were deployed to 10,612 secondary schools nation-wide to train and mentioned over 600,000 per educators who in turn reached

out to millions of adolescents and young people. The likes of Sir TafawaBalewa, Sir Ahmadu Bello, Chief ObafemiAwolowo. Dr. NnamdiAzikwe and Herbert Macaulay fought tooth and nail in their youthful days to deliver the political independence we all enjoy today as a nation. It is only an insane man that will say Nigerian youths are not productive because there is practically no aspect of nature, physical or anthropological, material or human, complex diversity or undefined homogeneity, regional, international, academic or sport, Nigeria cannot boast of, even in religion or ethnicity. Name any field of learning you would not see a Nigerian youth renowned locally or internationally. Mention any aspect of living, good or bad, a Nigerian youth will not be actively and not passively recognized. There is nowhere in the world one would not see a Nigerian youth with the buzzing I-can-do spirit; in fact they drive the wheel of several countries in the world.

In the same vein, it is paramount to state that most of the monuments we celebrate in this nation today were put in place by the then military regime led by young productive minds and they still remain ever green in our hearts. The present day youth are still trying their best n making sure that the effort of their heroes past is not in vain. It is important to state clearly that the civic role of every Nigerian youth in promotion nationalization should dwell on these five concepts; patriotism, reading culture, critical reasoning, skill acquisition and policy making.

5.3   RECOMMENDATIONS

The following recommendations are discernibly based n the foregoing:

a.   Youth should be given the opportunity to develop their capacities through balanced education and exposure.

b.   Youths should be made relevant and involved in leadership at different levels of government.

c.   Government should create a stable global economic system that equitably benefits youth, both poor and rich.

d.   Government should promote political stability based on participation and human rights.

e.   Government should moderate population growth.

REFERENCES

Bishop, P. and Davis, G., (2003). Mapping Public Participation in Policy Choices. Consultation

  Workshop Paper. Brisbane: School of Politics and Public Policy, Griffith University.

Checkoway, B., (1992). Adults as Allies. Michigan: School of Social Work, The University of

  Michigan.

Chigunta, F. (2002). "The Socioeconomic Situation of Youth in Africa: Problems, Prospects and

  Options," Paper presented at the Youth Employment Summit in Alexandria, Egypt.

  Childhood Poverty Research Centre, (2004). Promoting Disadvantaged

  Young People's Employment –

Cohen, D. (2005). Poverty and HIV/AIDS in Sub-Saharan Africa, Issue paper No 27

Curtain, R., (2004). "Youth in Extreme Poverty: Dimensions and Country Responses," in World

  Youth

Hart, R., 1992. "Children's Participation: From Tokenism to Citizenship." Innocenti Essays. .

  Florence:

ILO, (2001). Young People in Today's World. Geneva: International Labour Organization.

ILO, (2004). Global Employment Trends for Youth 2004. Geneva: International Labour

  Organization.

Report 2003 [online]. New York: United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs.

Available from: www.un.org/esa/socdev/unyin/wyr03.htm. P. 4.

Kemmis, S. and Wilkinson, M., (1998). "Participatory Action Research and the Study of

Practice," in

Atweh, B., Kemmis, S. and Weeks, P. (eds), Action Research in Practice: Partnerships for

Social Justice in Education. London: Routledge. Pp.21-36.

Kenway, J., (1993). Reinventing Youth in the National Interest. Paper presented at Rethinking

Policies for Young People: Towards a National Perspective, April 14-16, 1993. Melbourne: Youth Research Centre, University of Melbourne. Pp.10

Kester, C., (2002). Youth Participation in Federal Sustainability Decision: Establishing a Youth

Council on Sustainability. Washington.

Kyriakou D., (2004). Council of Europe Conference - The Future of Democracy in Europe.17-19

Highlights from speech at Plenary Session. November, 2004. Barcelona.

McCreary Centre Society, (2002). Why is Youth Participation Important? Vancouver: The

McCreary Centre Society.

Moore, K., (2005). Thinking About Youth Poverty Through the Lenses of Chronic Poverty, Life-

Course Poverty and Intergenerational Poverty. Chronic Poverty Research Centre Working Paper 57.

Mudaly, B., (1999). "Building Capacity in Culturally Diverse Communities to Enhance

    Resilience in Young People and their Families." Youth Studies Australia. 1

    (4). Pp. 40-48. New Nigerian , August, 12th 2001.

NPC, (2006). National Population Commission, 2006 Population Census Provisional Report,

    Abuja.

NYP, (2001). National Youth Policy of Nigeria, Abuja.

NYP, (2008). Draft Review, National Youth Policy of Nigeria, Abuja.

Rajani, R., (2001). The Participation of Adolescents: A Strategic Approach. New York:

    UNICEF.

Sercombe, H, Omaji, P, Drew, N, Cooper, T and Love, T., (2002). Youth and the Future:

    Effective Youth Services for the Year 2015. A Report to the National

    Youth Affairs Scheme. Hobart, Tasmania: National Youth Affairs Scheme.

Sigudhla, M.A., 2004. "Expanding the World of Possibility for Young People." On the Occasion

    of ADF IV Symposium on Youth and Governance Symposium, October

    11-15, 2004, Economic Commission for Africa, Addis Ababa.

Tsegaye, S, (2006). Youth Participation: Concepts, Models and Experience. UNPF Publication,

    NY. 23

UNDESA, (2004). World Youth Report 2003 [online]. United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs. Available from: www.un.org/esa/socdev/unyin/wyr03.htm

UNICEF, (2007). Information Sheet on HIV and AIDS in Nigeria

QUESTIONNAIRE

Dear Respondent,

This questionnaire is to collect data on **Youth Participation in National Development in Nigeria Problem and Prospects.** Please complete this questionnaire correctly with the right information given out and it should be treated and done well. Kindly tick (√) the appropriate box.

SECTION A

Gender: Male ( ) Female ( )

Age: 18-20yrs ( ) 20-25yrs ( ) 25-30yrs ( )

30-Above ( )

Schools: VOTED ( ) Sciences ( )

Arts & Social Science ( ) Education ( )

Languages ( )

SECTION B

S/N	QUESTIONS	SA	A	SD	D
1.	Youth participation is crucial to national development.				
2.	The youth are fully involved in national development in Nigeria.				
3.	Youth participation has positive impact on national development in Nigeria.				
4.	Youth benefit in participation in national development in Nigeria.				

5.	Youth participation is important for national development in Nigeria.				
6.	Youth participation in politics will promote political stability in Nigeria.				
7.	Youth participation in nation building will promote unity among Nigerians.				
8.	Youth represent a vast and often untapped resource for immediate and long term National development in Nigeria.				
9.	Youth participation contributes to decision making at multiple levels.				
10.	Unemployment is a problem of youth participation in national development in Nigeria.				
11.	High rate of illiteracy affects youth participation in national development in Nigeria.				
12.	Economic empowerment promotes youth participation in national development in Nigeria.				
13.	Provision of qualitative education to Nigerian youth will enhance national development.				
14.	Employment opportunities for the youth will promote national development in Nigeria.				
15.	The involvement of youth politics will promote national development in Nigeria.				