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Impact of Poverty on Political Choices in the 2019 Nigeria General Election

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Abstract

The study was carried out to evaluate the impact of poverty on political choices. A study of 2019 general election. The specific objectives were to: The specific objectives are to: examine the extent 2019 general election on political choices have improved liberty in Nigeria, investigate the effect of 2019 general election on political choices have improved social and economic conditions of the people. The quantitative and qualitative were used in collection data. The quantitative data provides a general picture of the research problem and qualitative was to refine, extend or explain the picture. In gathering quantitative data, which is the first approach in explanatory mixed method, the opinion of the populace or residents, through survey method (questionnaire), was analysed. The target population 952,814 (Nine hundred and fifty two thousand, eight hundred and fourteen) made up of the residence of Enugu metropolis that comprised three local governments namely Enugu North, Enugu East and Enugu south Local governments. The sample size of 384 was determined by the use Freund and Williams formula. 357 staff returned the questionnaire and accurately filled. That gave 92 percent response rate. Data was presented and analyzed by mean score (3.0 and above agreed while below 3.0 disagreed) and standard deviation using Sprint Likert Scale. The hypotheses were analyzed using z-statistic tool. The findings indicated that Political choices of 2019 general election have significant effect on the improved liberty in Nigeria $Z(n = 357) = 5.714, P < 0.05$ and political choices of 2019 general election have negative effect on improved social and economic condition of the people $Z(n = 357) = -5.200, P < 0.05$. The study concluded that equality, justice, freedom of speech is all in paper but not in practice. The study recommended that the people should be allowed to express themselves without fear of been maltreated for their opinions and government should have the interest of the people at heart and the betterment of the society that elected them and improve on the welfare of the people.

Keywords: Poverty, Political Choices.

Introduction

In Nigeria today, poverty is a pervasive and major social problem. Various studies over the last few decades have consistently ranked Nigeria among the poorest countries on earth (Edoh, 2013). The history of the Nigerian electoral process has been hitherto characterized by violence stemming from disputes in election outcomes. For instance, violence erupted across some states in Northern Nigeria when results indicated that a candidate who was popular in that part of the country was losing the election leading to avoidable loss of lives (Moses, Charles, Daniel and Jonathan, 2015). Politics in Nigeria has always been expressed through political parties, which are created to achieve political power (Martins, 2012). Poverty in Nigeria from all empirically verifiable fact is a deliberate creation of the Nigeria's political class; it acts as a clog in the when of the country movement to a true people's democracy. The state of poverty in Nigeria is compounded by the widening class polarization politically and economically (Oshewolo, 2010). Behavioral functions of emotion are often outcomes of political choices that focus on the actions or proclivities to act politically. Information seeking and voter turnout are two examples of political behaviors that benefit from considering the emotional components of (Okoronye and Okeyim, 2013).

Poverty poses a big problem to Africa, one of the most thickly populated continents in the world. The Nigerian scene portrays the situation very adequately. Despite her abundant natural resources and rich environment, the economy of the country has not quiet taken off (Dare, 2010). Political choices which is a sin qua non for economic development is at its formative stage. The process of developing a good democratic structure in the third world countries generally and African countries in particular has been very rough. The experience has been from colonization to uneasy political independence; through turbulent republics which often ends in military coups d'état and sit tight reactionary rulers (Okwah and Cinjel, 2017).

Statement of the Problem

Poverty on political choices are global phenomena which affect continents, nations and people differently. The menace of poverty in Nigeria had been devastating effect on the democratic consolidation as it has resulted to electoral violence and underdevelopment by political leaders and resulting to stomach infrastructure and violence in winning elections and this has result to the current political choice on the continece with most countries experiencing coups and counter coup as a result of lack of adequate entrenchment of political structure. Poverty is often blamed for the desperate attempts to control state resources by sections of the elite. Because in an underdeveloped political economy such as Nigeria's attaining a top government position translates into a sudden status of affluence and influence.

The fundamental problems which prompted the study are the prevalence of poverty in Nigeria and how it has affected virtually all the productive forces and sectors of the economy. Nigeria as a nation has a long history of military administrations and these administrations are mostly one-sided and authoritative in nature. They ignore and careless about issues that affect the well being of the people and societal development. There is also the existence of bad governance which often comes in the forms of corruption, mismanagement, ethno-religious violence, inequitable distribution of resources and a lot of others.

Unfortunately, poverty on political choice has not had significant and direct benefit to the people, particularly those at the lower strata of the society because of the rising incidence of poverty in the

country. Poverty is made manifest in unemployment, hunger, poor health, poor standard of education, low self-esteem, low economic status, lack of security and exclusion from civic and political life which negate the essentials of democracy. Therefore, the study chiefly examines the threats of poverty on political choices in Nigeria and plan on how the country can come out of the mire of poverty so that democracy can be sustained and thereby have the expectant effects on Nigerians.

Objectives of the Study

The main objective of the study was to evaluate the impact of poverty on political choices. A study of 2019 general election. The specific objectives are to:

- i. Examine the extent 2019 general election on political choices have improved liberty in Nigeria.
- ii. Investigate the effect of 2019 general election on political choices have improved social and economic conditions of the people.

Research Questions

- i. To what extent 2019 general election on political choices have improved liberty in Nigeria.
- ii. What is the effect of 2019 general election on political choices have improved social and economic condition of the people.

Statement of the Hypotheses

- i. Political choices of 2019 general election have positive effect on the improved liberty in Nigeria.
- ii. Political choices of 2019 general election have positive effect on improved social and economic condition of the people.

Significance of the Study

The importance of a representative democracy is its efficiency. A large group of people receive the benefits of living in a democracy by having one representative vote according to their needs, wishes or desires.

Review of the Related Literature

Conceptual Framework

Poverty

Poverty is not having enough material possessions or income for a person's needs. Poverty is a multifaceted concept, which may include social, economic, and political elements. Absolute poverty is the complete lack of the means necessary to meet basic personal needs, such as food, clothing and shelter (Chen, 2019). Poverty is a state or condition in which a person or community lacks the financial resources and essentials for a minimum standard of living. Poverty means that the income level from employment is so low that basic human needs can't be met. Poverty-stricken people and families might go without proper housing, clean water, healthy food, and medical attention. Each nation may have its own threshold that determines how many of its people are living in poverty. Poverty has decreased in developed countries since the industrial revolution. Increased production reduced the

cost of goods, making them more affordable (Chen, 2019). Poverty is a multifaceted concept, which may include social, economic, and political elements. Poverty is the scarcity or the lack of a certain amount of material possessions or money (Walter, 2005).

Poverty is defined as the lack of material resources to cater for human needs. The definition of poverty remains disputable. This is because poverty is multi-dimensional, multifaceted and, therefore, complex, and because it is both a relative and subjective phenomenon (ECLAC 2008). As a result of this, there is no universally accepted definition of poverty. The United Nations defined poverty as: “a denial of choice and opportunities, a violation of human dignity. It means lack of basic capacity to participate effectively in society. It means not having enough to feed and clothe a family, not having a school or clinic to go; not having the land on which to grow one's food or a job to earn one's living, not having access to credit. It means insecurity, powerlessness and exclusion of individual, households and communities. It means susceptibility to violence, and it often implies living on marginal or fragile environment, without access to clean water or sanitation” (United Nations 2011). The definition of poverty by the United Nations corroborated that of the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) which encapsulates poverty as a multinational phenomenon. Poverty is when people lack basic resources such as power, capabilities, choice and security that are fundamental for a good standard of living (UNHCR 2004). Thus, poverty can be seen as the scarcity of basic human needs for daily living. Previously, poverty was conceptualized to mean a lack of financial power to shop for basic needs. This indicates one could be considered financially incapacitated for not having income to supply for his or her daily consumption. However, studies have shown that poverty is more than a lack of income. The Copenhagen Declaration (1995) states that poverty is a condition characterized by severe deprivation of basic human needs, including food; safe drinking water; sanitation facilities; health; shelter; education and information.

Political Liberty

Political liberty is a central concept in history and political thought and one of the most important features of democratic societies (Hannah, 1993). Political freedom was described as freedom from oppression or coercion, the absence of disabling conditions for an individual and the fulfillment of enabling conditions or the absence of life conditions of compulsion, e.g. economic compulsion, in a society (Michael, 2010). Although political freedom is often interpreted negatively as the freedom from unreasonable external constraints on action, it can also refer to the positive exercise of rights, capacities and possibilities for action and the exercise of social or group rights. The concept can also include freedom from internal constraints on political action or speech (e.g. social conformity, consistency, or inauthentic behaviour). The right to political liberty is one of the most central human rights as it is connected to the essentialist rudiments of an individual's physical freedom. The right to liberty requires that the arrest or detention of an individual must be in accordance to the law. The right therefore protects the individual against the excesses of the government and its agents. The right to personal liberty is essentially a personal freedom in which no government can abridge. The main quagmire of the right to liberty in Nigeria is the executive arm of government in Nigeria at most times permits continuous detention without trial (Olomjobi, 2017).

Socio-Economic Condition

Socio economic condition is an economic and sociological combined total measure of a person's work experience and of an individual's or family's economic and social position in relation to others, based on household income, earners' education, and occupation are examined, as well as combined income, whereas for an individual's SES only their own attributes are assessed (Michael,2014). Economic conditions refer to the present state of the economy in a country or region. These conditions change over time along with the economic and business cycles, as an economy goes through periods of expansion and contraction. Economic conditions are considered to be sound or positive when an economy is expanding and are seen as adverse or negative when an economy is contracting (James, 2019). A country's economic conditions are influenced by numerous macroeconomic and microeconomic factors, including monetary and fiscal policy, the state of the global economy, unemployment levels, productivity, exchange rates, inflation and many others (James, 2019).

Brief History of 2019 General Election

General elections were held in Nigeria on 23 February 2019 to elect the President, Vice President, House of Representatives and the Senate Muhumuza and Muhumuza (2019) and Kazeem, (2019). The elections had initially been scheduled for 16 February, but the Election Commission postponed the vote by a week at 03:00 on the original polling day, citing logistical challenges in getting electoral materials to polling stations on time. In some places, the vote was delayed until 24 February due to electoral violence. Polling in some areas was subsequently delayed until 9 March, when voting was carried out alongside gubernatorial and state assembly elections (Nnamdi, 2019). The elections were the most expensive ever held in Nigeria, costing 69 billion more than the 2015 elections. Incumbent president Muhammadu Buhari won his reelection bid, defeating his closest rival Atiku Abubakar by over 3 million votes. He has been issued a Certificate of Return and will be sworn in on May 29, 2019, former date of Democracy Day (Nigeria).

The President of Nigeria is elected using a modified two round system, to be elected in the first round; a candidate must receive a majority of the vote and over 25% of the vote in at least 24 of the 36 states. If no candidate passes this threshold, a second round is held. The 109 members of the Senate were elected from 109 single-seat constituencies (three in each state and one for the Federal Capital Territory) by first-past-the-post voting. The 360 members of the House of Representatives were also elected by first-past-the-post voting in single-member constituencies (Ogundipe, 2019).

Theoretical Review

An Economic Theory of Democracy, pointed out that the voter is largely ignorant of political issues and that this ignorance is rational. Even though the result of an election may be very important, an individual's vote rarely decides an election. democracy is a political system, or a system of decision-making within an institution or Solon created a mixed democratic and democratic system of institutions. An Economic Theory of Democracy is a treatise of economics written by Anthony Downs, published in 1957. Thus, the direct impact of casting a well-informed vote is almost nil; the voter has virtually no chance to determine the outcome of the election. So spending time following the issues is not personally worthwhile for the voter. Evidence for this claim is found in the fact that public

opinion polls consistently find that less than half of all voting-age Americans can name their own congressional representative (Shaw, 2011).

Empirical Review

The Nigeria's 2015 Presidential election held on the 28th March, 2015 was the 5th quadrennial election of the Fourth Republic which defied military interruption for sixteen (16) years. Apart from being the fifth election, the election was historic and will ever remain so for its uniqueness. The votes received by General Muhammadu Buhari (Rtd) was the most nationally spread votes cast since Nigeria's political independence in 1960 and secondly, for the first time in Post-Independence Nigeria a Presidential Candidate (General Muhammadu Buhari, Rtd) defeated an incumbent President (Dr Goodluck Ebelle Jonathan) in a presidential poll.

Ojukwu, Mbah and Maduekwe (2019) conducted a study on Elections and Democratic Consolidation: A Study of 2019 General Elections in Nigeria. The main thrust of the study was to examine elections and democratic consolidation in Nigeria with reference to the 2019 General elections. Elections are central to the existence, stability and development of democracies; and political parties play significant role in such democracies. This study adopted the Elite theory by Gaetano Mosca, Vilfredo Pareto and Robert Michels as its framework of analysis. The data used for this study were collected through the secondary sources which were obtained from the review of related literature. The study found out that the 2019 general elections have lower democratic quality and higher credibility deficit as compared to 2015 general elections. The study recommends that the areas that recorded significant improvement should be maintained while in the areas where there were challenges should be looked into against future elections.

Adeagbo and Omodunbi (2019) conducted a study on election gifting and the ordeal of democracy in Nigeria. The study identifies the history, effect, scope, and predisposing factors of election gifting in Nigeria, Using secondary sources of data and relying on Robert Dahl's theory of democracy, the paper argues that since the people are the custodians of the political mandate in any democracy, they should be held accountable when there is a problem. The study concludes that community of voters irrespective of the justifications given is a part of the democratic problems bedeviling the Nigerian state. The study showed that election gifting comes back to hurt the people, as politicians use it as a yardstick to rob the people off their commonwealth. The study recommended that civil societies in all spheres and platforms should help orientate the people on the dangers of limiting their legitimacy by engaging in election gifting.

Paul and Odejimi (2015) conducted a study on electoral violence and Nigeria economic prospects: A Glimpse of 2015 Elections. The study investigates the effect of the 2015 general elections on the Nigerian Economy, by analyzing its impact in a pre, during and post-election scenario. The study found that Nigeria economic conditions did depreciate in the pre, during and post-election periods but it depreciated most during the election period of 2015 with widespread violence, crime and social services and trade disruption. The study recommended that it is highly unlikely that instrumental interests are likely to affect voter's choice and policy outcomes in many democracies rendering the possibility of rational choices of the voter to be a myth.

Methodology

The quantitative and qualitative were used in collection data. The quantitative data provides a general picture of the research problem and qualitative was to refine, extend or explain the picture. In gathering quantitative data, which is the first approach in explanatory mixed method, the opinion of the populace or residents, through survey method (questionnaire), was analysed. The target population 952,814 (Nine hundred and fifty two thousand, eight hundred and fourteen) made up of the residence of Enugu metropolis that comprised three local governments namely Enugu North, Enugu East and Enugu south Local governments. The sample size of 384 was determined by the use Freund and Williams formula. 357 staff returned the questionnaire and accurately filled. That gave 92 percent response rate. Data was presented and analyzed by mean score (3.0 and above agreed while below 3.0 disagreed) and standard deviation using Sprint Likert Scale. The hypotheses were analyzed using z-statistic tool.

Data Presentation Analysis

Likert Scale Analysis

Research question one. To what extent 2019 general election on political choices have improved liberty in Nigeria?

Table 4.1: Responses to research question one on the extent 2019 general election on political choices have improved liberty in Nigeria

		5	4	3	2	1	ΣFX	-	SD	Decision
		SA	A	N	DA	SD		X		
1	During 2019 general election, there is equality and justice before the law	80	216	165	58	205	724	2.0	1.06	Disagree
		16	52	55	29	205	357			
		4	15	16	8	57	100%			
2	There is freedom of speech without fear.	200	128	96	314	22	760	2.1	1.24	Disagree
		40	32	32	157	96	357			
		11	9	9	44	27	100%			
3	Security of property was assured.	495	196	90	240	59	1080	3.0	1.40	Agree
		99	49	30	120	59	357			
		28	14	8	34	17	100%			
4	The freedom of conscience was obtained.	165	196	180	382	24	947	2.7	1.39	Disagree
		33	49	60	191	24	357			
		9	14	16	54	7	100%			
5	There was freedom for moving about with easy no matter your party	620	684	102	22	17	1445	3.6	1.00	Agree
		124	171	34	11	17	357			
		35	48	9	3	5	100%			
6.	There is freedom of interactions between party members.							4.0	1.23	Agree
		885	436	45	64	24	1454			
		177	109	15	32	24	357			
		50	31	4	9	7	100%			
Total grand mean and standard deviation								2.9	1.22	

Source: Field Survey, 2019

Table 4.1, indicated that during 2019 general election, there is no equality and justice before the law with mean score of 2.0 and standard deviation of 1.06 with 57 percent strongly disagree. There is no freedom of speech without fear with mean score of 2.1 and standard deviation of 1.24 with 44 percent disagrees. Security of property was assured with mean score of 3.0 and standard deviation of 1.40. The freedom of conscience was not obtained with mean score of 2.7 and 1.39 with 54 percent disagree. There was freedom for moving about with easy no matter your party with a mean score of 3.6 and standard deviation of 1.0 with 48 percent agrees. There is freedom of interactions between party member with mean score of 4.0 and 1.23 with 50 percent strongly agree.

Research question Two: What is the effect of 2019 general election on political choices have improved social and economic conditions of the people?

Table 4.2: Responses to research question two on the effect of 2019 general election on political choices have improved social and economic condition of the people.

	5	4	3	2	1	$\sum FX$	-	SD	Decision
	SA	A	N	DA	SD		X		
1. There is availability of resources to meet daily needs of the Nigeria citizens.	135 27 8	524 131 37	36 12 3	272 136 38	51 51 14	1018 357 100%	2.9	1.04	Disagree
2. There is provision for quality of education and job opportunities.	38 19 5	428 107 30	57 19 5	394 197 55	12 12 3	929 357 100%	2.6	.98	Disagree
3. There is provision for community based resources in support of community living.	56 28 8	488 122 34	30 10 3	362 181 51	16 16 4	952 357 100%	2.7	1.06	Disagree
4. There is Provision for equal recreational and leisure-time activities.	120 24 7	540 135 38	36 12 3	334 167 47	19 19 5	1049 357 100%	2.9	.90	Disagree
5. The provision for public policies that permit people to live better.	70 14 4	480 120 34	33 11 3	206 203 57	9 9 3	798 357 100%	2.2	1.18	Disagree
6. The quality of life and technological advancement were in place.	140 28 8	540 135 38	51 17 5	306 153 42	24 24 7	1061 357 100%	3.0	1.12	Agree
Total grand mean and standard deviation							2.7	1.05	

Source: Field Survey, 2019

Table 4.2, observed that there is availability of resources to meet daily needs of the Nigeria citizens with mean score of 2.9 and standard deviation of 1.04 with 38 percent disagree. There is provision for quality of education and job opportunities with mean score of 2.6 and standard deviation of .98 with 55 percent disagree. There is provision for community based resources in support of community

living with mean score of 2.7 and standard deviation of 1.06 with 51 percent disagrees. There is Provision for equal recreational and leisure-time activities with mean score of 2.9 and .90 with 47 percent disagree. The provision for public policies that permit people to live better with a mean score of 2.2 and standard deviation of 1.18 with 57 percent disagree. It was agreed that the quality of life and technological advancement were in place with a mean score of 3.0 and standard deviation of 1.12.

Test of Hypotheses

Hypothesis One

Hypothesis One: Political choices of 2019 general election have significant effect on the improved liberty in Nigeria.

Table 4.2.1 Contingency table of cumulative responses of Research Question One

Options	χ	F	F χ	$\bar{\chi} - \chi = \chi_1$	F(χ_1) ²	$\Sigma f(\chi_1)^2$
Strongly agree	5	489	2445	-1.98	489x (-1.98) ²	1917.076
Agree	4	462	1848	.98	462 x (.98) ²	443.705
Neutral	3	226	678	.02	226x (.02) ²	904.000
Disagree	2	540	1080	1.02	540 x (1.02) ²	561.182
Strongly Disagree	1	425	425	2.02	425 x (2.02) ²	1734.170
	15	2142	6476			5560.013

Mean score $\chi = \frac{F\chi}{N} = \frac{6476}{2142} = 3.02$

Variance = (S²) = $\frac{\Sigma f(\chi_1)^2}{N-1} = \frac{5560.013}{2141} = 2.597$

Standard deviation = $\sqrt{S^2} = \sqrt{2.597} = 1.61$

Level of confidence = 0.05

Critical value = 1.96

Table 4.2.1.3: Z – test on the Political choices of 2019 general election have positive effect on the improved liberty in Nigeria.

		Political choices of 2019 general election have significant effect on the improved liberty in Nigeria.
N		357
Normal Parameters	Mean	3.020
	Std Deviation	1.161
Most Extreme	Absolute	.194
Most Extreme	Positive	.194
Differences	Negative	-.120
Kolmogorov-Smirnon Z		5.714
Asymp. Sig.(2-tailed)		.000

a. Test distribution is Normal

b. Calculated from data

Decision Rule

If the calculated Z-value is greater than the critical Z-value (i.e $Z_{cal} > Z_{critical}$), reject the null hypothesis and accept the alternative hypothesis accordingly.

Result

With Kolmogorov-Smirnon Z – value of 5.714 and on Asymp. Significance of 0.000, the responses from the respondents as display in the table is normally distributed. This affirms the assertion that Political choices of 2019 general election have positive effect on the improved liberty in Nigeria.

Decision

The calculated Z- value of 5.714 against the critical Z- value of 1.96 (2-tailed test at 95% level of confidence) the null hypothesis were rejected. Thus the alternative hypothesis was accepted which states that Political choices of 2019 general election have significant effect on the improved liberty in Nigeria.

Hypothesis Two

Hypothesis two: Political choices of 2019 general election have positive effect on improved social and economic condition of the people.

Table 4.4.2.1 Contingency table of cumulative responses of Research Question Two

Options	χ	F	$F\chi$	$\bar{\chi} - \chi = \chi_1$	$F(\chi_1)^2$	$\Sigma f(\chi_1)^2$
Strongly agree	5	140	700	-2.13	$140 \times (-2.13)^2$	635.167
Agree	4	750	3000	1.130	$750 \times (1.130)^2$	957.67
Neutral	3	81	243	-.130	$81 \times (-.130)^2$	1.369
Disagree	2	1037	2074	.87	$1037 \times (.87)^2$	784.91
Strongly Disagree	1	134	134	1.87	$134 \times (1.87)^2$	468.585
	15	2142	6151			2847.701

Mean score $\chi = \frac{F\chi}{N} = \frac{6151}{2142} = 2.87$

Variance = $(S^2) = \frac{\Sigma f(\chi_1)^2}{N-1} = \frac{2847.701}{2142} = 1.329$

Standard deviation = $\sqrt{S^2} = \sqrt{1.329} = 1.152$

Level of confidence = 0.05

Critical value = 1.96

Table 4.2.1.3: Z – test on the Political choices of 2019 general election have positive effect on improved social and economic condition of the people.

		Political choices of 2019 general election have positive effect on improved social and economic condition of the people.
N		357
Normal Parameters	Mean	2.87
	Std Deviation	1.152
Most Extreme	Absolute	.166
Most Extreme	Positive	.166
Differences	Negative	-.110
Kolmogorov-Smirnon Z		-5.200
Asymp. Sig.(2-tailed)		.000

c. Test distribution is Normal

d. Calculated from data

Decision Rule

If the calculated Z-value is greater than the critical Z-value (i.e $Z_{cal} > Z_{critical}$), reject the null hypothesis and accept the alternative hypothesis accordingly.

Result

With Kolmogorov-Smirnon Z – value of -5.200 and on Asymp. Significance of 0.000, the responses from the respondents as display in the table is normally distributed. This affirms the assertion that Political choices of 2019 general election have negative effect on improved social and economic condition of the people.

Decision

The calculated Z- value of -5.200 against the critical Z- value of 1.96 (2-tailed test at 95% level of confidence) the alternative hypothesis was rejected. Thus the null hypothesis were accepted which states that Political choices of 2019 general election have negative effect on improved social and economic condition of the people.

Discussion of Results

The result of hypothesis one showed that calculated Z- value of 5.714 against the critical Z- value of 1.96 (2-tailed test at 95% level of confidence) the null hypothesis were rejected. Thus the alternative hypothesis was accepted which states that Political choices of 2019 general election have significant effect on the improved liberty in Nigeria. In the support of the result, in the literature review, Ojukwu, Mbah and Maduekwe (2019) that conducted a study on Elections and Democratic Consolidation: A Study of 2019 General Elections in Nigeria. The study found out that the 2019 general elections have lower democratic quality and higher credibility deficit as compared to 2015 general elections. The result of hypothesis two, the calculated Z- value of -5.200 is less than the critical Z- value of 1.96 (2-

tailed test at 95% level of confidence) the alternative hypothesis were rejected. Thus the null hypothesis was accepted which states that Political choices of 2019 general election have negative effect on improved social and economic condition of the people. Adeagbo and Omodunbi (2019) in the support of the result in the study of election gifting and the ordeal of democracy in Nigeria. The study concluded that community of voters irrespective of the justifications given is a part of the democratic problems bedeviling the Nigerian state. The study showed that election gifting comes back to haunt the people, as politicians use it as a yardstick to rob the people off their commonwealth. Furthermore, Paul and Odejimi (2015) conducted a study on electoral violence and Nigeria economic prospects: A Glimpse of 2015 Elections. The study investigates the effect of the 2015 general elections on the Nigerian Economy, by analyzing its impact in a pre, during and post-election scenario. The study found that Nigeria economic conditions did depreciate in the pre, during and post-election periods but it depreciated most during the election period of 2015 with widespread violence, crime and social services and trade disruption. The 2019 election was not left out in the same vein as some people lost their lives during the period of election.

Conclusion

Equality, justice, freedom of speech is all in paper but not in practice. Lack of availability to meet daily needs of the people and equal job opportunities, support of community living is not to be granted. Poverty can be seen as the scarcity of basic human needs for daily living. Formerly, poverty was conceptualized to mean a lack of financial power to shop for basic needs. Studies have shown that poverty is more than a lack of income. Poverty is a condition characterized by severe deprivation of basic human needs, including food; portable drinking water; environmental cleanliness, sanitation facilities; good road net work, health; shelter; education and information. These are the commonest thing each citizen should have at their at their door steps but could not be achieved in Nigeria. A country full of mineral resources like Nigeria and crowned with good climate.

Recommendation

- i. The study recommended that the people should be allowed to express themselves without fear of been maltreated for their opinions.
- ii. The study recommends that the government should have the interest of the people at heart and the betterment of the society that elected them and improve on the welfare of the people.

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