ABSTRACT

**FEMALE YOUTHS' DISPOSITION AND WILLINGNESS TO PARTICIPATE
IN POLITICS AND GOVERNANCE IN NIGERIA**

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The study investigated female youth's disposition and willingness to participate in politics and governance in Nigeria. The study adopted the descriptive survey design method and the sample size of the study was determined using Freud and William's formula, in which 233 respondents were selected from a population of 4541 serving female members of the National Youths Service Corps (NYSC) programme in the five South-East states of Nigeria. Data was collected using duplicates of a structured questionnaire with a 5-point Likert Scale format, and analyses were presented in tables and percentages. The hypotheses were tested using simple linear regression statistics and Pearson Product Moment Correlation coefficient analysis with the aid of the Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS, version 20). The finding revealed that there was a significant positive relationship between cultural values and the acceptability (r = 0.674; p 0.05) of the female youth in politics and governance, among other things. The study recommends, among others, a sustained and improved approach to the availability of financial access to female youth in politics and governance because of its positive transformation on the beneficiaries and the overall economic prosperity that it offers in our political climate and on the entire citizen's quality of life.

Keywords: female, youth, politics, and government.

INTRODUCTION

Since Nigeria gained independence in 1960 and up till the Fourth Republic which commenced in 1999, Nigerian women have remained invisible in both the party system and the governance structure. Women have been greatly under-represented in party membership as well as in decision-making processes and political leadership. In the 1999 general elections, women's participation in politics and decision-making witnessed an improvement over previous experience, but generally the scorecard remained very poor and discouraging. In the 1999

general elections, only 181 positions were won by women out of the 11, 881 available positions throughout the country (Adu, 2008). The elections saw only five (4.6%) women out of 109 senators elected into the Senate, while 13 (3.6%) women were elected into the House of Representatives from 360 seats, that is, 6.3% women representation in the National Parliament (Ajayi, 2007).

Nigeria's political history is replete with the exploits of Queen Amina of Zaria in the 16th century, who was so powerful that she waged war and conquered the whole of Hausa land and led her armies to drive out invaders from Zaria. In Benin, Wuli Emotar, who lived in the second half of the 15th century, was so powerful, intelligent and highly diplomatic that she was able to restore Oba Ogun to the throne by successfully staging a palace coup. Queen Obuma Achibong of Duke Town in Calabar, who lived between 1854 and 1864, prevented her rivals from overthrowing her by accusing them of sorcery. In Igbo land, Omu Nwagbako was so powerful and influential that when the Christian missionaries came, she influenced almost all the women to go to church. And she was also the one who signed the treaty between the Queen of England and Onitsha in 1884 when it was to be taken over by the British (Lewu, 2005).

There have been calls for gender equality, especially in getting elected into political offices. The earliest documented effort towards improving women's political representation in Nigeria came in the form of institutional measures taken by the government to ensure increased women's political representation. These institutional measures include constitutional amendments of 1979, 1992, and 1999, which prohibit any form of discrimination against women. The constitutional amendments guaranteed the right of women to participate in politics at all levels. The Nigerian government has also signed and ratified the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women (United Nations, 2005) as a major institutional step to increase the number of women in politics.

However, the wives of political leaders, especially the governors and military service chiefs, wielded considerable influence through charity and development work using their not-for-profit organizations. To a sufficient extent, they wield as much power and influence as elected female political leaders. This is essentially because of the powers of their husbands. This development does not help the status of women in politics and governance since they derive their powers not on merit but because of their husbands' positions and privileges. True and effective political

participation of women therefore requires equal disposition and position of men and women rather than influence-wielding due to spouses' elected and appointed positions (Ojo, 2003).

Since the introduction of the Better Life Program for Rural Women (BLP) in September 1987, successive governments in Nigeria have come up with women's empowerment programmes aimed at, among other things, improving the socio-economic and political status of women. The establishment of the National Commission for Women in 1989 is a key aspect of the institutional measures taken to increase women's political representation. The Commission was later upgraded to the Ministry of Women Affairs in 1995 in response to the need to establish an institutional mechanism for the coordination of efforts aimed at advancing women's affairs in the country (Modupe, 2001).

Within the institutional confines of the Ministry of Women's Affairs, several legislative, policy, and administrative measures have been taken to improve women's political representation. One major policy measure taken in July 2000 was the adoption of the National Policy on Women. By 2006, the Federal Ministry of Women's Affairs pushed for the adoption of the National Gender Policy to replace the previous one. Like the National Policy on Women, the National Gender Policy provides for the empowerment of women at various levels and calls for the elimination of all practices that marginalize women, especially in the area of decision-making. The policy also encourages affirmative action, which would result in 30 percent female representation in the legislative and executive branches of government (Omu, and Makinwa, 2015).

While there were 36 gubernatorial seats, no woman was featured. In 1999, Nigeria had only one female deputy governor in the person of Chief Mrs. Kofoworola Akerele-Bucknor, Deputy Governor of Lagos State (1999-2003), and of the 990 seats available for the States House of Assembly in the country, only 12 (1.21%) women were elected (Adu, 2008). At the local government level, out of the 774 local government chairpersons across the nation, only 9 were women, and only 143 out of the 8,700 councilors were women (Nwankwo, 2006; Anifowose, 2004). Okome (2003) said that the low number of women in politics was due to the fact that none of the women who were in charge of the political parties that led to the Fourth Republic.

Undoubtedly, African youth are a political force to reckon with at all times. Nothing evidences this fact more in contemporary times than the Arab Spring and other movements of political

contestation, resistance, or revolt led by young people in Burkina Faso, Senegal, Niger, Togo, and South Africa, among other countries. However, young people's political activity is not a novel phenomenon; young people played a political role in pre-colonial African societies and, notably, were the vanguard of the pro-independence movement and the anti-apartheid struggle in the twentieth century. History also records that young people's political activity has often been both hijacked and co-opted by others. Asante (2006) says that young people can't really have a say in how things are run, but Ahwoi (2008) says that they are often recruited to fight in dangerous political wars, often as foot soldiers for political parties and politicians (Bob-Milliar, 2014).

Clearly, young people's actions are important in shaping the continent's political future, not least because they, on average, are about 60 percent of Africa's population (AU Population Report, 2017), and constitute about 75 percent of the continent's labour force and voting population (Diouf 2003; Ebata et al. 2005; Ahwoi 2008, Gavin 2007). Several scholars (Delgado, 2002; Hein, 2000; Pancer, Rose-Krasnor, and Loiselle, 2002; O'Donoghue, Kirshner, and McLaughlin, 2002) have called for youths to be real partners in politics and development (Delgado, 2002; Hein, 2000; Pancer, Rose-Krasnor, and Loiselle, 2002; O'DonoghuIn political and governance discourses also, there is an increasing focus on young people, as documented in the African Union's African Youth Charter (2010) and the United Nations' System-wide Action Plan on Youth (2012), among others.

Statement of the Problem

Both developed and developing economies are putting competence and skill above gender and feminism when choosing their leaders.Notable and accomplished female leaders have created a new wave of clamour for more women's participation in politics and governance. The emotional stability exhibited by women in challenging circumstances and the accomplishments of notable female leaders in the last century have opened more doors for the acceptability of early participation of female youths in politics and governance in many continents of the world.

According to the British Council (2012) report, Nigeria currently ranks 118th out of 192 countries in terms of gender parity in politics and governance, trailing African countries such as South Africa (43%), and Rwanda (65%).A plethora of challenges still beset effective women's

participation in politics and decision making, even though there are also great prospects. Nigeria still falls short of the desired result of giving women the opportunities and access to opportunities to advance politically. With this scenario of under-representation of women in public management, women will not significantly influence the course of public policies. In a similar way, their peculiar needs and interests might not be adequately projected as they have few advocates in policy institutions.

Few studies have been done on female youths' disposition and willingness to participate in politics and governance in Nigeria. The study seeks to fill this gap, especially in Enugu state where female youth's participation in politics has continued to dwindle. The goal of the study is to find out how and why young women in Nigeria want to be involved in politics and government.

The Objectives of the Study

The broad objective of the study is to examine female youths' disposition and willingness to participate in politics and governance in Nigeria. The specific objectives are to:

i. Ascertain the impact of financial access on the level of participation of female youths in politics and governance.

ii. Determine the relationship between cultural values and the acceptability of female youths in politics and governance.

Establish the effect of gender diversity and political progress of female youths in politics and governance.

iv. Figure out how religious diversity and the political values of young women affect politics and government.

v. Appraise the effect of academic level and female youth's disposition in politics and governance.

Research Questions

The following research questions guided the study. They are in line with the objectives of the study. They are:

i. To what extent does financial access impact on the level of participation of female youths in Politics and Governance?.

ii. What is the relationship between cultural values and acceptability of female youths in Politics and Governance?.

iii. To what extent does gender diversity affect the political progress of female youths in Politics and Governance?.

iv. What is the relationship between religious diversity and political value of female youths in Politics and Governance?.

v. To what extent does academic level affect the female youth's disposition in Politics and Governance?.

Research Hypotheses

The following Research Hypotheses were formulated to guide the research. They are equally in line with the objectives of the study. They are;

i. Financial access impacts on the level of participation of female youths in Politics and Governance.

ii. There is a significant relationship between cultural values and acceptability of female youths in Politics and Governance.

iii. Gender diversity affects the political progress of female youths in Politics and Governance.

iv. There is a significant relationship between religious diversity and political value of female youths in Politics and Governance.

v. Academic level affects the female youth's disposition in Politics and Governance

Methods

Research Design

For the purpose of this study, a survey research method was adopted. A survey research unveils, interprets, synthesizes and integrates this data and identifies implications and their relationships. Although the survey is quite primitive in research nature, they are more realistic than experimental research method, in the sense that investigations of phenomena are conducted in natural settings.

Area of the study

The study was conducted in the five states of the South-East Geo political zone of Nigeria using the serving female National Youths Service Corps (NYSC). The researcher selected the five states in South-East, Nigeria as a result of proximity and ease of data collection. The states include; Abia, Anambra, Ebonyi, Enugu and Imo states.

Sampling Techniques

The proportionate stratified sampling method was adopted so as to give a proper representation of the designated oil companies in the ratio of 5:4:3:2:1 using Bowley's formula. In order to get the quantity of

the copies of questionnaire to be distributed in each of the oil companies, the sample size has to be broken down using Bowley's population allocation formula. It is thus:

N $\quad$ = $\quad$ NLxnh

$\qquad\qquad$ w

Where

NL $\quad$ = $\quad$ no of the items in each category

N $\quad$ = $\quad$ sample size

nh $\quad$ = $\quad$ no of units allocated to each group,.

w $\quad$ = $\quad$ population size

Thus:

Abia State

Batch A = $\quad \frac{920}{4541} \ x \ \frac{233}{1} = 47$

Batch B = $\frac{1753}{4541} \ x \ \frac{233}{1} = 89.9 = 90$

Total number of female NYSC members; 47 +90 = 137

Anambra State

Batch A = $\quad \frac{293}{4541} \ x \ \frac{233}{1} = 15$

Batch B = $\frac{598}{4541} \ x \ \frac{233}{1} = 30.7 = 31$

Total number of female NYSC members; 15+31 = 46

Ebonyi State

Batch A = $\quad \frac{157}{4541} \ x \ \frac{233}{1} = 8$

Batch B = $\frac{403}{4541} \ x \ \frac{233}{1} = 20.6 = 21$

Total number of female NYSC members; 8+21 = 29

Enugu State

Batch A = $\quad \frac{84}{4541} \ x \ \frac{233}{1} = 4$

Batch B $= \frac{237}{4541} \, x \, \frac{233}{1} = 12$

Total number of female NYSC members; 4+12 = 16

Imo State

Batch A $= \quad \frac{23}{4541} \, x \, \frac{233}{1} = 1$

Batch B $= \frac{74}{4541} \, x \, \frac{233}{1} = 4$

Total number of female NYSC members; 1+4 = 5

Method of Data Analyses
The data obtained is presented in frequency tables and corresponding values expressed in percentages. The interpretations were done accordingly based on the result of the analysis. Hypotheses 1-2 will be tested using simple linear regression while hypotheses 3-5 will be tested using Pearson product correlation will be tested sing simple regression analysis. All the hypotheses will be tested at 5% error using Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS, version 20)

Results

Table 4.1: Distribution and Return of the Questionnaire

States	No. Distributed		No. Returned		No. Not Returned	
	Batch A	Batch B	Batch A	Batch B	Batch A	Batch B
Abia State	47	90	44	88	3	2
Anambra State	15	31	15	29	-	2
Ebonyi State	8	21	8	19	-	2
Enugu State	4	12	4	11		1
Imo State	1	4	1	4	-	-
	75	158	72	151	3	7
Grand Total	233		223		10	

Source: Researcher's field survey, 2020.

Test of Hypotheses
The five hypotheses postulated in chapter one were tested with various test statistics aided by computer through the application of Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS .20 version) of Microsoft. Specifically, hypotheses one and two were tested with simple linear regression statistic and Pearson product moment correlation coefficient was used in testing hypothesis three, hypothesis four and hypothesis five.

Test of Hypothesis one

H0: Financial access does not impact on the level of participation of female youths in politics and governance.

H1: Financial access impacts on the level of participation of female youths in politics and governance.

To test this hypothesis, a Simple Linear Regression analysis method was used. It was assumed that when there is a relationship between financial access, it will affect the level of participation.

Table 4.18: Summary [b]

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate	Durbin- Watson
1	.674[a]	.455	.442	.79769	.379

a. Predictors: (Constant) Financial Access

b. Dependent Variable: Level of Participation

Table 4.19: ANOVA[a]

	Sum of Squares	Df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
Regression	22.275	1	22.275	35.007	.000"
Residual	26.725	42	.636		
Total	49.000	43			

a. Dependent Variable: Level of participation

b. Predictors: (Constant), financial access

Table 4.20: Coefficients[a]

	Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	T	Sig.
	B	Std. Error	Beta		
(Constant)	-8.650	2.057		-4.205	.000
Financial access	2.475	.418	.674	5.917	.000

R   =   .674

R^2 =   .455

F   =   35.007

T   =   5.917

DW   =   .379

Regression sum of squares   =   22.275

Residual sum of squares=   26.725

Std. Error of the Estimate   =   . 79769

Interpretation

The regression sum of squares (22.275) is less than the residual sum of squares (26.725), which indicates that more of the variation in the dependent variable is explained. The significance value of the F statistics (0.000) is less than 0.05, which means that the variation explained is not due to chance.

R, show the degree of relationship between independent variable financial access and the dependent variable level of participation the correlation coefficient which has a value of .674, indicates that there is a strong positive relationship between financial access and level of participation. R square, the coefficient of determination, shows that 45.5% of the variations in the level of participation are explained.

With the linear regression, the error of estimate is low with a value of about 0.798. The Durbin-Watson statistics of .379, which is not more than 2, indicates there is autocorrelation. Financial access of 0.445 indicate a weak impact between financial access and level of participation, which is statistically significant (with t = 7.920). Therefore, the null hypothesis should be rejected and the alternative hypothesis accordingly accepted. Hence; Financial access impacts on the level of participation of female youth's in politics and governance.

Test of Hypotheses two

H0:   There is no significant relationship between cultural values and acceptability of female youth's in politics and governance.

H1:   There is a significant relationship between cultural values and acceptability of female youth's in politics and governance.

To test this hypothesis, a Simple Linear Regression analysis method was used. It was assumed that when there are cultural values in place it would impact on the acceptability of female youth's in politics and governance.

Table 4.21: Summary[b]

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate	Durbin- Watson
1	.665[a]	.442	.429	.95565	.843

a. Predictors: (Constant), Cultural values

b. Dependent Variable: Acceptability

Table 4.23: ANOVA[a]

		Sum of Squares	Df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
1	Regression	30.438	1	30.438	33.329	.000[b]
	Residual	38.357	42	.913		
	Total	68.795	43			

a. Dependent Variable: Acceptability

b. Predictors: (Constant), Cultural values

Table 4.24: Coefficients[a]

		Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	t	Sig.
		B	Std. Error	Beta		
1	(Constant)	-4.429	1.455		-3.043	.004
	Cultural values	1.786	.309	.665	5.773	.000

a. Independent Variable: Cultural values

R   =   .665

R2   =   .442

F   =   33.329

T   =   5.773

DW   =   .843

Regression sum of squares   =   30.438

Residual sum of squares   =   38.357

Std. Error of the Estimate   =   95565

Interpretation

The regression sum of squares (30.438) is less than the residual sum of squares (38.357), which indicates that more of the variation in the dependent variable is explained. The significance value of the F statistics (0.000) is less than 0.05, which means that the variation explained is not due to chance.

R, show the degree of relationship between independent variable cultural values and dependent variable acceptability the correlation coefficient which has a value of .665, indicates that there is a strong positive relationship between cultural values and acceptability. R square, the coefficient of determination, shows that 44.2% of the variation in acceptability is explained.

With the linear regression, the error of estimate is low, with a value of about 0.798. The Durbin-Watson statistics of .843, which is not more than 2, indicates there is auto correlation of cultural values of 0.442 indicates a weak impact between cultural values and acceptability, which is statistically significant (with t = 5.773). Therefore, the null hypothesis should be rejected and the alternative hypothesis accordingly accepted. Hence; There is a strong positive relationship between cultural values and the acceptability of female youth's in politics and governance.

Test of Hypotheses three

H0:   Gender diversity does not affect the political progress of female youths in politics and governance.

H1:   Gender diversity affects the political progress of female youths in politics and governance.

To test this hypothesis, Pearson product moment correlation method was used. It was assumed that gender diversity affects the political progress.

Table 4.25: Descriptive Statistics

	Mean	Std. Deviation	N
Gender Diversity	3.7879	1.25419	223

Political Progress	3.0000	1.64246	223

Table 4.25shows the descriptive statistics of the relationship between gender diversity and political progress, with a mean response of 3.7879 and std. deviation of 1.25419 for gender diversity, and a mean response of 3.0000 and std. deviation of 1.64246 for political progress. By careful observation of standard deviation values 1.25419 and 1.64246, it can be said that there is about the same variability of data points amongst the dependent and independent variables. This implies that gender diversity constitute a less percentage of variables that positively affect the political progress.

Table 4.26: Correlations

		Gender Diversity	Political Progress
Gender Diversity	Pearson Correlation	1	.000
	Sig. (2-tailed)		1.000
	N	223	223
Political Progress	Pearson Correlation	.000	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	1.000	
	N	223	223

Table 4.26 shows the Pearson correlation coefficient matrix of the relationship between gender diversity and political progress, showing the correlation coefficient, significant values, and the number of cases. The correlation coefficient shows 1 this value indicates that correlation is significant at 0.05 level (2tailed) and implies that there is a strong positive relationship between gender diversity and political progress ($r = 1$). However, the computed correlations coefficient is greater than the table value of $r = .195$ with 221 degrees of freedom (df. = n-2) at alpha level for a two-tailed test ($r = 1$, $.000 < 0.05$). Since the computed $r = 1$, is greater than the table value of .195 we reject the null hypothesis and accept the alternate hypothesis. Hence, we conclude that gender diversity affects the political progress ($r = 1$, $.000 < 0.05$) of female youth's in politics and governance.

Hypotheses four

H0:   There is no significant relationship between religious diversity and political value of female youth's in politics and governance.

H1:   There is a significant relationship between religious diversity and political value of female youth's in politics and governance.

	Mean	Std.	N

		Deviation	
Religious Diversity	4.0530	1.29776	223
Political Value	4.1818	1.12628	223

Table 4.27 shows the descriptive statistics of the relationship between religious diversity and political value, with a mean response of 4.1 and std. deviation of 1.3 for religious diversity, and a mean response of 4.2 and std. deviation of 1.1 for political value. By careful observation of standard deviation values 1.3 and l.1, it can be said that there is about the same variability of data points amongst the dependent and independent variables. This implies that religious diversity constitutes a greater percentage of variables that positively affect political value.

Table 4.28: Correlations

		Religious Diversity	Political Value
Religious Diversity	Pearson Correlation	1	.036
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.818
	N	223	223
Political Value	Pearson Correlation	.036	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.818	
	N	223	223

Table 4.28 show the Pearson correlation coefficient matrix of the relationship between religious diversity and political value, showing the correlation coefficient, significant values, and the number of cases. The correlation coefficient shows .818 this value indicates that correlation is significant at 0.05 level (2tailed) and implies that there is a strong positive and significant relationship between religious diversity and political value $(r = .818)$. However, the computed correlations coefficient is greater than the table value of $r = .195$ with 221 degrees of freedom (df. = n-2) at alpha level for a two- tailed test $(r = .818, .036 < 0.05)$. Since the computed $r = .818$, is greater than the table value of .195 we reject the null hypothesis and accept the alternate hypothesis. We conclude that; There is a significant positive relationship between religious diversity and political value $(r = .818, .036 < 0.05)$ of female youths in politics and governance.

Test of Hypotheses Five

H0: Academic level does not affect the female youth's disposition in politics and governance.

H1: Academic level affects the female youth's disposition in politics and governance.

To test this hypothesis, Pearson product moment correlation method was used. It was assumed that there is relationship between academic level and female youth's disposition.

Table 4.25: Descriptive Statistics

	Mean	Std. Deviation	N
Academic Level	3.7879	1.25419	223
Female Youth's Disposition	3.0000	1.64246	223

Table 4.25 shows the descriptive statistics of the relationship between academic level and female youth's disposition, with a mean response of 3.7879 and std. deviation of 1.25419 for academic level, and a mean response of 3.0000 and std. deviation of 1.64246 for female youth's disposition. By careful observation of standard deviation values 1.25419 and 1.64246, it can be said that there is about the same variability of data points amongst the dependent and independent variables. This implies that academic level constitute a less percentage of variables that positively affect female youth's disposition.

Table 4.26: Correlations

		Academic Level	Female Youth's Disposition
Academic Level	Pearson Correlation	1	.000
	Sig. (2-tailed)		1.000
	N	223	223
Female Youth's disposition	Pearson Correlation	.000	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	1.000	
	N	223	223

Table 4.26 shows the Pearson correlation coefficient matrix of the relationship between academic level and female youth's disposition, showing the correlation coefficient, significant values, and the number of cases. The correlation coefficient shows 1 this value indicates that correlation is significant at 0.05 level (2tailed) and implies that there is a strong positive relationship between academic level and female youths disposition ($r = 1$). However, the computed correlations coefficient is greater than the table value of $r = .195$ with 221 degrees of freedom (df. = n-2) at alpha level for a two-tailed test ($r = 1$, $.000 < 0.05$). Since the computed $r = 1$, is greater than the table value of .195 we reject the null hypothesis and accept the alternate hypothesis. Hence, we conclude that Academic level positively affects the female youth's disposition ($r = 1$, $.000 < 0.05$) in politics and governance.

Discussion of the findings

Hypothesis one was tested with simple linear regression to ascertain the impact of financial access on the level of participation of female youth's in politics and governance. However, the result shows that financial access impacts on the level of participation of female youth's in politics and governance. ($r = .674$; $F = 35.007$; $t = 5.917$; $p < 0.05$). This finding aligns with the work of Zogjani, Llaci and Elmazi (2015) conducted a study on the role of financial access and the level of participation of women in politics: the Albanian case. The study made a deep exploration of the usage of power in Albanian companies. Multiple techniques were used which involved literature review and survey. Research findings revealed that job availability is still an important factor since respondents in the category interviewed were males (54%). Respondents in the business growth and prosperity category were females (59%). Using the Chi square test of hypotheses; firstly, it was confirmed that there is a notable correlation between financial access and the level of participation. This result is in agreement with the findings of this study.

Hypothesis two was tested using simple linear regression to determine the relationship between cultural values and acceptability of female youth's in politics and governance. However, the result shows that there is a strong positive relationship between cultural values and the acceptability of female youth's in politics and governance ($r =. 665$; $F = 33.329$; $t = 5.773$; $p < 0.05$). This study is related with the work of Gruenfeld (2018) who conducted a research on cultural values and financial independence from the Stanford University Center for Gender research using survey design method on selected work groups. The aim was to examine cultural issues in finance and independence among selected employees. The research findings indicated that people decide how financially competent you are in a fraction of a second. The factors used to determine your competence are; 7% words, 38% presentation and 55% body language. This work is related but not totally in agreement on financial independence.

Hypothesis three was tested using Pearson's product moment correlation coefficient to establish the effect of gender diversity and political progress of female youths in politics and governance. The result shows that gender diversity positively affects the political progress of female youths in politics and governance ($r = 1,00$; $P<.05$). This result is in line with the research from Barksdale (2008) who carried out a study on gender diversity and organizational politics in Organizations at the United States Naval Post Graduate School. The study relied on some background readings on rhetorical thinking to develop insight on how to build a persuasive argument. The result of the findings lay credence to the notion that gender diversity and communication share an association and that communicating transactions reveal subsequent effectiveness of communication between the organization and the stakeholders.

Hypothesis four was tested using Pearson's product moment correlation coefficient to identify the relationship between religious diversity and political value of female youth's in politics and governance. The result shows that there is a significant positive relationship between religious diversity and political value ($r =.818$, $.036 < 0.05$) of female youths in politics and governance. This result is in disagreement with the study from Holden and Griggs (2009) on religious diversity and financial accessibility in the management of Human Resource Development for the Society for Human Resource Management Academic Initiative in Alexandria, United States of America. The findings from the research indicated that different issues affects and creates tension in HRD. Factors confirmed to be facing job placement and financial accessibility are; formal authority, reputation, performance and interpersonal influence. The pre-case activities introduced employees to the topic and stimulate discussion around the key themes. Post-

case activities broaden understanding and enable a more detailed investigation of personal behaviour in relation to the topic.

Hypothesis five was tested using Pearson's product moment correlation coefficient to appraise the effect of academic level and female youth's disposition in politics and governance. The result shows that Academic level positively affects the female youth's disposition ($r =1$, $.000 < 0.05$) in politics and governance. This result is in line with the research from Delgado (2002) who carried out a study on academic level and environmental conduciveness in Organizations at the United States. The study relied on some background readings on rhetorical thinking to develop insight on how to build a persuasive argument. The result of the findings lay credence to the notion that information exchange and communication share an association and that communicating transactions reveal subsequent effectiveness of communication between the organization and the stakeholders.

Summary of Findings

The findings at the end of this study include the following:

i.   It was discovered that financial access impacted on the level of participation ($r = .674$; $F = 35.007$; $t = 5.917$; $p < 0.052$) of female youth's in politics and governance.

ii.   The study revealed that there was a strong positive relationship between cultural values and the acceptability ($r =. 665$; $F = 33.329$; $t = 5.773$; $p < 0.05$) of female youth's in politics and governance.

iii.   The research uncovered that gender diversity positively affected the political progress ($r =1,00$; $P<.05$) of female youths in politics and governance.

iv.   It was found out that that there was a significant positive relationship between religious diversity and political value ($r =.818$; $p <.05$) of female youth's in politics and governance.

v.   The research discovered that Academic level positively affected the female youth's disposition ($r =1,00$; $P<.05$) in politics and governance.

Conclusion

The conclusion of the study is that the objective of the research, which was aimed at examining female youth's disposition and willingness to participate in politics and governance in Nigeria, was achieved in the long run. Though there could be some other issues that were not revealed that could be analysed in the role played by the disposition of female youths to participate in politics and governance, the data from the questionnaire was explicitly in favour of the five objectives that were studied. It has become imperative to highlight the role of female youth's disposition and willingness to participate in politics and governance plays in South-East Nigeria, which is the geographic scope of the study and its impact on the political performance indicators in the political environment.

The study justified their importance as a tangible asset in promoting and managing political goodwill in various communities. The variables of female youth's disposition studied include; financial access, cultural values, gender diversity, religious diversity, and academic level were positive and significant in the willingness to participate in politics and governance induced proxies of level of participation, acceptability, political progress, political value, and female youth's disposition studied.

Recommendations

Based on the findings, the study hereby recommends that;

> There should be in place a sustained and improved approach on the availability of financial access to female youth's in politics and governance because of its positive transformation on the beneficiaries and the overall economic prosperity that it offers in our political climate and the entire citizen's quality of life. Positive cultural values that highlight the female youth's assets in governance should be encouraged because it significantly affected the acceptability of female youth's in politics and governance. Mechanisms should be adopted in encouraging effective gender diversity integration as it positively and significantly affected the political progress of female youth's in politics and governance. Religious Diversity barriers should be discouraged as it was discovered that it significantly affected the political value of female youth's in politics and governance. Education of women should be encouraged as academic level positively and significantly affected the female youth's disposition in politics and governance.

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