# Role Of Civil Society On The Attainment Of Good Governance In Nigeria, 2011-2023

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*Abstract: This study examined the role of civil society in the attainment of good governance in Nigeria, focusing on the Goodluck Jonathan and the Muhammadu Buhari administrations that lasted from 2011 to 2023. The objectives of the study were to ascertain if the roles of civil societies enhanced good governance within the period under review and to examine the challenges of civil societies in playing their roles to ensure good governance in Nigeria. The specific objectives of the study informed the research questions and hypotheses. Relevant literature was thoroughly reviewed and the study was anchored on the Role Theory. Data were collected from a population of 4,212 civil societies in Nigeria, from where a sample of 400 respondents were identified for the study. The data collected were presented using simple percentage and mean scores, while the hypotheses were tested using Chi-square. The study found out that the Nigerian Government see most civil societies as threat, rather than an alliance or a helpmate and that the role of Civil Societies in Nigeria has not really enhanced good governance within the period under review. From the findings, the study recommended that the Nigerian Government should change its orientation towards civil societies operating in Nigeria. It should regard them as helpmates, rather than threats. Also, it was recommended that civil societies in Nigeria should emulate the western world in running their programmes. By emulation, they should embark on open door policy like the developed countries and ensure that they only give their leadership to members who can offer credible hands for good governance.*

*Keywords: Civil Society, Good Governance, Nigeria*

## INTRODUCTION

Civil society has been of tremendous influence in the Nigerian states, over the decades. The Fourth Republic is a good tentative illustration to that effect. The term 'civil society', means different things to different people. Some ancient scholars refer to it as groups, aside from families which form part of the larger societies but have one common interest. To some academics, it is a group of organizations that interface between states, the corporate world, and families, willingly gearing toward the attainment of a collective objective. In the words of Ikelegbe (2013), civil society is defined as the associational life of citizens characterized by common interests, civil and public purposes, and voluntary collective autonomous actions. Civil society pursues collective goals, outside the family, the business world, and the state and engages in activities that will encourage people to self-reliantly pursue common interests, without fear of domination by either the larger society, the corporate world, or the government.

Civil society can be linked to an association of persons, individuals, or people who have common political ambition, as well as the same economic, cultural cum social interest, other than that which will jeopardize the enhancement of good governance in Nigeria. Examples of civil societies in Nigeria that existed between 1999 and 2018 include youth associations, professional organizations, social and cultural groups, labor, peasants' groups, communal groups, and civil rights activists which many Nigerians build their nests for the promotion and protection of their common interest. These sets or groups are perceived to have been living within a given state, corporate world, or larger society. Still, they do not interfere with the activities of those mentioned above, but are consistent in their collective pursuit of desired common interest which is mostly in line and supportive of a true democratic government which is an easy route to achieving good governance.

Current literature has jointly but from diverse perspectives, argued that those in the corridor of power, technocrats, and the corporate world are not the only means through which good governance is actualized and enhanced, civil society contributes to the quota of good democratic governance. Information is the bedrock on which the civil society draws her energetic knowledge from, it ushers them into the realm of societal realities, whereby the civil society mediates in between the masses and the Nigerian states. Accordingly, Arko-Cobbah (2015), posited that it is incumbent upon society to ensure that its citizens have the resources and skills that will enable them to access this information and to participate effectively in the art of governance. He argued that libraries as preservers of the knowledge of society, therefore, become crucial in this connection. He stressed further that the library enjoys a symbiotic relationship with democracy and, therefore, good governance. It provides access to government information, thus aiding the public to monitor the work of public officials. As cited in their work, Bakare and Omode (2014), are of the view that civil society is broader than civil society organizations. They arguably expressed that the former entails the entire territorial polity which includes all citizens who either belong to any civil group or not; while the latter entails those individuals who consciously and actively participate in civil group activities.

Good governance deals with how those who have and use state power, make efforts to achieve the goals or the objectives of the state through the maintenance of law and order, the provision of welfare for its citizens, and the pursuit of national interest in the global arena (Gurumka, Nengak, and Ajayi 2014). Gurumka et al (2014) think that "good governance" entails the existence of democratic institutions and values. They contended that the principles of good governance include participation, equity, the rule of law, transparency, and accountability, as well as the effectiveness and efficiency in the delivery of public goods and services. Good governance in more meaningful terms, denotes activities either by the government, the private firm, corporate society, or the civil society which are channeled towards the attainment of developmental projects and provision of security and welfare services to the people to ensure a good standard of living for the entire populace. By this definition, good governance does not imply the absence of pursuance of developmental projects and welfare services to the masses by joint efforts of the government (state), private firms, corporate world, and civil society but informs the autonomous engagement in such activities which will enhance peaceful co-existence between the civil society, the state, and the corporate world.

Civil society plays a very crucial role in ensuring good governance through diverse means. Many known organizations contributed to the sustenance of democracy which in the fourth republic, these roles are provided for, in the extant literature. Civil society engages in the act of formulation and mobilization of public opinion, they ensure the protection of fundamental human rights, maintenance of societal rules and sustaining the country's rule of law, sensitization of the rights of the common citizenry and their civic responsibilities as Nigerians, they act as checks and balances, whereby they monitor the affairs of the state and mediate through public opinion. Between 1999 to 2018, civil societies in Nigeria were remarkably known for their consistent commitment to the provision of goods and rendering of services to ensure good governance. These groups provide goods such as electricity, shelters for the disposed of, construction and rehabilitation of good roads, provision of pine-borne water in areas devoid of good water supply, and provision of hospitals, maternities, and health centers, among others. They render activities such as serving as a watchdog against violation of human rights, acting as an advocate for the weaker section with similar interest, in the larger society. Civil societies also render medical services by sponsoring physicians and medical personnel in the administration of drugs and the treatment of certain ailments, periodically.

Despite the enormous political, economic, cultural, social, and some cases, religious roles, played by the civil society in Nigeria; a study of the Goodluck Jonathan and Buhari administration, it is faced with a myriad of pitfalls. It is against this backdrop that the study examines the role of civil society on good governance in Nigeria, even in the face of these challenges, covering the period 2011 to 2023.

## STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

Ensuring good governance is quite an enormous task and a serious business that the government may not be able to transact alone. The power struggle has drastically drawn back the Nigerian economy because of its negative features such as incessant killings, election rigging, and misappropriation of public funds, to mention but a few. This is precisely why Olusadum (2017), contends that often, the power struggle has caused man to desire to exist like the leviathan as espoused by Thomas Hobbes. He argues further that the concept and practice of despotism, tyranny, and totalitarianism by leaders have left much to be desired by the masses. He stressed that the consequence of this action is usually not in a positive direction for the state and the people of the state as well. Olusadum expressed that Chaos, civil disobedience, economic downturn, shades of criminality, destitution, and hangry displays are usually the order of the day. Hence, there is a need for support from organizations that are non-governmental institutions.

Also, the outcry of the general masses has been another contributory factor that has become problematic in Nigeria today. There have been incessant happenings that are in most cases detrimental to the populace, leading to the outcry of many individuals who would rather not be represented because of the weakness of the public opinion in the frontiers of those in the corridor of power. Such happenings include social conflicts and crises in the educational and religious sectors. Most times, the Nigerian government seems to be too busy in giving listening ears to these grieved masses.

## OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The broad objective of the study is to examine the role of civil society in governance in Nigeria, covering the period 2011 to 2023. Other specific objectives include:

1. To find out if the roles of civil societies enhanced good governance within the period under review.
2. To examine the challenges of civil societies in playing their roles to ensure good governance in Nigeria.

## RESEARCH QUESTIONS

The following research questions guided the study;

1. To what extent has the roles of civil societies, enhanced good governance within the period under review?
2. What are the challenges of civil societies in playing their roles to ensure good governance in Nigeria?

## HYPOTHESES

The following hypotheses were formulated for the study:

1. **Ho:** The roles of civil societies have not enhanced good governance within the period under review.
   **Hi:** The roles of civil societies have enhanced good governance within the period under review.
2. **Ho:** Political turbulence is not one of the challenges of civil societies toward ensuring good governance in Nigeria.
   **Hi:** Political turbulence is one of the challenges of civil societies toward ensuring good governance in Nigeria.

## REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

### Civil Society

Civil society can be linked to an association of persons, individuals, or people who have common political ambition, as well as the same economic, cultural cum social interest, other than that which will jeopardize the enhancement of good governance in Nigeria. It is an organization of groups that are not profit-oriented but pursue a targeted objective, collectively, having a common interest. Although, it exists, outside the family and the state, it still serves as a mediator, between Nigerian states and people who are indigenous to any of them. Existing outside the family and the state is an expression that describes the autonomous nature of civil societies in Nigeria. Civil societies are of tremendous influence on the larger society in which they autonomously exist. They assist in playing such roles which are mostly associated with the government. Such roles include: Educating Nigerian citizens on their rights as citizens, enlightening them about their civic responsibilities, providing essential goods, and rendering different kinds of services, to mention but a few. Olateju (2012) posits that civil society is often used to mean either society as opposed to the state or, more precisely as an intermediate sphere of social organization or association between the basic units of society – family and firms – and the state. Similar to Olateju (2012), is a related definition given by Gberevbie (2013), in which he opined that a civil society refers to a group of non-governmental organizations, professionals, and associations in any shape and size in a society formed purposely to engage the state or government on issues that affect the people to find acceptable solutions to the developmental challenges of the state – political, social and technological for the enhancement of the living standard of the people.

Civil society can also be seen as a strong, social sacrifice for people of diverse learning without state power and resources to form a group, or different groups, not profit-oriented, ostensibly to fight the course of humanity with their knowledge, strength, time, finance and without transactional indulgence Olusadum (2017). The fact that civil societies are autonomous is what makes them quite impressive as an association, involving diverse personalities, possessing diverse skills and professions but purposely pursuing similar objectives in the interest of all. Affirmatively, Bidemi (2017), stressed that a civil society is seen as a public ethical community of free and equal citizens under a legally defined system of rule. They are non-governmental organizations that seek the well-being of the weak, the afflicted, and the masses through public opinion. They can influence the powers that be, persuasively in a more diplomatic sense and tactful means. They play crucial roles in effecting developmental projects. They can be seen as government, not by election or appointment but voluntary, self-willed, and are known for selfless services in the interest of all. The aforementioned expression implies that civil societies in Nigeria in this study, can be seen as a government in existence, with the only aim of achieving good governance through collective responsibility, but this type of government is not the same as the obtainable ones in operation in the Nigerian states that its leaders are chosen through election or political appointment but by a strong determination to provide goods and render services, in the true sense of service. It is therefore referred to in this study, as government because it plays such roles that an ideal Nigerian government ought to be known for.

### Good Governance

Neji (2011), defines Governance as the act of legally controlling the affairs of a people within a defined area. He further opined that the legality of this "act" stems from the mandate of the populace that is entrusted in the hands of the elected representatives in democratic settings. He went further to state that it is also construed as how power is exercised in the management of a country's economic and social development. In the words of Fadakinte (2013), Governance is the process of exercising state power, especially in the management and administration of state affairs by people entrusted with state authority. In the same vein, The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has described governance as the exercise of political, economic, and administrative authority in the management of the affairs of a country at all levels.

Following these definitions, we therefore define Good Governance by simple definition to imply all undertakings, political, socio-economic, cultural, and faith-based activities, actions, and inactions, fashioned towards the overall improvement of the infrastructural, and human resources for the expectation of enhanced standard of living by the populace. It is the exercise of true democratic principles and practices, for setting standards which is universally acceptable by society. In the words of Gurumka, Nengak, and Ajayi (2014), Good Governance deals with how those who have and use state power make efforts to achieve the goals or the objectives of the state through the maintenance of law and order, the provision of welfare for its citizens and the pursuit of national interest in the global arena.

Arko-Cobbah (2015) is of the view that good governance, generally, encompasses a broad array of practices that maximize the common good. He further stated Some of the attributes of good governance are democratic practices, the rule of law, and respect for human rights. Accordingly, UNDP (1997), stated some of the attributes of good governance to be:

> ➢ **Participation:** That is expecting all citizens to have a say in decision-making, either directly or through the legitimate intermediate institutions representing their interests;
> ➢ **Rule of law:** Which is taken to be the extent to which legal frameworks are fair and impartially enforced, especially the laws on human rights;
> ➢ **Transparency,** with free flow of information as its linchpin; and
> ➢ **Accountability:** This is the quest for decision-makers in government, the private sector, and CSOs to be broadly accountable to the general public, as well as institutional stakeholders.

**Role of Civil Societies on Good Governance in Nigeria.**

The return to Democracy after a long time of military intervention seemed like "Heaven at Last". This is because of the yawning aspirations, desires, and wishes of the masses for true leadership that encourages mass participation, a kind of rule that accepts public opinion, and a civilian rule in which the change of government does not allow aberration through coups and counter-coup but a change system in which election is the bedrock for choosing credible leaders into office. May 29th, 1999, ushered Nigerians into the fourth republic, after a long cry of political dictatorship and blatant humiliation by the majority of the Nigerians. Civil societies fought vigorously, towards ensuring the fierce change from military to civilian. They submitted a lot of memoranda and continued the "takeovers" for the establishment of peaceful co-existence within the political arena for sustainable good governance. "But how good is the civilian governance?", has been the rhetorical question in the minds of many Nigerians as there has been innumerable evidence of incessant political turbulences, economic recession, social degradation, cultural segregation/imbalance, and religious intolerance since the inception of the fourth republic. These five (5) major dimensions are the areas in which we will channel our discussion on the role of Civil Societies in Nigeria.

1. **POLITICAL TURBULENCES:** "The country had been engulfed with crises of different dimensions and magnitude", cries Gurumkaet al (2014). There is evidence of a myriad of death sentences characterized by political tussles from both the political class and those who aspire now and then to belong. Boko Haram Insurgency is a very good example of one of the political turbulences being witnessed within the period under review. Most scholars view Boko Haram insurgents as dangerous militant groups who seek nothing but destruction in all ramifications. Boko Haram is officially called "Jama'atu Ahlis SunnaLidda'awati WalJihad" which in Arabic means People Committed to the Propagation of the Prophet's teachings and Jihad. However, the group is better known by its Hausa name 'Boko Haram' and was a local radical Salafist group that transformed into a Salafi-Jihadist terrorist organization after 2009. It is based in the northeast of Nigeria, in the areas predominated by the Kanuri people. Loosely translated from the local Hausa language, Boko Haram means, Western education, or civilization is forbidden. Put differently, Western education or civilization is a sin. Boko Haram was born out of the regional violence and tension between Northern Nigeria and the central authority, to mediate conflict in this country. Over the past decade, Boko Haram has persistently challenged and threatened the fragile unity of Nigeria. Its followers are influenced by the Koranic phrase that says, "Anyone who is not governed by what Allah has revealed is among the transgressors," (Chothia, 2012). Boko Haram promotes a version of Islam that makes it "Haram" or forbidden for Muslims to take part in political or social activity associated with Western society. Several forbidden activities include voting in elections, wearing shirts and trousers, or receiving secular education (Chothia, 2012). Ustaz Mohammed Yusuf, a charismatic Muslim cleric, founded Boko Haram in 2002 in Maiduguri, the capital city of the Borno state in northeastern Nigeria. The sect's philosophy is rooted in the practice of orthodox Islam, and the group's official name in Arabic, Jama'atu Ahlissunah Lidda'a watiwal Jihad, translates to "people committed to the propagation of the Prophet's teachings and Jihad" (Chothia, 2012). Boko Haram, along with a splinter group called Ansaru, has a mission to overthrow the Nigerian state and impose strict Islamic Sharia Law throughout the entire country. Its mission is to sanitize the Nigerian system, which is spellbound by Western education and ideals (Onuoha, 2012). This sect has endangered uncountable lives, destroyed many properties, and rendered many homeless. A system that is seen and described by all as a democratic

dispensation, has been turned into an autocratic imposition and tyrannical oppression, amidst democracy and is being regarded as such by many international states. The implication of this is that insurgency, and indeed, the Boko Haram menace is the major cause of displacement of persons and groups from their communities, homes, and means of livelihoods. All these are characterized by persistent political brouhaha ongoing in what looks like true democracy but a false one indeed. Even activities by civil societies to ensure good governance are shunned and unnoticed.

2.  **ECONOMIC RECESSION:** It was under democratic dispensation that Nigeria witnessed one of the most terrible and disheartening economic meltdowns, although such recession was termed "global", Nigeria's case was quite disgusting, unlike the kind of recession that the country witnessed during the military regime, under major general Ibrahim Babangida. In 2007, the total GDP amounted to 5.18 billion U.S. dollars, with 1,214 as per capita income. But within the past few years (2009-2012), there has been a major decline in GDP, owing to the closure of many commercial outfits like markets, slaughterhouses, eateries, industries, etc. There has been a loss of about six (6) billion dollars financial losses excluding losses incurred by the local and international businesses located in the state. Additionally, Akunyili (2013), citing the World Investment Report (WIR, 2013) asserted that FDI flows into Nigeria dropped by 21.3 percent in just one year, having a direct negative impact on trade. These are happenings, in this democratic dispensation that have a direct negative influence on the Nigerian economy. The role of civil societies in this issue is quite undermined, given the terrible state of the country.

3.  **SOCIAL DEGRADATION:** Between 1999 to 2012, the country has witnessed increased societal mess ranging from shutdown of big firms, closure of schools, and deportation of our citizens from other countries, to mention but a few. We hear of China, Ghana, e.tc getting into foreign relations with world powers such as America and, the United Kingdom, but we only hear of Nigerians being deported from such countries for one awful reason or the other. Many Nigerians have been executed in countries like Malaysia, Indonesia, and other Asia countries as such. Other social relations with the outside world, is not something to be proud of, considering the position of Nigeria as the "Giant", in Africa. Civil societies have not ceased from making public speeches against the dilapidated social state of Nigeria but what plausible solutions has their efforts proffered? is the question that comes to reasonable minds.

4.  **CULTURAL SEGREGATION /IMBALANCE:** There have been cases of one culture trying to outshine or in an extreme case, endeavoring to dominate the other, in this democracy of ours. Nigeria is a heterogeneous society with over two hundred and fifty (250) ethnic groups, although the country is said to have been dominated by three (3) major tribes (Hausa, Igbo, and Yoruba) in which the two hundred and fifty (250) ethnic groups fall under.

5.  **RELIGIOUS INTOLERANCE:** One of the major cankerworms that is eating deep into our democratic system, is religious intolerance. This has generated fierce tension which has led to terrible crises over the past two decades. The Muslin – Christian uncountable clashes is a very good ground on which we can drive home, our point.

## THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

This study is anchored on the "Role Theory", propounded by three major contributors in the early 1930s, at the period when social scientists believed that social life could be compared with the theater, in which actors played predictable roles. The three theorists made different contributions to the development of role theory. Ralph Linton (an anthropologist), posited that role theory was a means for analyzing social systems, and roles were perceived to be "the dynamic aspects" of societally recognized social positions. On the contrary, George Herbert Mead (a social philosopher) viewed roles as the coping strategies that individuals evolve as they relate with other people. Mead spoke of the need for understanding others' viewpoints (which he named "role taking") as a requisite for effective social relations. Jacob Moreno (a psychologist) defined roles as the routine, occasionally dangerous, tactics that are adopted by individuals within main or crucial interactions. He also contended that role imitative behavior which he named "role playing", was a useful approach for learning new roles. The Role Theory projects that human behavior is conducted by expectations held both by the individual and by other people. The expectations correspond to different roles that individuals perform. This theory proposes that at every stage in life, an individual fits into a particular position and has some roles to play which automatically is assigned to such position. The theorists went further to use an illustration of a professor fulfilling the role of a professor by teaching and a student fulfilling the student's role by studying. In this context, both parties play out their roles for goal achievement. The theorists contended that roles direct, guide, and shape the behaviors of individuals, and the individuals also, influence roles through norms, values, character, aspirations, and expectations associated with roles. The principles on which this theory is built include:

1.  Role Theory has been a fruitful approach to understanding humans and society.
2.  Role theory assumes that people are primarily conformists who try to live up to the norms that follow their roles. What this implies is that individuals usually carry out their roles and act according to prevailing norms.
3.  Role theory projects that people spend much of their lives participating as members of groups and organizations. That is to say that people work within groups or group-like entities, as they tend to play out their roles which is a result of the positions they occupy.
4.  The theory describes Confusion which is a situation where an individual has trouble determining which role, he/she should assume.

5. Role Conflict is an aspect of Role Theory that results when an individual encounters tension as a result of incompatible and multiple roles.
6. The theory clarifies Role Strain which refers to the felt difficulty in fulfilling role obligations. In contrast to Role Conflict, where tension is felt between two contending roles, the tension in role strain comes from just one role.
7. In role theory, groups often formalize Role Expectations as norms or even codified rules, which include what rewards will result when roles are successfully performed and what punishments will result when roles are not successfully performed.
8. In role theory, group members check each individual's performance to determine whether it conforms with the norms and the anticipation that others will apply sanctions to ensure role performance.

The application of the role theory to the present study holds that the Nigerian Government plays out its roles which are very essential to the state or the masses. In the same vein, the government alone cannot play out the entire role because responsibilities consistently increase drastically. To that effect, civil societies could be seen as the government's helpmate in playing out roles, rather than being seen by the same government for which they are willing, to assist: as threats. Applying the theory further, it is expected that civil societies have their roles to play, just like the government, to ensure good governance. For governance to be efficient and effective, all hands must be on the desk- while the government carries out its responsibilities, civil societies as well, should be given maximum support to do the same. The theory welcomes group activities and expresses that at every point in life, groups, as well as individuals have roles to play which are assigned to various positions. This automatically implies that the Nigerian Government should not cease from being Nigerian Government in the discharge of its duties. Civil societies as well, should remain in their positions as groups with common interest (which they have always been) in the discharge of their duties, without interrupting, or trying to overthrow the government of the day, but should rather act as check against the excesses of government, while the government balances every activity of the civil society. The application of the role theory to the present study also suggests that if both the government and the civil society play out their roles, harmoniously, independent of each other, and in a compatible manner, there is sure evidence that both will achieve good governance and sustained leadership.

## METHODOLOGY

**Research Design:** Descriptive survey research design.

**Area of the Study:** The area of this study is Nigeria, with a focus on the major civil society organizations in the country.

**Population of Study:** 4,212 civil society organizational members.

**Sample Size Determination:** Using the Taro Yamane formula, we obtained a sample of 400

**Method of Data Analysis:** The study involved both research questions and hypotheses. The goodness of fit also known as Chi-square was used in testing the hypotheses.

## DATA ANALYSIS

**Hypothesis 1**
H0: The role of civil societies has not enhanced good governance within the period under review.
 Hi:  The role of civil societies has enhanced good governance within the period under review.

**CHI-SQUARE TABLE**

| Response | O | E | O-E | $(O-E)^2$ | $\dfrac{(O-E)^2}{E}$ |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Yes | 194 | 200 | -6 | 36 | 0.18 |
| No | 206 | 200 | 6 | 36 | 0.18 |
| | 400 | 400 | | | 0.36 |

Degree of Freedom
DF = (R-1) (C-1)
Where R =Rows
       C = Columns
       DF = (2-1) (2-1) =1

DF = 1

$$X^2 = \frac{(194-200)^2}{200} + \frac{(206-200)^2}{200}$$

$$X^2 = \frac{(6)2}{200} + \frac{(6)^2}{200}$$

$X^2 = 0.18 + 0.18$

$X^2 = 0.36$

Determine the critical value of $X^2$

$X^2$ critical value = 3.84

Compare the two values

$X^2$ critical = 3.84

$X^2$ calculated = 0.36

Decision Rule: Accept H0 and reject Hi

Inference: since the calculated value of $X^2$ is less than the critical value, this implies that the role of civil societies has not enhanced good governance within the period under review.

**Hypothesis 2**

**H0**: H0: Political turbulence is not one of the challenges of civil societies toward ensuring good governance in Nigeria.

**Hi**: H0: Political turbulence is one of the challenges of civil societies toward ensuring good governance in Nigeria.

**CHI-SQUARE TABLE**

| Response | O | E | O-E | $(O-E)^2$ | $\frac{(O-E)^2}{E}$ |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Yes | 234 | 200 | 34 | 1156 | 5.78 |
| No | 166 | 200 | -34 | 1156 | 5.78 |
|  | 400 | 400 |  |  | 11.56 |

Degree of Freedom

DF = (R-1) (C-1)

Where R = Rows

C = Columns

DF = (2-1) (2-1) = 1

DF = 1

$$X^2 = \frac{(234-200)^2}{200} + \frac{(166-200)^2}{200}$$

$$X^2 = \frac{(34)2}{200} + \frac{(34)^2}{200}$$

$X^2 = 5.78 + 5.78$

$X^2 = 11.56$

Determine the critical value of $X^2$

$X^2$ critical value = 3.84

Compare the two values

$X^2$ critical = 3.84

$X^2$ calculated = 11.56

Decision Rule: Accept H0 and reject Hi

Inference: since the calculated value of $X^2$ is greater than the critical value, this implies that Political turbulence is one of the challenges of civil societies toward ensuring good governance in Nigeria.

## SUMMARY OF THE FINDINGS

In the course of carrying out this study, the researcher arrived at the following findings:
1. The role of Civil Societies in Nigeria has not really enhanced good governance within the period under review.
2. Civil societies face challenges such as political turbulence, economic recession, social degradation, cultural segregation/imbalance, and religious intolerance.

**CONCLUSION**

Civil societies are known for their patriotic services toward the attainment of good governance, especially during the advent of the fourth republic but there is no much gain projecting that civil society activism in Nigeria has contributed significantly to good governance, especially between the period under review (1999 -2012). In every sector, with exception to health sector, their activities have not effected much change towards good governance. During the Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) outbreak in a number of West Africa countries, civil society groups mounted a sustained campaign and pressure on the Nigerian government to initiate and take preventive measures to avoid the transmission of the EVD into Nigeria. Social media such as Facebook pages, twitter feeds, and other social media sites/platforms were particularly useful sources in public health activism (Ngara 2019). Although many literatures have blown their trumpets in affirmative of the roles of civil societies since the fourth republic but the present study still maintains that though such efforts may not be in doubt, but the bottom line lies in the fact that such role playing of civil societies were never effective in the fourth republic. Current research revealed that the fourth republic could be regarded as one of the most notorious times and republic in the history of Nigeria, owing to the terrible happenings which has adverse political, economic, social, cultural and religious implications. Besides, of what use are the crucial roles of our various civil societies, when they cannot proffer solutions that will ensure good governance? This is precisely why Bidemi (2017) insisted that civil societies in Nigeria are more reactive than being proactive in their operations.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The Nigerian Government should change its orientation towards civil societies in Nigeria. It should regard them as helpmates, rather than threats.
2. Civil societies should emulate the western world in running their programmes. By emulation, they should embark on open door policy like the developed countries and ensure that they only give their leadership to members who can offer credible hands for good governance.

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