

Ref: ng Governance In Crisis: Climate Change And The Challenges Of Sustainable Democracy In Nigeria.

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Abstract: *Climate change and poverty has been an age long problem that has eaten deep into the fabric of Nigeria. In this work we looked into major hypothesis like how poverty has brought about corruption through bad governance and climate change has been blamed upon human activities which result in increase release of green house gases and wide spread of deforestation both of which alter the balance of atmospheric gases in favor of the green houses. These impacts are as a result of devastating effects of flooding, drought, erosion, sea level rise, heat stress, pest and diseases etc. which are all due to climate change. This work argued that in spite of Nigeria's rich human and abundant mineral resources (particularly oil), a distortionally high number of its population live in abject poverty with over 50 percent of the wealth concentrated in less than 10 percent of the total population. We also looked into the objectives of the study, to identify whether deforestation, industrial release, in proper sewage disposals and some of the major factors that are responsible for climate change in Nigeria and to show the extent to which poverty has obstructed democracy, the political class must embrace good governance through prudent use of available resources, provision of critical infrastructures and social amenities, conduct of free and fair election, and the promotion of accountability, transparency and the rule of law.*

Keywords: Climate Change, Poverty, Sustainable Democracy, Governance, Nigeria, Development Studies.

Introduction

There is now an agreement that climate change exists in reality and that the change will continue to manifest itself and is therefore expected to stay (IPCC, 2007). Climate change poses serious challenges for sustainable socio-economic development of countries and communities. Climate change refers to any change in climate overtime weather due to natural variability or as a result of human activity (McCarthy, 2001) it can also be seen as: "a change of climate which is attributed directly or indirect to human activity that alters the composition of the global atmosphere and which is in addition to natural climate variability observed over comparable time periods (Parry, 2007:9).

Climate change has become a global issue in recent times manifesting in variation of different climate parameters including cloud cover, precipitation, temperature ranges, sea levels and vapor pressure (Ministry of Environment of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, MOEFNR, 2003). The variation in climate parameters affect different sectors of the economy such as agriculture, health, water resources, energy etc. and also climate change affect the livelihood of Nigerians.

It is proper, therefore, for Nigerians to marshal action and encourage dialogue towards mitigating the negative impacts and adopt positive measure of managing the effects of climate change at national level. Such measures should strengthen the ongoing governmental efforts to fight poverty and ensure that the improvement of community livelihoods is not a failure. The focus of this paper is to examine the impact of climate on the livelihoods of Nigerians and also the challenges of sustainable democracy in Nigeria through assessing community preparedness for climate change and formulating recommendations that are deemed necessary.

Poverty: The concept of poverty defies a single universally accepted definition. It has come to mean different things to different people: it has been defined variously as a humiliating dependence (Narayan et al., 2000:30) lack of multiple resources that lead to hunger and physical deprivation (Eze, 2009:446), "MONEYLESSNESS" and "POWERLESSNESS" (Yakubu and Aderonwu, 2010:192), levels of income that are inadequate for well-being among others. However, in recent times attempt have been made to broaden the concept in order to capture its cross cultural nature as classically demonstrated in the world summit on social development in Copenhagen in 1995: "poverty has various manifestation, including lack of income and productive resources sufficient to ensure sustainable livelihoods resulting into hunger and malnutrition, ill health, limited or lack of access to education and other basic services which increase morbidity and mortality from illness homelessness and inadequate housing unsafe environment and social discrimination and exclusion. It is also characterized by a lack of participation in decision making and in civil social and cultural life. Poverty depends not only on income but also on access to services (Matten et al., 2003:2). Most of these

manifestation of poverty are rife in Nigeria, there are also compelling evidence to show that the trends are on the rise. Estimates have indicated that about 70% of Nigerians live in absolute poverty.

Ogwumike and the World bank (1999-2005) reports clearly shows a rising profile of Nigerian population living below poverty line from 43% in 1994, 66% in 1996 to over 70% in 2004. According to anger (2010:40) the services and development are considered.

In this work, poverty shall mean a debilitating circumstance in which individual or groups are socially and economically denied the capacity to meet their basic existential needs in such a manner that not only encumbers them from making meaningful contribution to the socio-economic development of their immediate community but also disenfranchises them from the political process.

Sustainable Democracy: The term sustainable democracy is synonymous with democratic consolidation. In its original conception, democratic consolidation was meant to describe “The challenges of making new democracies secure, of extending their life expectancy beyond the short term therefore making them immune against the threat of authoritarian repression and of building dams against eventual reversal waves” (Shedder 1998). This however describes the meaning of democratic consolidation. As Ojo 2003 rightly posits, the list of problems of democratic consolidation (as well as the corresponding list of conditions for democratic consolidation) has expanded beyond all recognition.

According to Beetham, democratic consolidation entails the challenges of making new democracies secure; of extending their life expectancy beyond the short term: and making them immune against the threat of authorization regression and of building dams against eventual reverse waves (Azeez, 2006:112). Therefore, for democracy to be consolidated it must satisfy certain conditions specified by Omotola as follows: popular legitimization, diffusion of democratic values, neutralization of anti-system actors, civilian supremacy over the military, elimination of authoritarian enclaves, party building, organization of functional interest, stabilization of electoral rulers, decentralization of state power, alleviation of poverty and economic stabilization (Nwanegbo and Alumona, 2011:127) Be that is it may, it suffices to say that democratic consolidation shall in this paper mean, the leaders and citizens of a country to develop and build a new democracy to the extent that such democracy satisfy the material, psychological and spiritual needs of a greater number of the concerned population.

1.1 Statement of the Problem

The study therefore, seeks to ascertain the extent to which climate change, poverty has imparted on the environment of sustainable democracy in Nigeria and the possible risk management challenge, strategies adopted to manage the challenges associated with the changes in climate which may result in extreme poverty despite that there is favourable climate, yet there are some challenges that Nigeria is facing as a result of climate change.

1.2 Research Question

1. How has poverty brought about corruption in Nigeria?
2. To what extent has deforestation; industrial release, improper sewage disposals as a result of human activities been responsible for climate changes in Nigeria?
3. Has democracy been consolidated in Nigeria having adopted a multi party system?

1.3 Objective of the Study

The broad objective of the research is to identify ways and means by which climate change, poverty and challenges of sustainable democracy in Nigeria could be managed to an acceptable level. In order to achieve this, the research attempts to achieve the following key specific objectives.

1. To identify whether deforestation, industrial release, improper sewage disposals are some of the major factors that are responsible for climate change in Nigeria.
2. Show the extent to which poverty has obstructed development in Nigeria.
3. To find out the extent Nigeria have gone into democratic consolidation of the country in the face of adopting multi-party system.

1.4 Significance of the Study

The need for this research cannot be over emphasized the quest for a nation that is free from corruption is the one that agitated political actors and scholar alike especially since the emergence of the nascent democratic experiment in Nigeria.

Theoretical experiment in this study is significant in the sense that it will help in exposing the various effect which poverty in Nigeria have on under development despite all efforts being put to eliminate it.

Empirically, industrial release, deforestation, improper sewage disposals are human activities responsible for climate change and secondly, that flooding, drought, erosion, make up the challenges resulting from climate change. The study will therefore provide solutions to the Nigeria government to manage the associated risk with climate change in Nigeria like afforestation programme, good policies, development of biotechnology, integrated climate risk management, and technology that can capture at least 80% of carbon emitted by industries.

This study also serves as the utmost significance to Nigeria's policy maker's especially in understanding the best party system to be adopted for a good democratic governance. It will help to sustain Nigeria's nascent democracy.

1.5 Scope and Limitations of the Study

The scope of this study is to identify effects of climate change, poverty and the challenges of sustainable democracy in Nigeria. It is the intention of this work to study the impact of climate change in Nigeria and how it leads to poverty and the challenges of sustainable democracy since independence, but for limited time and resource which would have helped in the prosecution of this work. As a result, this work shall be narrowed down to political corruption from (1999-2007) because of a clear study of it shall give a clear picture of what we ought to know about the topic under discussion. This work is also limited to the study of two anti-corruption strategies in the fourth republic EFCC & ICPC.

1.7. Definition of Terms

To avoid ambiguity and misconception of terms, the major variable to be defined here include: climate change, poverty, and the challenges of sustainable democracy.

Climate Change

Climate change refers to any change in climate overtime, whether due to natural variability or as a result of human activity (McCarthy, 2001:2).

According to Abdalla (2010) postulates that climate changes escalated desertification and environmental disasters in the Sahara desert such that farmers and herders struggle to survive. It has eroded their ability to make a living. Currently poverty is a major challenge in Nigeria. Therefore, climate change may expose vulnerable communities to extreme poverty.

Climate change is not a disaster but a natural hazard with the potentials capable of affecting many people negatively. UNDP (2008) defines natural hazards as a "natural processes or phenomena occurring in the biosphere that many constitute a damaging event and that in turn may be modified by human activities, such as environmental degradation and urbanization". The international research institute (2007) confirms that climate-related disasters, such as catastrophic floods or prolonged drought, have enormous social and economic impacts that can negate many years of development.

Poverty

Poverty is the pronounced deprivation of well being, it is the inability to satisfy one's basic needs because one lacks income to buy services or from lack of access to services.

Absolute poverty destitution refers to the state of service. Deprivation of basic human needs, which commonly includes: food, water, sanitations, clothing, shelter, healthcare, education and information. Relative income threshed, where this threshed differs for each society or country. One may be relatively poor without being in the state of absolute poverty. Relative poverty is often considered as an indirect measure of income inequality for most of history, poverty had been mostly accepted as inevitable as traditional models of production were insufficient to give an entire population a comfortable standard of living.

Sustainable Democracy

The term sustainable democracy is synonymous with democratic consolidation. In its original conception, democratic consolidation was meant to describe “The challenges of making new democracies secure, of extending their life expectancy beyond the short term, of making them immune against the threat of authoritarian repression and of building dams against eventual reversal waves” (Schelder, 1998). This however describes the classical meaning of democratic consolidation. As Ojo (2003) rightly posits, the list of problems of democratic consolidation (as well as the corresponding list of conditions for democratic consolidation) has expanded beyond all recognition. It has come to include such divergent items as popular legitimating, the diffusion of democratic values, the neutralization of anti-system actors, civilian supremacy over the military, the elimination of authoritarian enclaves, party buildings, the organization of functional interest, the stabilization of electoral rules, the routinization of politics, the mechanisms of direct democracy, judicial reform and the alleviation of poverty and economic stabilization. From a positivist perspective therefore, democratic consolidation deals with reaching the goal of democratic continuity, maintenance, entrenchment, survival, permanence, endurance, persistence, resilience, viability, sustainability or irreversibility. Put differently, it entails moving beyond democratic fragility, instability, uncertainty, vulnerability or the threat of breakdown (Schedler, 1993).

Though this study shares the foregoing views, it however defines sustainable democracy as the entrenchment and deepening of democratic political culture and multicultural citizenship receptive to the institutions, mechanisms and principles of a democratic regime and at the same time immune against internal and or external threats of erosion, breakdown or reversal (Omotala, 2004b). This requires effective institutions for the maintenance of law and order, if the games must be played according to the rules. Herein lies the centrality of effective policing to democratic consolidating.

CHAPTER TWO

2.1 Literature Review

In this chapter, we shall consult the work and view of scholars on the concept climate, poverty and the challenges of sustainable democracy in Nigeria. The work is not limited only on textbook; some consultation was made on newspaper. Indeed a lot of work has been done, but directly on corruption and poverty in Nigeria.

Conferences had been held, notable and reputable Nigerian administrations have contribute their respective literature in this phenomenon climate change, poverty and the challenges of sustainable democracy in Nigeria in various dimension and their intellectual perspective.

Climate change has been blamed upon human activities which result in increased release of green house and wide spread deforestation both of which alter the balance of atmospheric gases in farmers of the game house gases. The abundance of green houses gases result in phenomenon of green house effect, the green house gases allowed shortwave energy to get to lower atmosphere but held back long wave radiation from escaping thus regulating the earth’s heat budget. It is now widely recognized that climate change is experiencing having will have significant impacts on social, economic and ecological systems and process as socio-economic inequalities widen locally as well as globally (intergovernmental panel on climate change, IPCC, 2007).

Thomas (2007) states that an examination of climate change needs to include the relationships between global process (including emission effects and international convection), national responses and local outcomes, and particularly the effects of national decision and policies on local opportunities and ability to adapt. Thus aspect relating to environmental conflicts are important to consider.

Barnet and Adger (2007) observed that climate change is increasingly being called a security problem because there is concern that climate change may increase the risk of violent conflict. The underlying proposition is that climate is likely to undermine human security by reducing the natural resource base and limiting access to existing natural resources which are central to sustainable livelihoods, especially in developing countries. The impacts of climate change on socio-political systems are many, thus Davis (2001) cited in Barnet and Adger, (2007) shows how the El Nino events and famines of 9th century, triggered by drought resulted in political and economic colonization that deprived local people of their entitlements to natural resources, and another example is the issue of Bakkasi-peninsular conflicts between Nigeria and Cameroon in which some local people have been deprived of their right.

Revivey (2007) opines that climate-induced migration, which is likely to be more frequent given the extreme weather events, can create and intensify violent conflicts, this is particularly frequent in developing countries where because of limited options adopt to mitigate climate change, people are migrating from the affected regions.

Nordas and Gleditsch (2007) state that conflicts inducing effects of climate change have emerged in the literature and although several casual chain and or paths to these conflicts have been suggested. While fundamental environment factors for environmental migration are land degradation, droughts, deforestation, water scarcity, floods, and storms and famines linked to food insecurity, environment migration can also result from development.

According to Oxford Advanced Learners Dictionary, poverty is the state of being extremely poor, and also a state of being in sufficient in amount.

Poverty in Nigeria has promoted and encountered political and other forms of corruption. “the deepening of contradictions under” SAP..... “contributed to worsening poverty, unemployment, and hunger” (Obi; 2001:49) and created the need for people to meet their daily existential needs through other means other than the societal acceptable channels. (daily sun October 19, 2004:7).

Robert Obioha spoke about corruption in Nigeria, corruption at independence was traced to only 10 percent but now, corruption in Nigeria has gone beyond that figure and has been perfected that the nation’s wealth are stashed in foreign bank account while the citizen wallow in abject poverty, hunger and deprivation. At all the three tiers of government there are scattered evidence of corruption. Mis-governance and abuse of office by elected officials yet no one has been prosecuted.

Obikeze and Obi E.A. (2004:222) noted that corruption in any form retards the ratio of poverty, they further stated that corruption makes it possible for one to get what he is not qualified to get and denies one what he is the most qualified to get. It makes one dishonest, unpatriotic and involves betrayal of social trust, sabotage, lack of respect for reason and human integrity. Corruption encourages or promotes mediocrity in a society and destroys meritocracy.

Chutah (2004) posited the following as being the causes of the building of corruption tendencies among Nigerians.

1. **Leadership Quality:** Leadership entail among other things pointing to the right direction through words and actions. A leader who points to the right direction in words, but acts in a manner that contradicts his words is a bad leader his inability to match his words with actions could be a result of his moral administrative weakness. In such a situation, corruption becomes part and parcel of his leadership and plows down to the grass roots.
2. **Poverty:** It should be admissible the conditions that have certain persons to seek to shady and illegal ways to argument their income in order to meet certain basic needs. A point which should be pointed out is that while poverty is capable of creating condition for corruption, only the morally weak easily succumb to its inducement. This may render the submission that poverty, other causes of corruption include:
 - i. Great inequality in distribution of wealth.
 - ii. Political office as the primary means of gaining access to wealth.
 - iii. Conflict between changing moral codes.
 - iv. The weakness of social and governmental enforcement mechanism.
 - v. **Absence of a Strong Sense of National Unity:** The causes of corruption in Nigeria cannot deviate significantly, if all from the above factors. However, obsession with materialism, corruption for a short cut to affluence glorification and approbation (of ill gotten wealth) by the general public are among the reason for the persistence of corruption in Nigeria .C. Ndilor (march 17, 1999).

This literature is replete with scholarly commentaries on challenges and means or ways of ensuring that Nigeria’s democracy is consolidated and sustained. This could be as a result of the fact that democracy seems to provide democratic ingredients such as freedom of speech, human right, periodic elections that make the people’s will supreme.

However, Nwankwo (2007:244) even though multi-party system is suitable for the democratic consolidation of a state like Nigeria especially given its multi-ethnic configuration of the country, the democratic experiment of which spanned from (1999-2007) have not consolidated the democracy in Nigeria as one party, the People’s Democratic Party (PDP) keep dominating the politics of the nation. Thus, he note: “Technically, a situation where there are many parties and one of the political parties wins seats in the parliament, the total of which is more than seats of all the rest put together does not merit the nomenclature, multi-party system”.

The situation may be referred to as one party dominant system usually occurs in a multi-party are used by the incumbent to prevent opposition from legally getting power. Infact, in a real multi-party state, a single party can hardly gets a comfortable majority.

Indeed, Maeba (2012), advocated that multi-party system has not done much in democratizing Nigeria giving the experience of 2003 and 2007 elections which were generally believed to have marred with malpractices. He further argued that if Nigeria had adopted two party systems, it would have gone a long way in democratizing the country especially as it pertains to free and fair elections. He further noted that the only creditable election the nation has ever witnessed was in 1993, during the SPD and NRC days under option A4.

In his opinion, Naso (2012), argues that multi-party system has promoted democratization in Nigeria. He anchored his view based on the foundation that though so many parties might have won in the elections of 2003 and 2007 but at least, it provides a forum for aggregation of opinion. He further argued that the idea that two party system would have possibly entrenched democratization more in Nigeria when compared to multi-party system. He therefore in his respect discarded the experience of 1993 which experienced two party system, thus he argued, “well the general outlook of the SDP and NRC election was the best Nigeria ever had, however, that was just during the elections.

Contrary to the above views, Agaogun (2010), argues that our experiment with the multi-party system has since been a sad one and that elections under this system have been rigged as it is hard to manage over 50 (fifty) political parties instead of two or three parties. Very often post-election disputes linger in court for up to three years. Obviously, this goes against our national interest and need to be changed. He argued further that since Nigeria modeled her democracy after USA, that operates two party system, that it will be in her democratic interest to adopt two party system. Thus he noted: “UK and USA whose system we copied are operating a two party system, we need to learn from their experience instead of beating around the bush. To sustain the freedom of association, those who cannot accommodate themselves in two party system cannot opt to contest as independent candidate as done in United States as Nigeria can no longer compromise her national interest on the basis of multi-party system.

Adeh (2011), asserts that multi-party system has gone a long way in promoting democratization in Nigeria as it provided Nigeria with numerous choices. In his words, he noted that “Nigeria is a multi-party nation as such an aggrieved party leader has the right to either from his or her own party or cross-defect to another political party of his or her own choice.

Agenda (2010), also argued that multi-party politics as experienced under Obasanjo’s administration does not go a long way in promoting democratization. He argued that the president in power at that time used all the powers at his disposal to muscle down the activities of other political parties. Thus in his words, he realized that when Obasanjo became president of Nigeria, he came through some sort of fraudulent mechanisms and knowing that Obasanjo is somebody who does not believe in multi-party democracy, hence unleashed thuggery, intimidation and whatever you can imagine to ensure that people’s democratic party becomes the only serving political party in Nigeria.

Also in a similar opinion, it is argued that the fraudulent practices that greeted the 2003 and 2007 general elections which saw People’s Democratic party (PDP) clinging unprecedented victory makes nonsense of democracy in Nigeria.

According to hidden (2012), multi-party system which ought to have played significant role in Nigeria’s democratic consolidation became far-fetched giving the action of then government that have not only commented without reservation for multi-party democracy but proved it in action.

Finally, we acknowledge the fact that many literature exist on the topic under discussion and that reputable scholars have divergent views on this topic climate change, poverty and the challenges of sustainable democracy in Nigeria. However poverty did not go deep to examine the effect of corruption and activities of EFCC to tackle it head. And also most writers as x-rayed above are of the opinion that multi-party system as adopted in Nigeria has not entrenched the expected democratic indices needed for her democratic consolidation. Also climate change scoring to many scholars is not a disaster but a natural hazard with the potentials capable of affecting many people negatively. It is this observed disregard that this work is posed to tackle.

2.2 Theoretical Framework of Analysis

Climate change is a global problem that requires global solutions and is also one of the most important issues on the global political agenda, with a series of efforts to find solutions through international negotiations. Climate change has become a global issue in recent times manifesting in variations of different climate parameters including; cloud cover, precipitation, temperature ranges, sea levels and vapor pressure (ministry of environment of the federal republic of Nigeria (MOEFN) 2003:43). The variations in climate parameters affect different sectors of the economy such as agriculture, health, water resources, energy etc. The main cause of climate change has been attributed to anthropogenic (human) activities. For example, the increased industrialization in the developed nations has led to the introduction of large quantities of greenhouse gases (GHGS), including Carbon (iv) oxide

(CO₂), methane (CH₄) and nitrous oxide (N₂O) into the atmosphere. These GHGs are the primary causes of global warming. The global increases in CO₂ concentration are due primarily to fossil fuel use and land use change, while those of CH₄ and N₂O are primarily due to agriculture. There is no doubt therefore, that the earth is getting warmer and human beings are mainly to be blamed (Spore 2008:4). With reference to sub-Saharan Africa, there is growing interest on the likely impacts of climate change on agriculture economic growth and sustainable development. The world has risen to the challenge and has started to put in place legal and institutional mechanisms and measures to collectively tackle the issues of climate change. The most prominent of these are the United Nations framework convention on climate change (UNFCCC) and the Kyoto protocol. But since it is also a local phenomenon, interventions to cope with climate change impacts require the engagement of stake holders at national and local levels. Adaptation requires the active involvement of different actors and responses at multiple levels.

The ills and incidence of poverty can be explained, described and interpreted within the context of the political economy approach. The central thesis of this theoretical construct is that the mode of production of any society determines all other socio-political facets and trends of the society. Succinctly put, poverty and other social vices witnessed in any socio-political formation is a product of that country's mode of production. Some norms, moral ethos legal system, the judiciary, and public officials are bound to be weak and poor.

The political economy approach stands a better chance of thoroughly appraising the poverty in Nigeria and its link to corruption perhaps through a holistic and historical point of view.

The approach made it clear to understand that corruption is one of the legacies and consequences of colonial political economy, which is still in vigor. This corruption and the socio-political crisis in Nigeria are symptoms and consequences of the inherited adulterated and perverted imperial exploitation values sustained in Nigeria today, which to a large extent, accounts for most of the corruption practices in public circles.

In developed nations poverty is often seen as either a personal or structural defects, in developing nations like Nigeria the issue of poverty is more profound due to the lack of governmental funds. Some theories on poverty in the developing country like Nigeria focus on cultural characteristics as a retardant of further development. Other theories focus on social and political aspects that perpetuate poverty. A perception of the poor has a significant impact on the design and execution of programs to alleviate poverty.

CHAPTER THREE

METHODOLOGY

3.1 Research Hypotheses

1. Poverty has brought about corruption through bad governance
2. Climate change has been blamed upon human activities which result in increased release of green house gases and wide spread deforestation both of which alter the balance of atmospheric gases in favor of the green house gases.
3. Democracy has not been consolidated in Nigeria after having adopted a multi-party system.

3.2 Method of Data Collection Analysis

After considering the problem and purpose of this study, the method of data collection to be used in this research is the content analysis techniques. Here, newspaper, textbooks, magazines, special gazettes, conference papers, seminar papers, journal, articles, internet write ups and other literatures will be analyzed. This research will therefore lead us to the libraries of the Anambra State University, Igbariam campus.

The methods of data analysis to be adopted here is the qualitative method where data is stated, described and analyzed without the use of number or quantifiers.

CAUSES OF POVERTY IN DEVELOPING NATIONS, POVERTY AS CULTURAL CHARACTERISTIC

Development plays a central role to poverty reduction in third world countries. Some authors feel that the national mindset itself plays a role in the ability for a country to develop and to thus reduce poverty.

Marianno Grandona (2000) outline twenty cultural factors which depending on the culture's view of each, can be indicators as to whether the cultural environment is favorable or resistant to development turn Lawrence .E. Harrison (2000) identified ten values which like Grandona's factors can be indicative of the nation's developmental environment.

Poverty as a Label

Various theorists believe the way poverty is approached, defined and thus thought about plays a role in its perpetuation. Maia Green (2006) explains that modern development literature tends to view poverty as agency, filled. When poverty is prescribed agency, poverty becomes something that happens to people. Poverty absorbs people into itself and people in turn, become a part of poverty, devoid of their human characteristics. In the same way, poverty according to Green, is viewed as an object in which all social relations (and persons involve) are obscured. Issues such as structural failing, institutionalized inequalities, or corruption may lie at the heart of a region's poverty but these are obscured by broad statement about poverty.

The terms are given to the poor because the poor lack social and economic capital, and thus have little to no influence on how they are represented and or perceived in the larger community. Solutions or plans for reduction of poverty often fail precisely is removed and local conditions are not considered.

This paper adopts "liberal theory of democracy" in examining the challenges of democratic consolidation in Nigeria. The liberal theory of democracy is said to be common among capitalist and peripheral capitalist nations. This notion of democracy emerged when capitalism became the dominant mode of production in Europe and North America supported philosophical writing of John Locke. J.J., John Stuart Mill, Montesquien and other liberal writers whose theories advocate private liberty, natural rights, social justice, majority rule and private property (Oddih, M. 2007) based on this promise, basic features of liberal democratic theory are:

- Acceptance of capitalism
- Free, fair and periodic elections based on universal franchise.
- Emphasis on civil liberties or individual rights such as freedom of speech, assembly, press and religion.
- Competitive party system as oppose to one party system.
- Pressure groups.
- Rule of law.
- Separation of powers and checks and balance.
- Abhorrence of revolutionary approach to change the government.

The central idea of the liberal bourgeon theory of democracy is how to design a political system which encourages individual participation and enhances moral development of citizens. Liberal democracies usually have universal suffrage granting all adult citizens the right to vote regardless of race, gender or property ownership. Liberal democracy may take various constitutional forms. It may be a federal republic, as the United States, Brazil, India and Germany or a constitutional monarchy such as the United Kingdom, Japan, or Spain. It may also be a presidential or a parliamentary system.

This theory is justified due to the facts that, it can help examine analytically the challenges of democratic consolidation in Nigeria as it designs the systematic structure through which a democratic political system can effectively function. Liberal theory of democracy is an interesting theory in this work. It value lies in the fact that it exposes and explains the expectation of any political system, especially as it emphasize the conduct credible elections which is one of the factors responsible for consolidating democracy.

Critique

Liberal democracy does not respect the absolute majority rule (expect when electing representatives). The liberty of majority rule is restricted by the constitution or precedent decided by previous generation. Also, the real power is actually held by a relatively small representative.

The argument goes thus, "liberal democracy" is merely a decoration over an Oligarchy, some Marxist socialists and left-wing Anarchists, argue that, liberal democracy is an integral part of the capitalist system. Therefore, it is a class-based and not democratic or participatory. The cost of political campaigning in representatives democracies favors the rich (Morton, 2004).

Modern democracy has been criticized by non-democratic socialists as an honest force used to keep the masses from realizing that there will be irrelevant in the political process. Liberal democracy notwithstanding the criticisms averred by critique and large significant in this work.

Although other theories such as liberal Marxists theory, classical theory of democracy, political economy theory and group theory respectively, have been used to analyze democracy, none is sufficient to examine democratic consolidation better than be liberal theory in this study.

CHAPTER FOUR

THE IMPLICATIONS OF CLIMATE CHANGE AND POVERTY ON SUSTAINABLE DEMOCRACY IN NIGERIA

4.1 The Relationship Between the Climate Change and Poverty

Climate change will hasten the demise of poor and vulnerable communities in Nigeria. Abdalla (2010) postulates that climate change escalated desertification and environmental disasters in the Sahara Desert such that farmers and herders struggle to survive. It has eroded their ability to make challenge in Nigerian. Therefore, climate change may expose vulnerable communities to extreme poverty. Climate change is not a disaster but a natural hazard with the potentials capable of affecting many people negatively. UNDP (2008) defines natural hazards as a “natural processes or phenomena occurring in the biosphere that may constitute a damaging event and that may be modified by human activities, such as environmental degradation and urbanization”. The international research institute (2007) confirms that climate-related disasters, such as catastrophic floods or prolonged drought, have enormous social and economic impacts that can negate many years of development. The prolonged dry periods characterized by damaged vegetation and loose soils, low or no crop production: loss of livestock, and heat-waves followed by heavy rains causing floods, gullies, and landslides, all contribute to the destruction of the environment (Un, 1996). In the Sahara Desert vulnerability was worsened by the absence of clear environmental and development policies, combined with population growth, land degradation, and erratic rainfall (Abdalla, 2010).

Recently torrential rains in some parts of least thirty (30) people, left dozens missing, 5090 people homeless, and washed away 2000 herds of cattle (This Day, August 8, 2012). The loss reduced the resilience of, and increased vulnerability to poverty in the affected communities. Similar flooding has been experienced in Ibadan, Oyo state, in July, 2011 floods destroyed many lives and swept away many properties attributable to climate change. In response, the Nigeria Government action was limited to provision of immediate needs rather than long term strategies and this led to an increase of poverty (IFRC, 2007). As such, those who were poor before the disaster suffered increased economic and social hardships thereafter. They remained without habitable shelter, nutritious food, potable water, income, livestock, and economic support to reconstruct their lives. In Nigeria, heavy down pours destroyed maize, millet, and sorghum in many farms in the area (daily trust, April 13, 2010). Climate change complicates the achievement of the MOG's by 2015 because of increase suffering and potentials for armed conflict within and between countries.

In additional to climate change, negative human attributes and practices, especially discrimination and corruption, contribute to their vulnerability (IFRC, 2007). The world Disaster report (2007:11) states that “disasters do not discriminate, the able and disable persons, young and old, men and women. But discrimination can multiply the effects of crisis on vulnerable people”. as such, due to gender discrimination, disaster affects women and children more than men and female headed more than male headed households.

Gender mainstreaming in poverty reduction is critical as poverty impacts differently on women and men, in particular when coupled with crises and HIV/AIDS. Therefore, it is equally important you track how gender discrimination widens when poverty deepens due to climate change (UNDP, 2003), This makes the poor female headed households and women more vulnerable to disasters or even power then they were before the disasters (IFRC, 2009). Human vulnerability refers to a condition or process resulting from physical, social, economics, and environment factors which determine the likelihood and scale of change and damage from the impact of a given hazard (UNDP, 2008), the Nigerians MDG Report (2004) shows that poor households are made vulnerable to hunger by inflation which erodes real incomes of farmers to subsist during unfavorable seasons. Nigeria estimates that 37 percent of the population lives below the poverty datum line. The greater proportion if female-headed households which live on less than a dollar a day. These households are overrepresented amongst those vulnerable to disaster and trapped in poverty. Although all human beings are vulnerable to climate change and related hazards, the poor are the most vulnerable. The Nigeria MDG Report (2004) asserts that economic modernization has eroded the traditional support mechanisms and has become a source of vulnerability for

households. In northern Nigeria where poor families used to get a small number of livestock, usually cattle, from those with more resources for purposes of making draught power, and possibly seed stock, has all but disappeared. The situation suggests that the United Nation's goals of halving poverty and hunger by 2015 may become a mere dream for African countries Nigeria in particular, when family support systems collapse. Extreme poverty may characterize the period up to 2016 and this may be exacerbated by land degradation, less or heavy rain, crop failure, economic meltdown, and other climate change related factors (Eze-mokwe, 1998: Abdalla, 2010).

4.2 Effects of Poverty on Challenges of Sustainable Democracy in Nigeria

The high level of poverty in Nigeria has promoted in the same measure a high level of inequality, social injustice and consequent political apathy, the rising levels of poverty in Nigeria has been underscored by the national Bureau of statistics (2007:38) that the number of people living in poverty increased from 39.07 million in 1992 to 70 millions in 2004 similarly, the UNDP states that about 83.9 percent of Nigerians live below two US dollars a day (Nna and Igwe, 2010:133). This poverty profile is further complicated by staggering and alarming levels of inequality as highlighted by Oshewolo (2010:267) that 70.2 percent of the Nigeria population lives on less than \$1 a day, while 90.8 percent lives on less than \$2 a day. The total income earned by the richest 20 percent of the population is 55.7 percent, while the total income earned by the poorest 20 percent is 4.4 percent.

The poverty situation since the birth of the fourth republic in 1999 included a dimension of powerlessness. This is characterized by dependence on others, and a lack of voice and options, more precisely, analysts conclude that poor people lack information about and access to Government (especially the police and courts) and that they see the state as ineffective, irrelevant and corrupt (Mattes, et al, 2003:35). Similarity et al, (2003:35) argues that the poor are "regularly victimized by public officials and encounter higher levels of crime. As a consequence, they are forced to rely on informal networks and association" for survival. As the state constantly violates the right of the citizens, and denies them social justice including economic opportunity, the people have come to perceive the state as predatory and evil that must be avoided and federal thus, I honor beer (1997:43) aver that The masses in Africa, relate to the state as an exploitative, coercive and alien structure (whose) custodians lack credibility and legitimacy and are thus incapable of mobilizing or leading the people. This underscores the high level of political apathy by significant segments of the Nigeria population and confirm the assertion that poverty decreases both population and the participation in democratic life and popular support for democracy... given the imperative to satisfy basic survival needs, poor people may have little reason to worry about satisfying supposedly "higher order" needs like self government, freedom and equality that democracy fulfils (Mattes, 2003:35).

The implication of limited participation of the people in democracy removes such a system from the realm of true democracy and prevents it from engineering peoples continued development as well as the loss of its essence and meaning such democratic regime can also easily transform or relapse into autocracy and dictatorship this is not talk of corruption for violence, conflict that are already germane in Nigeria since 1999. In addition, political apathy arising from mass poverty in Nigeria has also hindered and contributed to the shifting of the growth and development of vibrant civic societies as well as the cultivation and growth of democratic value and civic culture.

4.3 Strategies Geared Toward Curbing Poverty to the Barest Minimum

Poverty in Nigeria has promoted and encountered political and other form of corruption depending contradiction under "SAP..." contributed to worsening poverty, unemployment, and hunger" (Obi, 2001:49) and created the need for people to meet their daily existential needs through other means other than the societal acceptable channels.

No wonder Victor E. Dife (friend July 14, 2006) stated that all nation developed, under developed and developing are populated by human being with needs and wants. Nigeria is littered by myriad of unreasoned policies those that are hostile put together and poorly implemented what a smell that one person enjoys, gives another individual a headache. The society lacks the institution and committed leadership to spur sustainable political economic growth and eradicate poverty.

Therefore in order to curb poverty to the barest minimum thereby eliminating under-developed and corruption rate in Nigeria, the leadership should itself not be corruption. It should therefore ensure that it is as transparent, open and accountable as possible by so doing corruption will reduce and there will be employment to reduce poverty rate.

CHAPTER FIVE

SUMMARY, RECOMMENDATIONS AND CONCLUSION

5.1 Summary

The general points that emerged from the analysis of climate change, poverty and the challenges of sustainable democracy in Nigeria shall be summarized. It is clear that factors such as indiscipline, unemployment, recession, bribery and corruption, inflated contracts, ethnicity, favoritism etc. have eaten deep into the fabric of Nigeria society. Other factors like high mortality rate, robbery, frustration are as a result of high poverty rate in the Nigeria society. As a result, there have been crisis of marginalization, civil unrest, and religious wars, poverty and general uprising, in spite of the country's abundant human material and natural resources.

Nigeria has many policies, strategies and plans that can address general adaptation measures in some climate change sectors such as agriculture, water resources, forest and ecosystems, and coastal marine environment. However, the policy frame work to align human development and climate change response efforts through adaptation is largely undeveloped in the country.

5.2 Conclusion

Nigeria should develop a cleaner source of energy instead of its over dependence on fossil fuel energy that generate greenhouse gases. While already existing energy production facilities should be physically protected with barriers; agencies responsible for the environment should enforce laws and regulations, particularly with respect to urban planning and development and adherence to industrial standards as well as erection of structures or utilities in ecologically sensitive areas town and cities should be well planned and free of industrial and municipal wastes.

This research highlighted the meaning of poverty and also the factors that constitute a log in the wheel of development in eradicating poverty and corruption in Nigeria. For Nigeria to consolidate its nascent democracy the political class must embrace good government through prudent use of available resources, provision of social amenities and critical infrastructures, ensure free and fair elections, and promote accountability, transparency and the rule of law.

Democracy was welcomed in Nigeria with high expectation and enthusiasm since it has the capability of ensuring political stability and socio-economic development. But this hope was soon dashed as the political landscape of the nation was turn to a battle "ground not for national survival but for extending self centric and elitist agenda.

5.3 Recommendations

Nigeria should focus more on economic ties that are tertiary in nature which generate little greenhouse gases, development should be limited in areas likely to be flooded. The citing of new facilities and the location of infrastructure should not be very close to the sea in order for them to be free from sea level rise; Nigeria should develop a technology that can capture at least 80% of carbon entitled by industries which are discharged into the atmosphere.

To turn the stumbling blocks to development into spring board upon which an ideal development is anchored and to eradicate the high level of poverty, employment should be based on meritocracy, government should massively encourage and assistant labor intensive industries, for example agriculture, textile manufactures etc, Government should provide agricultural aid to the farmers and a farming machine should be made affordable.

The system of democracy in Nigeria today lacks an agenda for the masses and their rights terribly suppressed. Instead and of peace, stability, development and an egalitarian society, the nation is now characterized and marred by political instability.

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