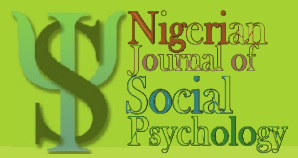


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Democratic Leadership and Youth Empowerment in South East Geopolitical Zone of Nigeria from 2015-2022

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Abstract

This study investigated Democratic leadership and youth empowerment in South East Geopolitical Zone of Nigeria from 2015 – 2022. The scope of the study cover; to examining the effect of democratic leadership in south east in Nigeria, the study covers only two states in south east, namely Enugu and Ebonyi, and the study is disposed to find out; effect of democratic leadership on youth employment in south east geopolitical zone of Nigeria, the effect of democratic leadership on youth participation in governance south east geopolitical zone of Nigeria, the effect of democratic leadership on youth acquisition of entrepreneurial skills in south east geopolitical zone of Nigeria. The total population for the study is two thousand eight hundred and seventy six (2876) youth. A sample size of three hundred and fifty one (351) youth was drawn using Yaro Yamen sampling techniques. This study made use of both primary and secondary data as method of data collection. Primary data are those data which have been collected for the first time by the researcher, while secondary data are those data that has been collected by someone else and exist somewhere such as journals, encyclopedia, newspaper and other authoritative documents relevant to this study. Data elicited from the respondent was analyzed using simple percentages, while the chi-square was used for testing of hypothesis at 0.05 level of significance. The findings of the study revealed that democratic leadership has little or no significant role in youth employment in South East Geopolitical Zone of Nigeria, democratic leadership played significant role in youth participation in politics and governance in south east geopolitical zone of Nigeria, democratic leadership played significant role in youth acquisition of entrepreneurial skills in south east geopolitical zone of Nigeria. Based on the findings, the following recommendations were made; democratic leadership should create more job opportunities for the youth as the high rate of insecurity and insurgency in the country could be attributed to the idleness of the youth, democratic leadership should include the youth in planning and execution process of programs aimed at empowering the youth, as this will enable the program to address efficiently the myriads of problems facing the youth, democratic leadership should endeavour to give the youth opportunity to hold political position, this will help boost their morale and productivity instead of resorting to political violence to register their discountenance with the system. Finally suggestions for further studies were made..

Keywords: Democratic leadership, Youth empowerment, Entrepreneurship Skills.

Introduction

Democratic leadership is a system of government where every adult has equal chances of voting and being voted for without being intimidated or dissuaded by the pecuniary power of his opponents. Therefore democracy is based on the principles of government by the people, people govern themselves, participate in making the crucial decisions that structure their lives and determine the fate of their society (Nelson, 2011). Though this participation takes a number of forms but the most common form of democratic participation is the act of voting (Babalo and Fasiku, 2015). The true nature of democratic leadership was spelt out by Abraham Lincoln as cited in Andrew (2007) as government of the people, by the people and for the people.

This informed us that democratic leadership links government to the people and this link can be forged in a number of ways; government of, by and for the people. In this case, democratic leadership could mean the strict application of the principle of majority rule. Democratic leadership in essence “says no to inequality, injustice, coercions, dictatorship and above all, all practices that reduce the happiness and well being of the masses of the populace. Other major feature of modern democracy include individual freedom which entitled citizens to the liberty and responsibility of shaping their own career and conducting their own affairs and education.

Hence the growth of democracy requires a number of indispensable factors as posited by Ayodele (1999), patriotic, enlightened and efficient leadership, patriotic followership and institutionalization of plural parties, free and fair elections, responsive and accountable governance and respect for human dignity, justice and freedom. Therefore Nigeria should not only strive to enthrone democracy on permanent basis but also to ensure the functional government and sustainability of democracy, through active participation of the youth in their governance.

In Nigeria, according to 2006 population census, youth constitute the largest percentage of the population. Consequently the youth population accounts for over half of the projected national population of over 200 million people (Akinyemi & Mibolaji, 2022). Nigeria has a youthful population of about sixty percent of her population, more than seventy percent of the youth are said to be unemployed (Babalo et al, 2015). The danger of unemployment and idleness are very prominent as majority of youth are roaming about the streets in search of jobs in order to survival and where there is not job, some of the youth out of frustration take to vices like engaging in criminality and drug abuse. The position of the youth in any society cannot be under estimated in that the category of population remains the most despised neglected and underutilized in the country. Despite their potentials and capacity for positive impact towards national and economic development. According to Abe, (2010) some of the youth that are involved in political violence voluntarily submit themselves to this situation as a means of registering their discontent and dissatisfaction with the system.

In Nigeria today, the rate of insecurity, political thuggery, killings and assassination, kidnapping is increasing daily, and most of these social vices a perpetrated by the youth out of frustration. Therefore, there is need to put all machineries by the Nigeria government all the lovers of democracy in the country to ensure that the hands of Nigerian youth are rescued from the work of devil through various empowerment programmes. Many youths are not even sufficiently educated to have skills that make them employable. This has provided an opportunity and a basis for the political elites to consider youths as political enforcers, through thuggery, purveyors of violence and other nefarious purposes (Uba & Chiwuiké, 2022). The youths,

therefore, need to understand their role and responsibilities, that they are leaders of tomorrow, that they needed preparation and training now to avoid negative consequences in the future.

Empowerment could therefore be seen as a means through which one is assisted or encouraged to be self employed, or sufficient (Babalolaet, 2015). Empowerments refer to increasing in the economic, political, social, educational, gender, or spiritual strength of individuals and communities. Empowering the youth is essence in any government want to achievement a monumental success in national and economic development of its nation. Democratic leadership sustain good governance, and there cannot be good governance without active and efficient empowerment of the youth. Any government where the youth is not accorded their rightful position in governance, the result is often worrison as the major population that bear the democratic instability are the youth because they end up as a product of unemployment, underemployment, political violence, thuggery which are threat to sustainable democracy (Babalota, 2015). To avert this menace, youth empowerment is regarded as the suitable tool to solve these problems and threat that are confronting democratic governance in Nigeria, because democracy cannot strive with the high level of insecurity and restiveness in the nation.

In view of the above, it is expected that youth empowerment through various means will reduce the menace of unemployment and help reduce to barest minimum the problem and insecurity, violence and other social vices that has become the order of the day in Nigeria. For functional and sustainable democracy, empowering the youth must be sustained and given credence. It is based on this background that the researcher wish to investigate the relationship between democracy and youth empowerment from 2015 – 2022. The aim of the study is to examine democratic leadership and youth empowerment in Nigeria. Specifically the objectives of the study include to; access the effect of democratic leadership on youth employment in south east geopolitical zone of Nigeria, evaluate the effect of democratic leadership on youth participation in governance in south east geopolitical zone of Nigeria and to ascertain the effect of democratic leadership on youth acquisition of entrepreneurial skills in south east geopolitical zone of Nigeria.

Statement of the problem

In Nigeria, the issue of democracy and youth empowerment has called for the attention of well meaning Nigeria. It appears that since its attainment of political independence in 1960, Nigeria has gotten more trapped in bad governance and lingering underdevelopment, attributed to group of leaders in power that seem to have completely left out the youths to their own fate. The problem of Nigeria democracy is a leadership challenge saddled with reckless neglect of the youth. The trends continue to exist without a hope for a change as the country since independence has been governed by old people. The Nigeria democratic leadership style is characterized by selfish old politician who took delight in marginalization youth, the youth out of frustration resort to restiveness, insurgency, banditry, militancy, violence and electoral dereliction, kidnapping, assassination, examination malpractices, sexual promiscuity, moral depravity and the growing forced migration trend of youths leaving Nigeria in their thousands as escape routes to other countries that seems to offer better environment for youths to thrive. Consequently, the series of youth empowerment programmes initiated thus far by the Nigerian leadership are not based on democratic principles in terms of actual needs assessment, achieving the common good in selecting principal beneficiaries with transparency and accountability in ensuring these prorammes actually empower youths and reduce youth employment. Worst still in the non involvement of the youths in the planning state of such programmes/intervention. It is based on these observable problems that arose the researcher

interest to conduct an empirical research on democratic leadership and youth empowerment to evaluate the relationship that exist between the two variables.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Concept of Democratic Leadership

The idea of democratic leadership suggests that leadership can be conducted in ways that includes people rather than treating them simply as followers of the leader. Understanding what this means conceptually, and its implications for practice in schools and other educational settings, raises complex and challenging issues (Ogungbemi, 2010). The concept of democracy has a variety of meanings. The concept of leadership itself is much debated, with increasing attention being given to the idea that in practice it is a distributed and emergent phenomenon involving not only senior leaders but also numerous others who contribute to leadership through everyday interactions. A narrow, minimalist idea of democratic leadership sees it as a style of leadership that, say, a principal or head teacher might adopt so that others, such as staff and students, feel consulted and included. This does not have so much potential for transforming education. A broader conception, with greater relevance to education, sees democratic leadership as having a much richer and more ambitious focus (Okafor, 2005). A rich perspective of democratic leadership not only promotes power sharing and transforming dialogue that enhances understanding (rather than entrenching people's existing views and self-interests), but also cultivates holistic learning as rounded, ethical 'citizens' of the organisation and relational well-being through a community that fosters both belonging and individuality.

Democratic Leadership in Nigeria

The task of consolidating democracy is often as arduous as that of establishing it. Nigeria's romance with democracy has suffered setbacks at various times from independence till date. Of the fifty four years of her "flag" independence, democratic governance has convoluted on a number of occasions and thus, paving way for twenty nine years of military rule ((Akintunde et al., 2015). Lack of effective leadership in the country is unarguably the greatest cause of lack of direction, unity and cohesion required for democratic sustenance and national development. Effective leadership from time in history has being a required interferon for unity and development of nation states. Some of the timeless pieces ever written in political discourse; Machiavelli's prince, Plato's Republic etc. were largely devoted to resolving leadership problems. Leadership problem in Nigeria can be traced back to the country's colonial past (Akintunde et al., 2015). The colonial government introduced indirect rule for the selfish reason of not willing to incur the expenses and rigor of establishing a new state thus, different nations of the hitherto polyglot state continue to pursue centrifugal objectives. As a corollary to the principle of divided and rule of the colonial masters in the land, the battle for liberation was also fought with divided interests. For different reasons, pre-independence tribal leaders were disunited on when and how to eject the colonial master. Devolution of power (State & Local Government creation) federal character, derivation principle among others has been introduced towards enlisting the support of every constituent parts of the country in building a nation.

Concept of Youth Empowerment

Youth empowerment is a process where children and young people are encouraged to take charge of their lives. They do this by addressing their situation and then take action in order to improve their access to resources and transform their consciousness through their beliefs, values, and attitudes (International Youth Studies, 2023). Youth empowerment aims to improve

quality of life. Youth empowerment is achieved through participation in youth empowerment programs. However scholars argue that children's rights implementation should go beyond learning about formal rights and procedures to give birth to a concrete experience of rights (International Youth Studies, 2023). There are numerous models that youth empowerment programs use that help youth achieve empowerment. A variety of youth empowerment initiatives are underway around the world. These programs can be through non-profit organizations, government organizations, schools or private organizations.

Youth empowerment is different from youth development because development is centered on developing individuals, while empowerment is focused on creating greater community change relies on the development of individual capacity (International Youth Studies, 2023). Empowerment movements, including youth empowerment, originate, gain momentum, become viable, and become institutionalized (International Youth Studies, 2023). Youth empowerment is often addressed as a gateway to intergenerational equity, civic engagement and democracy building. Activities may focus on youth-led media, youth rights, youth councils, youth activism, youth involvement in community decision-making, (International Youth Studies, 2023) and other methods.

Democratic Leadership and Youth Employment in Nigeria

In Nigeria, democracy has been restored for over a decades ago, which so much hopes and expectations by the people. For instance, it is assumed that with democracy, people would be free to choose their leaders and representatives and hold them accountable for the overall objective of fast tracking development and improving the general living conditions of the masses. This expectation is not misplaced considering that Nigeria has abundant human and natural resources. However, the reality on ground has shown that this expectation is yet to be realized. Hence, the growing sense of despondency among the masses. In other countries in North African like Tunisia, Egypt and Libya where dictators have held sway for over three decades, people have revolted against the system.

Though these countries can say to be less democratic than Nigeria, yet the living condition of the people in real economic terms is better (Abati, 2011; Adejumbi, 2011) Furthermore, the unemployment rates in these countries are more or less like that of Nigeria (Ojenagbo, 2011). The major concern here therefore is, given the kind of violent agitations that pervaded the above mentioned countries with relatively better living conditions than Nigeria, what is the guaranteed that large army of unemployed youths will not engage in activities that would undermine the stability of democracy in Nigeria?

The problem of chronic youth unemployment is very evident in Nigeria. Every year thousands of graduates are turn out for whom there are no jobs. Nigerian streets are littered with youth hawkers who ordinarily would have found gainful employment in some enterprise. The self employed are in quandary as scant infrastructure makes it impossible for them to ply their trade. The large number of youths who are unemployment is capable of undermining democratic practice as they constitute a serious threat if engaged by the political class for clandestine activities (Adepegba, 2011; Ibrahim, 2011; Lartey, 2011; Olatunji & Abioye, 2011).

Democracy and Youth Participation in Governance

Youth political participation is a concept made up of two distinct terms: youth and political participation, which require explaining if the concept is to be meaningful. The notion of youth has been defined in a number of ways in the literature. For instance, while the United Nations

defined youth as anyone between the age brackets of 15–24, the World Bank defined youth as individuals aged 12–24. Galstyan (2019) maintains that youth is a period of “transition from dependency to independence,” while Hilker and Fraser (2009) maintain that youth is a transitional stage between childhood and adulthood, rather than a rigid construct based on age. Meanwhile, due to the political, socio-cultural and economic realities in Africa, these age brackets have been described as too narrow. As a result, Nigeria’s 2009 National Youth Policy defined youth as persons between the age of 18 to 35 years (Galstyan, 2019:3, Hilker & Fraser, 2009; National Youth Policy, 2019; United Nations, 2013)). Therefore, youth as used in this study refers to persons between the ages of 18 and 35 years. The terms youth and young people are used interchangeably.

Political participation is yet another contentious concept in the literature. According to Verba and Nie (1972), political participation refers to “those activities by private citizens that are more or less directly aimed at influencing the selection of governmental personnel and/or the actions they take.” Van Deth (2014) describes the concept using a range of features: it is an activity; it is voluntary and not ordered by a ruling class or required by law; it refers to people in their role as non-professionals or amateurs, and it concerns government, politics, or the state. According to Sida (2010), youth political participation is the involvement of young people in political activities, civic life, active citizenship, and policymaking. This could take several forms, including serving on a local government council, voting in an election, or participating in the budget process of their local government.

As Ibezim (2019) notes, youth participation in politics in Nigeria is bedeviled by a myriad of challenges, chief among which is a lack of understanding of the benefits that youth political participation holds. The author goes further to state that unemployment, social exclusion, limited capacity, resources and tools are other problems facing the youth. Mengistu (2017) who asserts that due to abysmal youth political participation in Africa, and by extension Nigeria, the majority of young people are vulnerable to enlistment for violence against a government. The complicity of young people in the establishment of the Revolutionary United Front (RUF) in Sierra Leone, is a case in point. Youth political participation is more than just voting in an election.

Consequently having a growing youth population may translate into a large and active work force, yet, it may also result in a disaster with an upsurge in the crime rate, an increased dependency ratio and worryingly, widespread poverty. This makes it all the more important for the government to actively engage youth to create an integrated and inclusive society (NBS, 2018). As Zohdy (2017) argues, social inclusion of youth in governance is instrumental in avoiding societal costs that comes with the exclusion of youth, such as lower voter turnout rates, a loss of several percentages of GDP, violence, extremism, crime, and instability

Democratic Leadership and Youth Acquisition of Entrepreneurial Skills

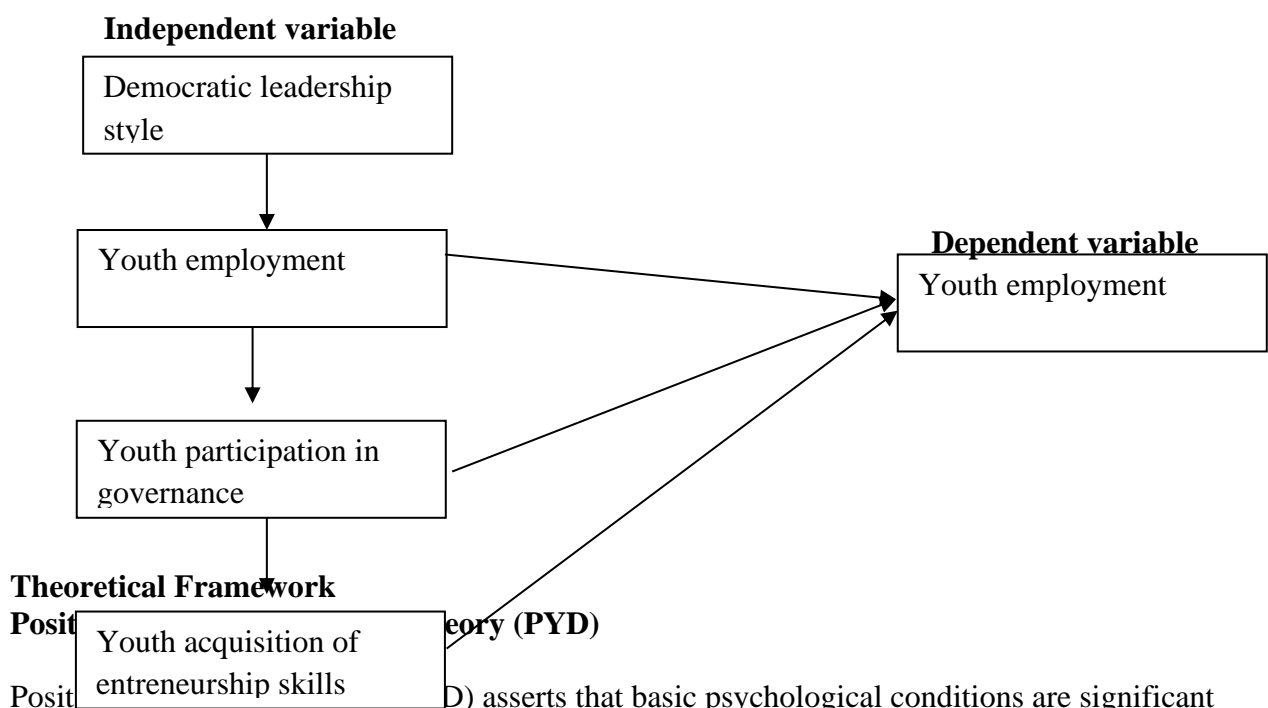
Youth, according to the population census of 2006, account for about 70 percent of Nigeria's population figure, which means that they are very important set of people that should not be taken for granted in the society. However, these young people face many challenges; such as high rate of poverty and unemployment, indiscipline, ignorance, inability to access vital information, and essential welfare services, which have made these young people lose hope in themselves. Some high levels of violence, crime and high risk of sexual behaviors of any age

group are seen in the youth, leading many to label them as a source of the societal problem rather than its potentials (Skogan, 1986).

According to Chigunta (2002), except factors, like unemployment, indiscipline, illiteracy, poverty, and others, are genuinely tackled by the government of nations, the problems confronting the contemporary African youth and the communities where they live will remain unresolved and possibly get worse. To develop and empower youth for community development and participation, the government and other stakeholders (e.g., NGO's and religious bodies) must be involved in the business of youth empowerment by organizing youth programmes that will help to place them (the youth) in a position where they can contribute meaningfully to the development of the society.

In Nigeria, youth unemployment has always been an issue of great concern to parents, communities, and governments at federal, state and local levels. Giving the devastating impact this has on youth and the economy at large; the government has been looking for ways to provide alternative sources of employment for the teeming youth since white collar jobs are almost unavailable. One of the programmes introduced thus far is the skills acquisition programme. This programme has been considered worthy by the governments as it will help to develop, empower and engage the teeming jobless youth. The aims and objectives of the programme according to the as well as increase the rate at which the youth participate in governance. This study concluded that the skills acquisition programme had positively impacted the lives of youth beneficiaries in the country even though it was faced with some challenges as discovered during the interview session.

Conceptual Framework



Positive Youth Development theory (PYD) asserts that basic psychological conditions are significant determinants of youth well-being. Lerner (2009) as cited by Abdul-Kadir and Mohd (2021) sees Positive Youth Development (PYD) as the relational developmental systems theory, which suggests that young people possess resources that can be developed, nurtured and cultivated. A major PYD resource is the social context in which youths live such as family,

school and community organisations. PYD is described as a process that promotes the “5Cs”: competence, confidence, connection, character and caring. Lerner (2009) also described thriving young people as individuals who actively nurture, cultivate and develop positive qualities. In the “5Cs” model, competence is the ability and skill to deal with the challenges, tasks and stresses in life; confidence is the positive belief in one’s own worth and efficacy, while the term connection describes positive relationship with others, including family members, peers and communities; character defines the standard of behaviour that promote social functioning in societies. Finally, caring implies a sense of sympathy and empathy for others. The positive nature of the factors of PYD necessitates a strength-based approach rather than a deficit-based approach which is characterised by researchers concentrating on risk reduction to create more favourable growth conditions.

Methodology

The study was carried out in four (4) selected local government areas (Nkanu West Local Government, Uzo Uwani Local Government Area, Onicha Local Government Area and Ohaozara Local Government Area) in South East Geopolitical Zone of Nigeria (Enugu and Ebonyi State). The study adopted survey research design. Two thousand eight hundred and seventy six (2876) youths between the age of 18 to 56years from the four selected local government areas served as the population for the study. A sample of three hundred and fifty one respondents was drawn using Taro Yamane sampling techniques. A questionnaire developed by the researcher served as the instrument for data collection. Data gotten from the respondents were analyzed using simple percentage while chi-square were employed in testing the hypothesis at 0.05 level of significance.

Presentation and Analysis of Research Question

This is the statistical presentation of the respondents’ view to the research question.

Table 4.1: The roles of democratic leadership on youth employment in south east geopolitical zone of Nigeria

Democratic leadership and youth employment in South East Geopolitical zone of Nigeria	Frequency	Percent
Democratic leadership provides more job opportunities for the youth	68	19.37
Democratic leadership provide platform for self employment	61	17.37
Democratic leadership ensure economic development which is necessary for youth empowerment, development and employability	87	24.78
Democratic leadership initiate and formulate policy that attract foreign investors	70	19.94
Democratic leadership ensure the growth of indigenous industries	65	18.51
Total	351	100.0

Source: Researcher, 2023

From the table 4.5., 19.37% of the respondents were of the opinion that democratic leadership provides more job opportunities in south east geopolitical zone of Nigeria, 17.37% of the respondents were of the opinion that democratic leadership provide platform for self employment, 24.78% of the respondents occurred that democratic leadership ensure economic development which is necessary for youth empowerment, development and employability, 19.94% agreed that democratic leadership initiate and formulate policy that attract foreign investors, while 18.51% of the respondents agreed democratic leadership ensure the growth of indigenous industries favorable to youth empowerment and employment. The findings of the

table therefore revealed that democratic leadership played an indispensable role in providing and creating employments for the youth.

Research Question 2

Table 4.2: The roles of democratic leadership on youth participation in governance in south east geopolitical zone of Nigeria

Democratic leadership and youth participation in governance in South East Geopolitical zone of Nigeria	Frequency	Percent
Democratic leadership provides avenue for the youth to participate in politics	103	29.34
democratic leadership enlighten the youth on the importance of active participation in politic through political campaign	86	24.50
democratic leadership create political portfolio for the youth in order to actively engage them in politics and governance	84	23.93
democratic leadership support youth participation in governance by providing incentives in the forms of sports and tourism which often capture the youth interest.	78	22.22
Total	351	100.0

Source: Researcher, 2023

From the table 4.5., 29.34% of the respondents were of the opinion that democratic leadership provide avenue for the youth to participate in politics, 24.50% of the respondents were of the opinion that democratic leadership enlighten the youth on the importance of active participation in politics trough political campaign and rally, 23.93% of the respondents concurred that democratic leadership create political portfolio for the youth in order to actively engage them in politics and governance, and finally 22.22% agreed that democratic leadership support youth participation in governance by providing incentives in the forms of sports and tourism which often captures the youth interest. The findings of the table therefore revealed that Log Venture Cooperative thrift and Credit Society Limited played significant role on the provision of farm machineries to farmers in Enugu State.

Research Question 3

Table 4.2: The role of democratic leadership on youth acquisition of entrepreneurial skills in south east geopolitical zone of Nigeria

Democratic leadership and youth acquisition of entrepreneurial skills in south east geopolitical zone of Nigeria	Frequency	Percent
Democratic leadership sponsor skill acquisition by the youth	88	25.07
Democratic leadership provide incentive for youth acquisition of entrepreneurial skills by providing financial support to set up their small scale business	91	25.92
Democratic leadership liaise with the educational sectors to provide entrepreneurial education to the youth	89	25.35
Democratic leadership had provided series of skills acquisition programs to the youth	83	23.64
Total	351	100.0

Source: Researcher, 2023

From the table 4.6, 25.92% representing majority of the respondents were of the opinion that democratic leadership provided incentive for youth acquisition of entrepreneurial skills by providing financial support to set up their small scale business, followed by 25.35% of the respondents who were of the opinion that democratic leadership liaise with the educational sector to provide entrepreneurship education to the youth, 25.07% of the respondents concurred that democratic leadership sponsor skills acquisition by the youth and finally 23.64% of the respondents agreed that democratic leadership had provided series of skills acquisition programs for the youth.

From the findings of table 4.6 above it could be inferred that democratic leadership played significant role in youth acquisition of entrepreneurial skills in South East Geopolitical Zone of Nigeria.

TEST OF HYPOTHESES

The hypotheses were tested using the chi-square statistical tool

Hypothesis I

H₀: democratic leadership has not significant role in youth employment in South East Geopolitical Zone of Nigeria.

Table 4.1 was used for testing hypothesis I

Democratic leadership and youth employment in South East Geopolitical zone of Nigeria	Frequency	Percent
Democratic leadership provides more job opportunities	68	19.37
Democratic leadership provide platform for self employment	61	17.37
Democratic leadership ensure economic development which is necessary for youth empowerment, development and employability	87	24.78
Democratic leadership initiate and formulate policy that attract foreign investors	70	19.94
Democratic leadership ensure the growth of indigenous industries	65	18.51
Total	351	100.0

Chi Square table

O	E	(O-e)	(O-e)²	$\frac{(O-e)^2}{E}$
68	70.2	-2.2	4.84	0.06
61	70.2	-9.2	84.64	1.20

87	70.2	16.8	282.24	4.02
70	70.2	0.2	0.04	0
65	70.2	-5.2	27.04	0.38
351				5.66

Table value = 5.991, calculated value = 5.66

Decision: Since the calculated value (5.66) is less than the table value (5.99), the H_0 (null hypothesis) is accepted. This implies that democratic leadership has played little or no significant role in youth employment in South East Geopolitical Zone of Nigeria.

Hypothesis II

H₀: democratic leadership played no significant role in youth participation in governance in South East Geopolitical Zone of Nigeria.

Table 4.2 was used for testing hypothesis II

Democratic leadership and youth participation in governance in South East Geopolitical zone of Nigeria	Frequency	Percent
Democratic leadership provides avenue for the youth to participate in politics	103	29.34
democratic leadership enlighten the youth on the importance of active participation in politic through political campaign	86	24.50
democratic leadership create political portfolio for the youth in order to actively engage them in politics and governance	84	23.93
democratic leadership support youth participation in governance by providing incentives in the forms of sports and tourism which often capture the youth interest.	78	22.22
Total	351	100.0

Chi Square table

O	E	(O-e)	(O-e)²	$\frac{(O-e)^2}{E}$
103	70.2	32.8	1,075.85	15.32

86	70.2	15.8	249.64	3.56
84	70.2	13.8	190.44	2.71
78	70.2	7.8	60.84	0.86
351				22.45

Table value = 5.991, calculated value = 0.47

Decision: Since the calculated value (22.45) is greater than the table value (5.99), the H_0 (null hypothesis) is rejected. This means democratic leadership played significant role in youth participation in politics and governance.

Hypothesis III

H₀: democratic leadership has no significant role in youth acquisition of entrepreneurial skills in south east geopolitical zone of Nigeria.

Table 4.3 was used for testing hypothesis III

Democratic leadership and youth acquisition of entrepreneurial skills in south east geopolitical zone of Nigeria	Frequency	Percent
Democratic leadership sponsor skill acquisition by the youth	88	25.07
Democratic leadership provide incentive for youth acquisition of entrepreneurial skills by providing financial support to set up their small scale business	91	25.92
Democratic leadership liaise with the educational sectors to provide entrepreneurial education to the youth	89	25.35
Democratic leadership had provided series of skills acquisition programs to the youth	83	23.64
Total	351	100.0

Chi Square table

O	E	(O-e)	(O-e)²	$\frac{(O-e)^2}{e}$
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88	70.2	17.8	316.84	4.51
91	70.2	20.8	432.64	6.16
89	70.2	18.8	353.44	5.03
83	70.2	12.8	163.84	2.33
351				18.03

Table value = 5.991, calculated value = 0.47

Decision: Since the calculated value (18.03) which is greater than the table value (5.99), the H_0 (null hypothesis) is therefore rejected. This means that democratic leadership played significant role in youth acquisition of entrepreneurial skills in South East Geopolitical of Nigeria.

4.4 Summary of the findings

1. Democratic leadership has little or no significant role in youth employment in South East Geopolitical Zone of Nigeria
2. Democratic leadership played significant role in youth participation in political and governances in South East Geopolitical Zone of Nigeria.
3. Democratic leadership played significant role in youth acquisition of entrepreneurial skills in South East Geopolitical Zone of Nigeria.

Discussion of findings

From the findings of table 4.5 on the effects of democratic leadership on youth employment in south east geopolitical zone of Nigeria, the findings of the table reveals a calculated value of (5.66) which is less that the table value (5.99), the H_0 (null hypothesis) is accepted. This implies that democratic leadership has played little or no significant role on youth employment in South East Geopolitical Zone of Nigeria. The finding of the table above is in agreement with assertions of Abe, (2010), who observed that some of the youth that are involved in political violence, voluntarily submit themselves to this situation as a means of registering their discontent with the system. The findings fall in consonance with the observations of Babalaoet, (2015) that Nigeria has a youthful population of about sixty percent of her population and that more than seventy percent of the youth are said to unemployed.

The findings of the table above fall in agreement with the observation of Nzeh (2018) who noted that in Nigeria today, In Nigeria today, the rate of insecurity, political thuggery, killings and assassination, kidnapping is increasing daily, and most of these social vices a perpetrated by the youth out of frustration. Therefore, there is need to put all machineries by the Nigeria government all the lovers of democracy in the country to ensure that the hands of Nigerian youth are rescued from the work of devil through various empowerment programmes (Nzeh, 2018).

The findings of table 4.6 above on the role of democratic leadership on youth participation in politics and governance, the findings revealed a calculated value of 22.45 which is greater than the table value (5.99), the H_0 (null hypothesis) is therefore rejected. This means democratic leadership played significant role in youth participation in politics and governance. The findings of the table is in contrary with the observation of bezim (2019) notes, youth participation in politics in Nigeria is bedeviled by a myriad of challenges, chief among which is, a lack of understanding of the benefits that youth political participation holds. The author goes further to state that unemployment, social exclusion, limited capacity, resource, and tools are other problems facing youth. However, a critical examination of democratic leadership in

Nigeria, will reveal that youth had been included in governance and politics, this is evident with the formation of different political portfolio that encourage youth participation, such as the federal ministry of sport and youth development. The inclusion of National Youth Services Corp members in the election progress is also an indication that the democratic leadership has been providing avenue for the inclusion of youth in politics and governance.

Consequently from the findings of table 4.7 on the role of democratic leadership on youth acquisition of entrepreneurial skills, calculated value (18.03) which is greater than the table value (5.99), the H_0 (null hypothesis) is therefore rejected. This means that democratic leadership played significant role in youth acquisition of entrepreneurial skills in South East Geopolitical of Nigeria. The finding of the study is in agreement with the statement of udeh (2016) who presumed that the Nigeria government has initiated series of empowerment program aimed at providing entrepreneurial skills to the youth, notable among this youth empowerment program include; N-Power, Youth enterprise with Innovation in Nigeria (Youwin), Youth empowering people (YEP), Graduate Internship Scheme (GIS), Youth Initiative for sustainable agriculture in Nigeria (YISA), Presidential Youth Entrepreneurship support (P-YES) and Youth Empowerment and Development initiative (YEDI). This is an indication that the democratic leadership in Nigeria has played significant role in Youth acquisition of entrepreneurial skills.

Conclusion

From the findings of the study; the study draws the following conclusions that there is high rate of unemployment in Enugu state, and Nigeria at large, despite the advent of democratic leadership in the country, which was expected to create more job opportunities for its citizens. This is an indication from all ramifications that democracy in Nigeria has not fully achieved its potential in area of creating job opportunities for the young people.

Democratic leadership has helped to improved the inclusion of youth in politics and governance this is evident in the creation of different political portfolio that capture the interest of the youth, such as the ministry of sport and youth development. The inclusion of National Youth Service Corp members in the election process as broad steps taken by the democratic leadership to ensure youth participation in politics and governance, the youth through active participation in politics will take their rightly position as leaders of tomorrow.

From the findings of this research it is evident that democratic leadership has enormously tried to empower the youth than the military rule. This is evident in series of empowerment programs created by the democratic rule, democratic leadership is termed to have a plus on area of youth empowerment than the military government, even though aims and objectives of this youth empowerment program in Nigeria has not been full achieved, but it has gone along way to help the acquisition of entrepreneurial skills by beneficiaries of the programs.

Recommendations

Based on the findings and conclusion draw, the following recommendations are therefore made;

1. Democratic leadership should create more job opportunities for the youth as the high rate of insecurity and insurgency in the country could be attributed to the idleness of the youth.
2. Democratic leaders should include the youth in planning and execution process of programs aimed at empowering the youth, as this will enable the program to address efficiently the myriads of problems facing the youth in a developing nation.
3. Democratic leaders should endeavor to give the youth opportunity to hold political position, this will help boost their morale and productivity instead of resorting to political violence to register their discontentance with the system.

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