CITIZENSHIP EDUCATION AND SOCIAL CHANGE FOR SUSTAINABLE DEMOCRACY IN NIGERIA

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Abstract
Democratic experiments have not been sustainable in Nigeria after Nigeria independence in 1960. The inability of these attempts have been attributed to some factors among which is lack of proper citizenship education for leaders and followers in the political system and this has posed a great number of problem as a result, there is the need for citizenship Education for social change. This paper therefore discusses the various pattern associated with the problems and positive solutions such as respect for human rights, respect for people or political sovereignty, equal treatment for all as well active participation in educational matters as measures to ensure good citizenship Education programme and social change for sustainable Democracy in Nigeria

Introduction

In Nigeria, our leaders at various times over the years had stressed the need for social change in order to achieve positive values that would in the end produce decent, disciplined and self-reliant nation. The reason for pointing to this fact according to James (2000) is that for too long we have paid lip service to the issue of social change in our society and nation at large and now is the time to think to reflect and to act for a better society. The problem of citizenship education and social change for sustainable democracy in Nigeria have become so many that there is the view that the country is in a state of confusion and there is need for change to reawaken the nation for the survival of democracy. According to Bernard (2001) social change will encourage initiative and the channeling of such initiative towards the over all benefit of society.

No wonder George (2000) said that society makes the welfare and the well being of one in the society which is the concern of all in a humane society, and no one demands more than the society can afford and no one receives or takes from the society more than he deserves. According to Marion (1999) any nation that places no value on citizenship education and also have no regard on societal change is like body without soul. As a result we must inculcate in our citizens the love for their nation, to respect and value their norms to be their

brother's keeper, to have respect for duly constituted authorities, to be honest in dealing with their fellow citizens and above all accept any changes that many occur for the sustainability of democracy in Nigeria. The ideal of building a new democratic nation can be seriously achieved if only we adopt a well-articulated citizenship education programme.

Citizenship Education

When we talk of citizenship education, it is simply defined as the type of education acquired directly or indirectly which makes individuals to be conscious of their civic responsibilities thereby making them functional and proper members of their society. This is to enable them produce a better vision of the future (sidi, 2000). This enables citizens to develop positive ideas, value system as well as attitudes cherished by the society for the survival and development of that community.

Ogbonna (2000) view citizenship education as all those experience, knowledge awareness which individual acquires in the nation so as to be a good citizen, patriotic, obedient, law abiding, loyal, tolerant and also nationalist. He went further to say that all elements of tribalism, religious, sentiments, ethnicsim and other vices should be put aside if we must achieve proper citizenship education in Nigeria.

Citizenship education is very important in Nigeria due to it's objectives: The objective of Citizenship education is to have knowledge concern and interest in world affair also national, state as well as local issues Argugu, M.A (1989).Citizenship education assist citizens to support government by law and order, oppose unjust application of law and order of the land in which they live. It makes citizens understand the civic action which is very important towards development and participation in civic decision making. Citizenship education has a practical concern for the dignity and well being of self, family and society at large. To have clearly understanding that the whole objective lies in the attainment of a national democratic society where the masse are positively vigilant also organized in order to have justice, peace unity and development. William (2000) Defined social change as any alterations in the social behaviour of any individual group in the society. He went further to say that social change is a process of coming or bringing a standard set of sequences through which all social systems would pass eventually. A complete social change in which a citizen or society finds a stronger social behaviour and cultural patterns of a society which is converted to enhance the survival for sustainable democracy in Nigeria, social change implies that something or a system (cultural patterns) is dead or in the process of fast decay and has to be altered or change ideas which are injected into it so as to bring a new life for better functioning of the society. It aims particularly at changing all those features of our behaviour, in the past which have made our society a by word for disharmarey, ssdistrust, dishonesty.

According to social change therefore is the alteration of all facets of our national life that is a change or revolution of the social structures embodied in norms, altitude and values and cultural products as well as symbols. According to Ergha, (2000) cultural pattern whether accepted or rejected is mainly determined by the social relations between the borrowing and the receiving cultures and that the compatibility between the two cultures is likely, in turn to affect their social relations, but change from within the society as well as those alterations that come from other societies will enhance sustainable democracy in the country. DSM (1988) in his own view said that one of the most general factors that affect a society's ability or willingness to change, within a limited time or period, is contemplated by contrast, merely adding new social pattern to the old is more likely to be viewed as less costly which will in Nigeria eventually bring about positive democracy in the community, society and Nigeria at large Vested interest linked with the extent and speed of social change is the resistance of what is called vested interest groups which derive much benefit from the existing social arrangements and which have considerable political influence and being that the number of such vested interest is so large that almost any change will arouse them to effective opposition. Havery. (1979) Said that the relative stability of the society, its flexibility, or willingness of its members to look for new solution depend upon the previous forces. However, the relative stability of a society is also a function of the current crises it faces (Ogunmole.2001).

FACTORS THAT CONTRIBUTE TO SOCIAL CHANGE AND SUSTAINABLE DEMOCRACY IN NIGERIA

Democracy which is government of the people by the people and for the people (Dahi 1979) has the following factors that contributes to social change and sustainable democracy in Nigeria.

- ➢ Social behaviours and cultural patterns of a society with high level of technology contribute much to social change and sustainable democracy in Nigeria. This can adequately be achieved through citizenship education. Consequently, we can reconstruct the time stages in between by observing contemporary societies and arranging them by their level of technology to ensure appropriate change in the existing society for survival of democracy.

- ➢ Changes in personnel: These changes may be extreme gradual, measured only by extremely gradual, measured only by periodic census, as when the percentage of the population sixty-five years of age and over increases, or the percentage of people with different ethnic back grounds shifts. Such changes may also be occasioned by the

appearance of a major political leader, which now promotes and maintains sustainable democracy in Nigeria.

However, a society is not a blind, automatic system. Whatever a society does is decided upon and executed by individual whose particular needs, ideas and capacities shape whatever social system can be observed. This is likely to be true for social change for sustainable democracy in Nigeria.

Democracy as it is defined by (Dahi, 1979) government of the people, by the people and for the people. However, this is a good definition but it is more appropriate for small society that practiced direct democracy where all adults of a community met and discussed until they are collectively arrived at decisions and had them implemented very well.Leed(1981) further described democracy as a society were ordinary citizens posses relatively high degree of control over leaders. He went further to say that conflicts is known to be government rules while toleration leads to flexibility, regular elections, freedom of speech as well as observance of the rule and regulation. He also stated that democracy is a system of government under which the people exercise the governing power that may be direct or through representatives periodically elected by themselves. Argungu (1989) enumerated important condition necessary for democracy which are:

- ✓ Citizen have right to form independent association organization such as independent political parties, interest group and so on.
- ✓ Citizens have control over governmental decision on policy and constitutional that is vested in elected members.
- ✓ In practical aspect all adult have right to seek for elective office in Government.
- ✓ Citizen have right to express themselves in all from without anger on political matters.
- ✓ Citizen have every right to seek for alternative sources of information so as to be protected by law.

Difficulties of democracy in Nigeria

In Nigeria today, political participation seen to reduced due to the fact that the average individual finds it difficult to relates himself positively to politics and as such un ware of its existence especially during the past voters registration exercise conducted in the past elections. In actual sense, the consequence of political a party is bad government by few despots that assume power by coups or even rigged elections and then rule and manage the society in their own selfish interest resulted to economic background increase in mass poverty, mass illiteracy, disobedience of court order, intimidation of opposition groups,

manipulation of court process and orders above all abbreviation of democracy. Mohammed (1988)

According to Obasanjo (1988) political leaders especially in Nigeria view victory at election as struggle that brings about life or death and as such determine to capture and steadily retain power by all means whereby exhibiting high national depth and perpetual budget deficits. He went further to say that the follower are always imitating the high level of immoral behaviors of our leaders and as such Nigeria is fully associated with all forms of social vices and it is currently affecting almost every body in the country.

It has been observed that our quest for sustainable democracy arising from social changes which will infact be perpetual dream if we continue to manage thee state in honest and overt disregard for constituted authority. The way out is to make a change of our orientation toward life in all ramifications and this can be achieved through a well articulated citizenship Education programme also a focus on social change as well as sustainable democracy in Nigeria. Saidu (2000).

Citizenship Education and Social Change

Citizenship Education and social changes for sustainable Democracy is very important. The importance of citizenship educational can be seen in the following areas:

Citizenship Educations as the name implies is an important tool in the process developing civic spirit and loyalty devoid of all from of bias, learning of behaviours inimical to free will (Havery (1979). He went further to say that citizenship education aims at development of a belief, attitude in the values of democracy as well as refining, initiating into the skills and concept required from active participation in all political affair.

Citizenship Education focuses on the nations of loyalty in learning to live together with that deep sense of identity as well as cultivating of political awareness in the life of every one when there is need for it. Citizenship education helps an individual to reason positively and then be able to give effective analysis of political, social, and economic events within and outside his environment. This can be achieved by creating awareness in all political affairs, provision of education to actually develop people's skills and behaviours that will be acceptable in the society and nation at large. It is a tool that helps individual or group of people to know and appreciated the path of political development the country has past through in the past years. It has also help to widen the people's perception of the mistakes and the view to correct them. Citizenship education is very important in the life of all citizens because it enable the people to know the limited of the government authority as well as procedures to seek redness in case of violation of right of the individual in the society an in Nigeria at large. It help the rulers to have more knowledge and acceptable behaviour within the limit of law and order in the society. Hone (1995) also said that it will eventually lead to

the attainment of a National Democratic Society where masses are more conscious, organized and then vigilant so as to eliminate social injustice, poverty as well as foreign domination of our economy.

Various method of citizenship Education in Nigeria

The contents of citizenship education are mainly consist of both past and present issues that one is likely to shape and change the future of a state and nation at large, for this reason it demand more than the traditional methods of teaching in all school curriculum. According Benson (2001) citizenship education it should be designed in a way to change the objective of peoples altitude and values for better citizens. Education programme should be handled in a special manner so as to involve the use of adequate and modern instructional technology in the aspect of electronic and print media respectively to enhance citizenship education in Nigeria.

The contents of citizenship education in all school curriculum can also include the use technological equipment such as film trip, slide which should be designed in such a way. The need to live a honest and responsible life is very important in our society, therefore the content of citizenship education programme should embrace a wide spectrum of human life. Emphasis should be made on simple and clear language and information to make available in many local languages for better understanding. Argungu (1989) said that citizenship education curriculum should be made flexible so as to accommodate new events, ideal innovation and issues in the country. The programme when planning should put into consideration all classes of people such as student, workers, market women as well as professionals to be exposed to important aspects of our national life.

Adult Education should be paid special attention since they may no longer have the opportunity of going through formal education in the regular school system and effort should be made more effective towards the adult in the rural area then the urban. Government on their own part should recognize all forms of nomadic education, adult literacy. There should also be contribution of various organization like National Youth Services Crop (NYSC), Women Organization and Local Government Community Development Officers, National Orientation Agency (NOA) a well trained citizenship education teacher biased or tribalistic while teaching issues of national questions. The realization of its objectives will always determine by the implementation of the programme as well as its transparency.

Conclusion

This paper discusses the important of citizenship education and social change for sustainable democracy. It also pointed out various concepts, problem of democracy and important for Citizenship Education and change.

Recommendations

The following recommendations are to ensure sustainable democracy in Nigeria.

> Every citizen should be recognized, be given equal opportunity, encouraged to take active part in activities in the political system and then perform their civic obligation.

> All citizen of the state must be treated and regarded equally irrespective of anything.

> The state at any point in time be aware of obligation to citizen such as respect, protect their right and above all provision of fundamental materials needed by the citizen.

> The power of sovereignty of the citizen must be respect by the state. In other words, the state must disallow the formation of any forms of power that is not derived from the citizen also their accepted.

> For democracy to be affective, the state must preserve the culture of using the ballot box so as to enhance freedom, liberty, equality as well as bias character for the benefit of the people in the society.

> Division among the citizen as well as money to stop power in the political system should be discouraged so as to promote oneness among the people in the society and state in general.

> The constitution should always be the supremacy so that other law making body do not in anyway amends the constitution against the interest of the citizen in the state.

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