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Citizen's Sensitivity to Political Knowledge And Sustainable Democracy in Cross River State, Nigeria

Unimna, Fidelis A A
Abunimye23@gmail.com

Asinde, Emmanuel A. B
asindeemmanuel@gmail.com

Department of Social Science Education
Faculty of Arts and Social Science Education
University of Calabar
Calabar

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Correspondence

Abstract

This study investigated citizen's sensitivity to political knowledge and sustainable democracy in Cross River State, Nigeria. To achieve the purpose of this study, one research question was raised and converted into null hypothesis that guided the study. Correlational Survey research design was adopted for the study. A simple random sampling technique was used in selecting 1008 respondents from the 18 Local Government Area of Cross River State, Nigeria. A 42-item questionnaire titled "Political knowledge and Sustainable democracy Questionnaire"(PKSDQ) were the instruments used for data collection. Data analyses and testing of hypothesis at .05 levels of significance were done using simple linear regression for the hypothesis. The instruments were subjected to content and face validity by experts from measurement and evaluation and Social Science Education in the faculty of Education, University of Calabar, Calabar. The reliability index of the instruments were established through Cronbach Alpha Reliability Coefficient ranging between 0.81 and 0.87. The data analysed revealed that Political knowledge have a significant Correlation with sustainable democracy in Cross River State, Nigeria. Based on the finding of the study, it was concluded that political knowledge significantly influence sustainable democracy in Cross River State, Nigeria. The study recommended among others that government, Curriculum planners, experts, stakeholders and political actors should through the National Orientation Agency (NOA) organise enlightenment programs, periodic seminars, workshops to educate, sensitize citizens' on the basic tenets of sustainable democracy.

Introduction

Democracy is the best form of government for any nation because it is concerned with the people. it is the bedrock of human liberty, economic prosperity and development in many countries. In a democracy, everyone is equal before the law and it established legitimacy, a sound decision making process and reduces conflict and wars as it is noticeable in military era. Democracy, we should always remember as the best form of government is perhaps the most difficult to establish on firm footing and manage, it is not a potted plant which can be transported into any soil and grown without an expected political tradition.

The enthronement of democratic government at all levels was widely expected to usher in a sustained political culture based on justice, equity, inclusiveness, participation, tolerance, transparency and accountability in the conduct of the affairs of nations and massive improvement in the welfare of Nigerian people. The struggle in Nigeria to advance the frontiers of democratization and sustain democratic statecraft may not have been easy. Indeed, interposing democracy as a new era type on governance of Nigeria seems very demanding. Beginning with the shortfalls of the anti-colonial struggle to establish independence, democracy appeared at various parts in Nigerian history.

Democracy entails the values of freedom, respect for human rights and the principle of holding periodic, free, fair and credible elections. The elements of democracy in turn provides an environment for the effective realization and protection of human rights leading to sustainable democracy. A democratic government exists to serve the people by giving them the opportunity to decide or take part in issues or matters that affect them. Democracy provides the citizens with freedom to participate actively in decision making, including the freedom to criticize government.

Sustainable democracy is any political actions that allows for the accomplishment of common political goals and resources without jeopardizing future political goals and needs. In a democracy, political power is ultimately bestowed on the common people who are seen as the pillars of any democratic society and for a democracy to function effectively, each person must be afforded an equal voice in the political process. The voices of the people must be reflected in the discussion of how elected Representatives act, the institutional structures must be put in place to use our existing democracy to create sustainable society

Sustainable Democracy is dependent on the level of Political knowledge of citizens. It is the deepening of the study of politics and information about political progress in Nation state as it encompasses understanding of cultural, psychological, educational and philosophical background including politics. It entails active engagement of citizens and understanding of governmental processes, political dynamics and programs. It sharpens awareness of citizens especially the basic tenets and practice of democracy. The survival and consolidation of our democracy is anchored on periodic seminars to be organized by educational institutions to tune

up citizens in the quest for democratic sustainability. It also provides the necessary training base for political experts with sufficient knowledge to evolve a coherent political ideology that will sustain our democracy. It remains a veritable tool for the acquisition of intellectual skills, political participation of citizens and political change which will lay serious foundation for the sustenance of our democracy. Affirming the above Vincenzo (2011) asserted that Political Knowledge is seen as a functional and indispensable element of a viable democracy which has an increasing impact on the confidence in institutions and on external Political efficacy. Here informed citizens are seen as pillars of democracy. As societies engaged in social and political engineering, civic and political literacy are pivotal for the survival of our democracy. Vincenzo was in line with Chibuzo (2000) who asserted that when the general public becomes more knowledgeable about public affairs and the knowledge is significantly widespread, awareness, understanding, motivation, mobilization, participation, involvement and internalization of acceptable civic values occur possibly in that sequential order which will lead to our democratic sustainability.

Political knowledge is fundamental for enhancing civic outcome such as civic knowledge, civic values, political preferences, civic skills and actions are the bedrock of democratic society's. The level of political knowledge affects the acceptance of democratic principles, attitudes towards specific issues and political participation. A sustained democracy is measured by the extent to which a country has regular elections, genuine contest by aspirants over selection of leaders. People who are more conscious, have political awareness will contribute positively to democratic sustainability than those who are stark illiterate. William (2001) is of the view that political knowledge contributes to more stable and consistent political attitudes, help citizens achieve their own interests and make decisions that conform with their attitudes and preferences, promotes support for democratic values, facilitate trust in the political system.

Mona and Richard (2019) discovered that more knowledgeable voters are more likely to vote on the basis of national economic conditions than personal economic circumstances. They equally opined that individuals with high political knowledge exhibit behaviours that are consequential to a well-functioning democracy, including holding more stable political opinions, exhibiting greater ideology, knowing more about political candidates and being more likely to vote thereby sustaining our democracy.

The findings will be useful to researchers because they will have an in-depth knowledge on the subject matter and beneficial to the government at various levels, schools, politicians, youths and the general public. To the government, and policies makers, it will help them in Curriculum design, organization and implementation, and the measures put in place for electoral Act of 2010 guiding Nigeria elections and the responsibility of ensuring that Political crisis bedeviling the nation are tackle. It will help Schools (both Secondary and Tertiary Institutions), management and Teachers here will use the opportunity to inculcate Political Knowledge to students and expose them on the danger of being used as political thugs to politicians is State actors bearing in mind that democratic sustainability is achieved not born.

It will equally help them as a reference point or resource material in the library to tap Knowledge in achieving democratic sustainability in Nigeria. Educational policies help schools to establish operating procedures and create standards of quality for learning and teaching as well as expectations.

The main purpose of this study is to investigate citizens sensitivity to Political Knowledge and sustainable democracy in Cross River State, Nigeria. The study specifically sought to investigate the influence between; Citizens sensitivity to Political Knowledge and sustainable democracy in Cross River State, Nigeria.

Statement of the Problems

Sustainable democracy in Nigeria and of course Cross River State is sacrosanct and can only be attainable when the citizens are sensitive to political issues, have adequate awareness, consciousness and enlightenment, participate actively in the political process, acquire needed civic, literacy and critical thinking skills and develop acceptable attitudes geared toward it consolidation and sustainability. But there seems to be a serious disconnect between citizen's sensitivity to the basics tenets of democracy and it sustainability as it is seen and exhibited by consistent level of political atrocities and acrimonies displayed by citizens that have subjected the political space of the Nigeria state in a precarious situation. The outcome of such political intolerance has remained unimaginable. Right from the First Republic, Nigerian politics has been characterized with greed, love of power, violence, assassination, thuggery etc. Virtually all elections held so far in the country are violence ridden and pose serious threat to our democratic sustainability. The increase in the number of killings of high profile political figures in recent times has heightened fears of a violent and turbulent elections as witnessed in 2019 and 2023 general election.

In developed societies of the world with sustained democracies, these barbaric and hideous crimes are not witnessed and experienced because the citizens are sensitive to the basic requirements of democratic sustainability and survival. However, in Nigeria and Cross River to be specific, the case is different and this has post lots of fears and tension to the survival of our democracy. Government, both at local, state and national level churn out measures to remedy this ugly situation, most especially during the tenure of Mr. Donald Duke (2004) and Liyel Imoke (2008) to no avail. The traditional institutions too have ostracized, send some youths into exile for perpetuating Mehem on law abiding citizens in the society.

Irrespective of all these attempts by both government, Civil societies Organizations and traditional institutions, the problem is still at alarming rate and is threatening a once peaceful state to an extent that the people now sleep in fear. This trend has raised nagging questions like; are citizens in Cross River State sensitive and conscious of what they are doing? Do they have the needed political knowledge?

In the light of the above, this study identified Low level of political education, inability to change citizens attitudes, lack in political literacy which did not enhanced democratic culture constitute thematic issues to be addressed in this study for purpose of enhancing the political understanding and the building of sustainable democracy in Cross River State. The problem of this study is, what are citizen's political knowledge and sustainable democracy in Cross River State, Nigeria?

Statement of hypotheses

The hypothesis was stated in null form this:

There is no significant influence between citizen's sensitivity to political knowledge and sustainable democracy in Cross River State.

Literature Review

Political Knowledge and Sustainable Democracy

According to Lindsay (2019) Political knowledge is a conscious effort to educate, enlighten and informing citizens on the basic tenets of democracy. It is a range of factual information about politics that is stored in a long-term memory. It sharpens political awareness and consciousness of citizens especially about the practice of democracy in the society. Political knowledge is also sometimes referred to as political expertise or political sophistication, but knowledge is generally defined as holding correct information on the structural relationship among cognitions. Empirical evidence suggests that political knowledge contribute to more stable and consistent political attitudes, help citizens achieve their own interest and make decisions that conform with their attitude and preferences, promote support for democratic values in the political system and motivate political participation.

Onuigbo (2018) Political education is a desideratum for enhanced political skills, knowledge and participation in democracy. Thus, this study argued that political education programmes significantly relate with political participation. It mobilizes the cognitive capacity and efficacy of individuals to process complex political event or information and engage actively in political activities. Also, the study demonstrated that electoral violence and other factors such as cultural practices, family background, institutional and low level of political knowledge militates against political participation. The citizens for want of security, consequent upon electoral violence, develop aptly toward political participation. Therefore, to maximize the benefits of political education programmes and ensure sustainable democracy in Nigeria, the government and other political education agencies should develop a pragmatic political education framework. To arrive at this conclusion, the study employed cognitive mobilization theory as it theoretical framework of analysis. Through the use of secondary sources, relevant data relating to the objectives of the paper were generated and analyzed. Consequently, the study stresses the need to institutionalize and intensify political education programmes at all levels so as to enhance political skills, knowledge and participation of the citizens.

Denver and Hands (2018) conceived political literacy or education as the knowledge and understanding of political issues, which enable people to perform their roles as citizens effectively. Westholm et al. 5 describe political education as the basic concept and facts that constitute a necessary condition for comprehending the contents of public debate. Krosnick simply viewed political literacy as political expertise, while Zaller called it political awareness, which is the extent to which an individual pays attention to politics and understands what he or she has encountered. Moreover, Carol & Celia, have conceived political education as the potential for informed participation in political activities.

Mona S. K. and Richard R. L (2019), See's Political knowledge as a central variable in American politics research. That individuals with high political knowledge exhibit behaviors that are consequential to a well-functioning democracy, including holding more stable political opinions, exhibiting greater ideological constraint, knowing more about political candidates, and being more likely to vote correctly. In this paper, we examine whether the internet revolution, enabling citizens to look up anything at any time, has changed the relative importance of political knowledge in modern politics. Internet access can be a substitute for political knowledge stored in long-term memory, particularly among this younger generation, who may be relying on the internet to store knowledge for them

Lindsay H. (2017) defined political knowledge as one of the primary variables in Political communication research working to make a difference in the civic life of our communities and developing the combination of knowledge, skills, values and motivation to make that difference. It means promoting the quality of life in a community, through political processes. It encompasses actions wherein individuals participate in activities of political concern that are both individually enriching and socially beneficial to the political system. It also means citizens grasp of the political system and governmental processes and the major concept of government about the political system.

Accordingly, Owen, D. (2015) in Political Knowledge of the U. S Constitution stated that political knowledge is a strategy to establish in the minds of the people the participatory advantages of enlisting as members of a political parties. This is with regard to individual and group exercising political rights and Political sovereignty such as power of electing and/or changing their leaders. Other values that citizens acquired and are important for sustaining our democracy include ethnic, religious and Political intolerance among the citizens. Political education and knowledge is critical for the survival of democracy. Political education and knowledge has direct linkages with the survival of democracies particularly in Cross River State. It's fundamental for enhancing Civic outcome such as Civic knowledge, Civic values, political preferences, Civic skills and actions.

Ija and Tresnawaty (2020) carried out a study on Political Knowledge and Political Behavior among Highly Educated Muslims in Indonesia. A total population of 2086 respondents were

used for the study while a sample of 504 respondents were selected through simple random sampling technique. Data were collected with the help of questionnaires administered by the researcher. Data analysis and testing of hypotheses was done using One Way Analysis of Variance (ANOVA). This research used cohort-based quantitative method through data collection, interviews, and documentation. To collect information from respondents, this research used questionnaire to reveal their political knowledge levels and behaviors. Interviews towards respondents were also conducted to directly confirm the information in the questionnaire. This paper presents information that highly educated Muslims cannot always be invited to dialogue-based solely on political knowledge in understanding and responding to political issues but must be invited to understand through thinking channels outside of knowledge. There is another dimension that shapes the political attitudes of highly educated Muslims in Indonesia, in this case, the religious doctrine which is more dominant than knowledge. Thus, knowledge is not the main factor in controlling people's actions and attitudes, but only a small part of the accumulation of factors. The findings of the study revealed that highly knowledgeable people are more active in political activities and are more static in taking political decisions than others. This mean that citizens with high pollical knowledge are more likely to contribute on the basis of national economic conditions than personal economic circumstances and this will enhance Democratic sustainability in Cross River State, Nigeria.

Unimna, F. A. and Woli, R. C (2019) examined Youths Political leadership from the social studies teachers' perspectives in Cross River State. The study objectives was to ascertain the relationship between Political leadership and dividends of democracy. The survey research design was adopted for the study with instruments titled "Political Leadership and Democratic Dividends Questionnaire"(PLDDQ) The sample of the study their study consisted of 240 Social Studies teachers. The data were analysed and interpreted using correlational statistics at the 0.05 significant level. The result of their findings revealed that there was a significant relationship between youths Political Leadership and dividends of democracy ($r=0.105$, $p<0.5$): there was a significant relationship between sources of Youths Political Leadership and dividends of democracy ($r=0.503$, $p<0.05$) it was recommended amongst others that communities and the society at large should put in place strategies for Youths political Leadership of their members to have the consciousness, and literacy that would enable them enjoy the dividends of democracy.

Aliyu, Ismail and Sabri (2022) conducted a study on Influence of Political Knowledge on Civil Servant's Perceptions towards Nigerian Federalism among Civil Servants in Bauchi State, Nigeria. In Nigeria, the renewed calls and agitations from diverse sectors for the restructuring of Nigerian federalism has over the years been characterized by numerous inconsistencies and tensions. This study was designed to determine the influence of political knowledge on the perceptions of Bauchi State civil servants towards Nigerian federalism. A total of 396 respondents were selected through a stratified sampling technique from the population of 96,728. Data was collected using a set of questionnaires. Correlation and multiple regressions

were used to analyze the data. The research unveils that, political structural knowledge has a positive and significant relationship with respondents perception of federalism in Nigeria while political factual knowledge has a significant and positive relationship with citizens' perception of Nigerian federalism. The multiple regression results showed that political structural knowledge (B=.219, P<.001) and political factual knowledge (B=.614, P<.001) were found to be significant. The result has shown that among the predictors of federalism political factual knowledge is the highest predictor. Hence, it is recommended that the government design an enlightenment program targeting civil servants in Bauchi State in order to educate them and enhance their understanding and perception of Nigerian federalism and the sustainability, consolidation of our democracy in Cross River State, Nigeria.

Olaniru, Olatunji, Ayandele and Popoola (2019) did research on the Influence of Media on Political Knowledge amongst Undergraduate Students in Ibadan, Nigeria. Knowledge about politics and government activities increases due to the socialization and enlightenment functions of the mass media. Youths and students are the largest bloc of voters in Nigeria but seemingly least political informed. This study examines the frequency of the forms of media accessed and level of political knowledge among Nigerian students. It also assessed the relationships between political knowledge and access to radio, television, newspaper, and social media. Moreover, it investigated the predictive influence of the frequency of media access on Nigerian students‟ political knowledge. The study adopted Uses and Gratification Theory (UGT) to explain how media is used to the advantage of people. Using cross-sectional survey research design, a structured questionnaire was used to collect information on students‟ demographic, frequency of media access and knowledge of Nigerian politics from 246 randomly selected students of the Polytechnic, Ibadan (Mean age is 25.07 years, SD = 6.23). Descriptive and inferential statistics were used to analyze the data. Findings identified social media as the most frequently use media, followed by radio, television and newspaper. 31% of the respondents had very high political knowledge while 3% had no political knowledge. Access to radio is the only significant correlate ($r = 0.42$, $p<0.05$) and independent predictor ($\beta= 0.43$, $t=-3.98$, $p<0.05$) of political knowledge although access to radio, television, newspaper and social media are significant joint predictors of political knowledge = .18, $F (4, 241) = 4.32$). Therefore, the study concludes that radio is the foremost source of political knowledge amongst undergraduate students in Ibadan, Nigeria. It recommends that various media institutions and political analysts should take advantage of the social media to make more audience politically knowledgeable and by so doing citizens will make meaningful inputs to Democratic sustainability in Cross River State, Nigeria.

Cresantus N. Biamba, Obioha N. Chidimma, Ogunji V. Chinwe, Mezieobi C. Kelechi and Nwajiuba A. Chinyere (2020) carried out a study on Assessing democratic classroom practices among secondary school civic education teachers in the global south: case study of South East Nigeria. Democratic classroom practices are all strategies adopted by classroom teachers to actively engage students in the learning processes. Considerable literature assessing influence

of Civic Education on youths' active participation in a democratic society exists. Not much have reported an empirically conducted study on classroom best practices adopted by Civic Education teachers in the Global South. This paper examines classroom democratization by Civic Education teachers in South East Nigeria, students and teachers perceptions of democratic classroom, and challenges confronting classroom democratization. Focus Group Discussion and Democratic classroom questionnaire were used to elicit information from 151 civic education teachers and 1400 senior secondary school one (SS1) students. Findings revealed that Civic Education teachers in South East Nigeria adopted democratic classroom practices marginally. Recommendation includes more adoption of democratic classroom best practices for development students critical thinking abilities, preparing them to become active members of the society when they play key role in the Political process will definitely lead to the sustenance of democracy in Cross River State, Nigeria.

Methodology

The study adopted the correlational survey research design. Pritha Bhandari (2021) describes Survey research as one that is directed towards determining the nature of a situation as it exists in the time of investigation. Correlational Survey Research design according to (2023) shows the correlation between two variables. It's a statistical measurement that calculate the strength of the relationship between two variables under consideration. This type of design is used to collect data the way it exists concerning a particular phenomenon.

This design was considered appropriate because the nature of this study requires careful observation and collection of data through questionnaire for accurate and detailed explanation. This is what survey research does.

Area of the study

The area of the study is Cross River State, Nigeria. Cross River is one of the 36 States in Nigeria. It is located in the South South geopolitical zone of Nigeria with Calabar as the capital city of the state. The state is located on latitude 4^{04} 45^{0} North of the equator and longitude 8^{0} 3^{0} east of the Greenwich Meridian. Cross River State is a coastal state found in the Niger Delta region, with a land mass of 20,156 square kilometers. It is bounded in the North by Benue State, in the west by Ebonyi and Abia State. It is bounded in the East by Cameroon Republic while the southern neighbours are Akwa Ibom State and the Atlantic Ocean respectively.

Cross River State was originally created by General Yakubu Gowon regime on 27th May, 1967 as South Eastern State out of the defunct Eastern Region of Nigeria. In another era of state creation by the General Murtala Mohammed regime in 1976, the name of the states was changed to Cross River State in September 1987 when Akwa Ibom State was carved out of it by the then regime of General Ibrahim Babangida.

It is a multilingual and multi ethnic state and is made up of 18 local government areas in three (3) senatorial districts. Major ethnic groups and languages include Efik, Ejagham, Bekwarra,

Yala, Boki, Bette and Yakurr. Major towns include Calabar, Ikom, Ogoja, Obudu and Ugep. The Efik speaking people live mainly in the southern senatorial districts of Cross River which include, Calabar municipality, Calabar South, Bakassi, Biase, Akpabuyo, Odukpani and Akamkpa Local Government Area. There is also the Qua community in Calabar which speaks Ejagham. In the central senatorial district are the yakurr, Agoi, Batumono ethnic groups in Yakurr and Abi Local Government Area, while the Mbembe's are predominantly found in Obubra Local Government Area. In the northern part of the state are Yala/Yahe, Igede, Ukelle, Ekahik, Mbube, Bette, Bekwarra, Ogoja, Obudu and Obanliku Local Government Areas. Cross River State epitomizes the nations linguistic and cultural plurality and it is important to note that inspite of the diversity of dialects, all the indigenous languages in the state have common linguistic roots as Niger Congo languages.

The people of Cross River are largely involved in agrarian activities most especially up north in Yala. Yam, cassava potatoes, cocoa, groundnut and rice are produced in large quantity. The central produces the largest quantity of cocoa, plantain, bananas, casava, yam etc while the southern senatorial district produced plantain, oil palm and rubber in the state.

Cross River is a social and tourist hub of the country. It is the home to the Tinapa, Obudu Ranch Resort, Marina Resort and much other tourist attraction. The people are highly sociable and hospitable. The beauty and serenity of the state before now has attracted people from far and near.

Cross River State is a host to two public Universities: The University of Calabar and the Cross River State University. There is a Federal College of Education located at Obudu and the State college of Education located at Awi Akamkpa. Recently the government approved the establishment of a Federal polytechnic located in Ugep, Yakurr Local government respectively.

The people of Cross River State are rich in their cultural heritage cutting across the three senatorial districts. The exists a rich Efut culture and traditional dance group in the south, the Lebuku new yam festival in Ugep, the Ikpatemana dance group in Obudu and so many multiple cultures across the various Local Government Areas in the State.

Population of the study

The population of the study consists of all adult residents in Cross River State, in the eighteen local government areas. It consists of 3.594419 people (NPC, 2023).

Sampling technique

The simple random sampling technique was adopted in this study. All the respondents from the eighteen Local Government of the State. In carrying out this research work, the researcher gives every member of the population equal and independent opportunity of being selected,

names of respondents from each Local Government Area were written down on pieces of paper and put in a bag. Thereafter, the bag was thoroughly shaken with folded pieces of papers inside, a research assistant from each of the senatorial zone picked from the bag and after which the paper was replaced back, and another piece of paper was picked till the number of respondents required for the study are completely picked from each Local Government Area.

Sample

The sample of the study comprised 1008 respondents drawn through a simple random sampling technique from the eighteen Local Government Area in Cross River State selected from the entire population of the study. The researcher through a researcher assistant met the Respondents in each Local Government Area of the State that were randomly selected from the population of the study. 56 respondents were selected from each local government areas of the state.

Instrumentation

The instrument used for data collection was a structured questionnaire titled: "Political Knowledge and Sustainable Democracy Questionnaire (PKSDQ)". The questionnaire consists of two sections (A, & B). Section A was designed to elicit information on the respondents demographic variables (such as sex, and age affiliation). Section B on the other hand will consists of 42 items to which respondents was asked to indicate the level of agreement or disagreement based on the 4 Point-Likert type scale of Strong Agreed (SD), Agreed (A), Disagreed (D) Strongly Disagreed (SD).

The instrument for data collection was given to experts from Measurement and Evaluation and Social Science department for face and content validity. The supervisor and experts made appropriate corrections ensure the items are consistent, relevant, meaningful and measurable.

A trial test was carried out with thirty-two (42) students from Akwa Ibom state who are not part of the sample for the study. Data collected from the trial testing was analyzed using Cronbach Alpha Coefficient reliability estimate of the test. This was done in order to determine the internal consistency of the questionnaire items. The results of the analysis using Cronbach Alpha yielded reliability estimates of the study are presented accordingly. The results obtained from the statistical analysis of data collected revealed for the different sub-sections ranging between 0.81 and 0.87. These estimates having met the criteria for stability, hence, the use of the instrument for the study.

Results and Discussion

Two main variables (independent and dependent variables) were considered in this study. Citizen's political knowledge was the independent variable while the dependent variable was Sustainable democracy. The questionnaire used for data collection was designed to measure the variables. The descriptive analysis of the mean and standard deviation of the variables is provided in Table 1.

The researcher recorded a 100% return rate for the administered instruments. The entire instruments were well responded to and were included in the analysis. Prior to hypothesis testing, descriptive statistics revealed that democratic sustainability which was the dependent variables in the study has a mean score of 22.04 with a standard deviation of 2.98. Consequently, mean scores of 21.92, 22.64, 26.87 and 23.66 were recorded for political knowledge with a corresponding standard deviation of 4.81, 3.69, 2.63 and 2.68 (Table 1).

Table 1: Descriptive Statistics of mean and standard deviation of the variables

	Mean	Std. Deviation	N
Democratic sustainability	22.04	2.980	1008
Political Knowledge	21.92	4.813	1008

Presentation of results

The findings are presented in accordance with the results of the data analyses from which they were derived. At .05 level of statistical significance, the hypotheses were tested in relation to the data collected on the variables in the study.

Hypothesis

There is no significant influence between citizen's sensitivity to political knowledge and democratic sustainability in Cross River State. To test whether to accept or reject this null hypothesis, simple linear regression statistical analysis was used. Citizen's sensitivity to political knowledge was the independent variable in this hypothesis whereas the dependent variable is sustainable democracy in Cross River State, Nigeria. Data from 1008 respondents in Cross River State were used to test this null hypothesis at a .05 level of significance. The result of the data analysis is presented in Table 2

The simple linear regression analysis of the correlation between citizens political knowledge and Sustainable democracy in Cross River State yielded an $R = .989^a$ and $R^2 = .978$. This result indicates a high positive correlation between citizens sensitivity to political knowledge and sustainable democracy. Furthermore, R^2 of .978 revealed that 97.8% of the variance in democratic sustainability is accounted for by citizen's sensitivity to political knowledge. The Analysis of variance (ANOVA) result obtained from the regression table yielded an F-ratio of 44458.99 with a p-value of .00 which was significant at .05 ($F_{(1,1006)} = 4458.99$, $P = .000 < .05$).

From the coefficient table, the unstandardized beta weight (β) for citizen's sensitivity to political knowledge was .612 which signify that for every point increase in political knowledge score in the questionnaire, there is a corresponding .612 increase in democratic sustainability scores, holding all other variables constant. This result implies that the null hypothesis which stated that there is no significant relationship between citizen's sensitivity political knowledge and democratic sustainability in Cross River State is rejected while the alternate hypothesis is

retained. In other words, an increase in citizen's sensitivity to political knowledge leads to an increase in democratic sustainability. This means that there is a high positive statistically significant relationship between citizen's sensitivity to political knowledge and democratic sustainability in the study area.

Table 4: **Regression analysis of the relationship between citizen's sensitivity to political knowledge and sustainable democracy in Cross River State**

Model		Sum of Squares	Df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
1	Regression	8746.500	1	8746.500	44458.995	.000[b]
	Residual	197.912	1006	.197		
	Total	8944.413	1007			

Model		Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients		
		B	Std. Error	Beta	t	p
1	(Constant)	8.621	.065		132.32	.000
	Political Knowledge	.612	.003	.989	210.85	.000

$R = .989^a$, $R^2 = .978$ $\beta = .989$

i) Dependent Variable: Democratic Analysis

ii) Predictors: (Constant), Political Knowledge

Conclusion

Based on the findings of the study it shows that citizen's sensitivity to Political knowledge is very key in the sustenance, sustainability and survival of our democracy, that citizens, who have adequate political knowledge, participate actively in the political process, acquired adequate political skills, have a change in political attitude will contribute immensely to democratic sustainability. Moreso, the study equally showed that, there is lack of political, consciousness, enlightenment and awareness of citizens, political apathy, lack in political skills such as (how to vote during electioneering process, Literacy skills, civic engagement and critical thinking skills) and inadequate or negative behavior and attitudes affect our democratic sustainability.

Recommendation

Based on the results and findings of this study, it was recommended that:

The government through the National Orientation Agency **(NOA)** and political parties should provide necessary enlightenment programmes and periodic seminars to educate, sensitize the citizens on the basic tenants of democracy and the associated risk of lack of political knowledge and the political actors should develop the spirit of sportsmanship and accept result of every election conducted just like President Good luck Jonathan did during the 2015 general elections and accept defeat instead of sit tight tendency, victimization, thuggery and use of violence and desperation among them.

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