

Participatory Governance

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Abstract: - An effective way of describing participatory governance is to identify the different levels or degrees at which citizens are involved and participated in the decision-making process and the contribution to the government of the day or a given country. This is possibly cut across in different prospective of citizens' engagement as allocated to by the constitution and the leadership of the country irrespective of the political system or typology of government. When a government is legitimate, it creates room for citizenry to participate actively in government; this involves different stages and areas where necessary. Thus, citizens participate actively in political process through political education, sponsoring of candidate for electoral post or contesting in an election by vying for an electoral post. However, government on the other side has become totally obsess to the citizens in Nigeria through the doctrine of federal character where the principle of federal character attempt to institutionalizing and the accommodation of the diverse regions/tribes and interest groups in the country through the process of employment, distribution of government projects, and of allocated federal employment. This ranged from federal agencies, ministerial positions, departments, military, paramilitary, federal government parastatas and political appointees. The political culture of the citizenry which is cardinal faucal of every society that is tagged to the citizen through cognitive orientated, affective orientated and evaluative orientated which propel towards active participatory in government of the state. To this ends, participatory governance involves the reorganization of the citizen's contribution towards the growth and development of such country. Citizen participation, contribution and involvement in government police process and implementation goes a long way to prove the legitimate of such government. Citizens participatory in governance in vertical axis by implementing government policies as a civil servants and supporting government through the formulation and coordination of decision-making process. When this is done, a participatory is in- fluxes. On this basis, the horizontal intersections can be identified as the core of the participatory governance when government governs according to the constitution space with the higher interaction with the citizens. When this is totally achieved or followed sequentially, such government is said to the participatory governance.

Keywords: Participatory, Governance, Citizens' Engagement, Inclusiveness, Decision making

I. INTRODUCTION

Participatory governance is carefully planned, instituted and evaluated. It is designed to lead to effective participation in decision making process that involved running an inclusive government that carried the citizens along in the decision making. Participatory governance includes the political structures, the political culture of the people, the political orientation, the legitimacy which have to do with the

acceptance of such government be it military, monarchy, parliamentary, democratically, authoritarian, etc. the decision maker must engage citizens in the administration, enactment of laws, implementing of policies and decisions making which is the primary mission that assures citizen participation in the government and inclusive government.

In order for participation government to work, there must exist a covenant of mutual trust, understanding, honesty, open agendas, equity, and respect for differing views of the citizenry. Essentially in maintaining this covenant there exist an open communication feedback mechanism from the citizen which served as an input into the system processing box by which it is process by the conversional box and be able to distribute output that enhance decision making. The government provide the conducive environment and other machineries that is required for sooth processing and implementation of the outcome of the policies from the conversional box. All parties must commit to and take responsibility for fostering and maintaining an environment in which participatory governance will take place as well as been well informed regarding issues. When this is done with the right appropriate channels of communication and redistribution of information that enable the system to create sooth take in the following.

Legitimacy

The subjective approach to legitimacy is grounded in the work of Max Weber, who emphasizes the macro-social consequences of citizens' belief in the legitimacy of their rulers. Weber famously identified three bases for legitimate rule in society (rational-legal, charismatic, and traditional) and argued that the presence of legitimate authority structures the society in such a way that even those who do not share the belief in its legitimacy face incentives to behave as if they did. This he called the 'validity' of the social system. A second model suggests that legitimacy follows the act of consenting to a rule or ruler. This is the approach put forward by John Locke and is a common element in democratic theory. In liberal theory, consent is the process of voluntarily accepting to be bound by a structure of authority and it is the crucial step in reconciling freedom and obligation. This view treats legitimacy as a contract that transfers authority between the individual and the institution. Consent, says Flathman, "allows [people] to transfer some or all of their authority to others, to authorize others to act on their behalf" (Flathman 1993, 528). Consent is central to international law, as it is to domestic contract law, and leads to the common claim that actors should feel a legitimate obligation (not just a legal

obligation) to those commitments to which they have consented. Legitimacy is the general acceptance of the political system as the most appropriate and being in line with the laws of the land. This means acceptance of a political system or an administration because it is in compliance with the laid down rules and regulation. Therefore, a legitimate government is one that is constitutionally elected and is acceptable to the populace. The government that is acceptable can be determined by the followings, Popular participation: - for a political system to be accorded legitimacy, the various interest groups such as political parties (politicians) pressure groups (Interest group) etc must be allowed to take part in such a government and thus, the only recognized among the government that gain popular participation is democratic government such as the Nigerian government. Popular support: a government is said to be legitimate if it receives the popular support of the citizens, in a democratic system, the party that receives the greatest support in an election forms the legitimate government. Thus, government reward the citizen with good government: accord to legitimacy to a government which meets up their expectations of good governance by providing social amenities, formulating good policies such as economic policies, political policies, agricultural policies, educational policies, security policies etc and reward for citizen support ship to the government.

By contrast, legitimacy itself is a fundamentally subjective and normative concept: it exists only in the beliefs of an individual about the rightfulness of rule. It is distinct from legality, in that not all legal acts are necessarily legitimate and not all legitimate acts are necessarily legal. One would hope for a close coincidence between the two, but it is conceptually necessary to keep the two separate. The possibility always exists that rulers might impose laws which the followers find illegitimate, and this possibility ensures that the two concepts cannot be reduced to one. Moreover, to define what is legal as the same as what is legitimate means that the government would have the power to control the categories of legitimate and illegitimate. This would make legitimacy inherently conservative since it could only buttress existing power relations. In practice, we see many instances in which citizens come to believe that their governments are illegitimate and this creates a serious crisis in governance.

Federal Character Principles

Nigeria and most often African countries are faced with the issue of how to achieve adequate and equal distribution of employment across all the spheres of the nation as one mechanism of ensuring and putting an end to marginalization. The Federal Character Commission is one of the executive bodies that was established by the Section 153(1) of the 1999 Constitution. Edigin (2010) the federal character principle is an attempt aimed at institutionalizing the accommodation of the diverse groups and interest in the country through process of employment distribution of federal government job across the states of the federation. The Federal character remains the deliberate effort of the government designed to accommodate

less privilege sections of the country (Olagunju, 1987). Similarly, Afigbo (1989) see the federal character principle as distinctive aim of the citizen of the country initiated to promote national unity and loyalty, to give the people of the country a sense of belonging through the employment process in the public service. Akinwale (2014) was concern about the representation of the citizen in the national appointment, the role of the federal character cannot be overemphasized especially of ensuring distribution of employment across the civil of Nigeria, as only this can guarantee adequate representation in the national appointment, hence he see the federal character principle as a significant but less discuss area in Nigeria. When citizens are been appointed in key political position, they served the government and contribute they quarto to the development of such country. In this cause, Nigeria is exceptional. The present Inspector General of Police **Ibrahim Idris Kpotun** hailed from Nasarawa state but is been appointed by the present administration of the APC laid government. The services rend is not for the president but a contribution to nation building and a service to father land. Likewise other military, paramilitary, government agencies, board of directors, political appointee etc, this gave the appointee the scene of belonging and thus serve as part-taker in the government decision making process which enhance development of the nation.

According to Ezeibe (2012) the federal character is that positive policy reaction aimed at correcting those practices of the previous administration in the area of diversities of the nation where there were errors committed. To him the federal character principle is a deliberate plan of action geared towards ensuring the holistic distribution of amenities, employment, political appointment and governmental projects in the country. This is illustrated in the present administration by awarding of federal government road dualization contract from Keffi which is one of the local government in Nasarawa state through Makurdi, the Benue state capital. This is also an inclusive government by carrying the citizen along irrespective of tribe or region or political party. Citizens respond in appreciation by dedicating a safe-less service to the government because of scene of belonging.

Political Education: Political education is knowledge acquired through political socialization which is been described as "the process by which people acquire political knowledge, attitudes and values." It is a wider process that included formal education, reading, discussing politics, active participation in politics by vying for electoral post. Most Nigerians acquire political education through reading, listening to radio, watching television, attending political rallies, political discussion, voting during the election etc.

Lucian Pye defined political culture as the composite of basic values, feelings, and knowledge that underlie the political process. Hence the building blocks of political culture are the beliefs, opinions, and emotions of the citizens toward their form of government. Political culture has been studied mostly intensively in the context of established Western democracy.

The classic study of political culture is *The Civic Culture* by American political scientists Gabriel Almond and Sydney Verba. Based on survey conducted in the United States, Britain, West Germany, Italy, and Mexico, this landmark investigation sought to identify the political culture within which a liberal democracy is most likely to develop and consolidate. The argument that is based on a distinction between three components of political culture: cognitive orientation, evaluative orientation, and affective orientation.

Cognitive orientation deals with citizens beliefs and knowledge that people have over the political system. That is to say the people understand their political system and their beliefs about the government and the functional roles of government officials. They turn to involve in government because of the awareness they have already gather through cognitive orientation and are willing to support and work with the government if given the opportunity to do so.

Evaluative orientation: Reference is been made to the extent of the people that, they can evaluate or critically assess the functioning of their political system. In such evaluation, the people are able to assesses the individuals that steer the affairs of the state and the efficiency and effectiveness of their policies. However, the citizen while evaluating government policies get involved deeply in the government of the day with other activities such as accountability, transparency, and implementation of the said policies. (Civil servant, police force, politicians, NGOs etc).

Affective orientation: Deals with the conscious feeling of citizenry towards the political system it also refers to how the people feel about the performance of their government conditionally, if the people are proud of the government and political institution, the loyalty of the people to the government and its leaders guarantee the government legitimacy from the citizen. This is achievable when citizen express concern over the government impact on the people through economic IN, DGP GDP reflecting in the lives on the people. Citizen react to the impact on them positively or negatively, when is put in to consideration, citizens feel the scene of belonging to the government.

II. CONCLUSION

Participatory government strives to create opportunities for all citizens to make meaningful contributions to decision-making process, and seek to broaden the range of people who have access to such opportunities. Since so much information must be gathered for the overall decision-making process to succeed, technology may provide important forces leading to the type of empowerment needed for participatory government, especially those technological tools that enable community narratives and correspond to the accretion of knowledge. Citizen orientated programs effectively increase the scale of participation and translation in to action rather non orientated program. Effective participation take places in small groups and meet up to world networks. Emphasized advocate of representative democracy rather than assumption

which is a advocate for demerit of non participatory government by the people. lack of time, knowledge from citizens to contribute to policy making, such nation perished.

Senater and Mimidoo (2017), characterizes participatory model as one where maximum input (participation) is required, and where output include not only policies but also the development of the social and political capacities of each individual. The paper generally emphasizes the combination influence on policy making, quality of deliberation, and citizens engagement based on what have been argued that a successful institution of citizen participation is one that possess that following characters

- provides a channel of influencing policy making process,
- engages citizens in a process of deliberation and public communication mechanism (feedback), which in return provides legitimacy of government,

when government involved citizens in polices and decision making process, which government turn to development rapidly and unengaged participatory government.

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