Issues in Political Development: Implications for Counsellors

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Abstract

This paper focuses on the issues in political development. The study was carried out in Anambra state, using 100 counsellors out of 288 counsellors in all the secondary schools in Anambra state. Two research questions guided the study. Questionnaire was used for data collection. The data collected were analyzed using mean scores. The findings revealed' that some impediments to political development include; Religious intolerance, poor leadership, structural imbalance,

moral decadence, political instability, and Funding .Also, social ills which the state faced because of these impediments include: greed, poverty, alcoholism, drug abuse, human trafficking, money laundering, political killings, thuggery. Based on the fin dings recommendations were made, that Counselling should be introduced in the tertiary institutions for graduating students.

Key Words: Political development, Counselling and Impediments

Introduction

Nigeria is a diverse nation in the sense that it is made up of over 250 social and cultural groups (Eboh & Ukopng, 2003).This is a very big problem and has been an outstanding and persistent factor in our quest for political development. Nigeria society is not fairing very well politically. The level of political development in Nigeria is far below expectation, thus radiating a general concern on how to address the Nigerian problem, for they are numerous.

The cut-throat competition between the Islamic and Christian majority has often brought their leaders in face to face confrontation with the government. Eboh and Ukpong, (2003) stated that these two religions have been well involved in political destabilization as a nation. These differences have been the basis of tension, animosity, hostility and even war (Eboh, 2005).

Nigeria has been experiencing series of unpatriotic misfit, unscrupulous, self-centred and corrupt leadership. Also, leadership in the present political dispensation find their way to the seat of power through rigging of election results and militarized politics. Ntete-nna, (2003) remarked that election in Nigeria have resulted in vote buying and which make the electorates in Nigeria have no say in government.

The departing colonial masters had created an excessively unstable and unbalance political structure between the North and South. There is general interest in overcoming the stubborn cankerworm called corruption. Africa economy, (2004) reported that corruption is the

bare of virtually all the poor sub-Saharan African countries, but the Nigerian situation gives causes for particular concern.

Therefore, for Nigerian societies to survive and meet up with all these challenges it's advocate that Counselling must be brought to the front line to tackle all these challenges.

Okonkwo (2007) opined that Counselling is a process of helping a troubled person to understand himself and his world so as to feel and behave in a more personally satisfying way. Furthermore Oladele, (2007) denotes that Counselling is a wide range of procedures which includes advice giving, support in time of trouble or need, encouragement, information giving and test interpretation.

Therefore, based on all these problems cropping up because of the issues of political development in Nigeria, the researchers sought out to discover some impediments to political development and social ills which the Anambra State had faced because of these issues in political development, thus, there is need to articulate the counsellor's roles towards resolving these problems.

To guide this investigation two research questions were formulated; they are as follows;

1. What ore some impediments to political development?
2. What are some social- ills which the nation had faced because of these impediments?

Methodology

The study adopted a descriptive survey design. The area of the study was all the secondary schools in Anambra state. The population of the study consists all the 288 counsellors in all the 288 secondary schools in Anambra state. Proportionate stratified random sampling technique was adopted in selecting 100 counsellors from the entire population. The instrument for the study was a questionnaire developed by the researchers tagged. Issues in political development (IPD) with reliability Co-efficient of 0.87.The respondents were made to answer

the questions in the questionnaire by using a 4-point likert type scale, items with mean value of 2.50 and above were given positive interpretation, while those that are below the mean value of 2.50 were given negative interpretation. Two research questions guided the study.

Summary of the results were presented in the table as follows;

Table 1: Mean rating of some impediments to political development.

S/N	Description of items	Mean	Decision
1	Religious intolerance	3.37	Accepted
2	Poor leadership	3.36	Accepted
3	Structural imbalance	3.35	Accepted
4	Moral decadence	3.34	Accepted
5	Political instability	3.33	Accepted
6	Political intolerance	3.32	Accepted
7	Ethnicity	3.31	Accepted

Table 1 above revealed that all the items were generally accepted by the counsellors as impediments against political development as this was shown in their mean scores which were all above 2.50 in their mean value.

Table 2: Mean rating of social ills- which the state faced because of these impediments.

S/N	Description of items	Means	Decision
1	Greed	3.41	Accepted
2	Poverty	3.42	Accepted
3	Alcoholism	3.43	Accepted
4	Drug abuse	3.44	Accepted
5	Prostitution	3.45	Accepted
6	Child abuse	3.46	Accepted
7	Human trafficking	3.47	Accepted
8	Money laundering	3.48	Accepted
9	Political killings	3.49	Accepted
10	Thuggery	3.50	Accepted

As presented in table 2 above, it can be observed that all the respondents agreed that all the items were social- ills which the nation had faced because of these impediments. This is equally shown in their mean scores as they scored above 2.50.

Summary of Findings

The impediments to political development include:

- - Religious intolerance

- - Poor leadership

- - Structural imbalance

- - Moral decadence

- - Political instability

- - Political intolerance

- - Ethnicity.

The Social- ills include:

- • Greed

- • Poverty

- • Alcoholism

- • Drug abuse

- • Prostitution

- • Child abuse

- • Human trafficking

- • Money laundering

- • Political killing.

- • Thuggering

Discussion

The result of the descriptive analysis on the first research question revealed the impediments in political Development in Anambra state. They include; Religious intolerance, poor leadership, structural imbalance, moral decadence, political instability, political intolerance and ethnicity. This finding is not surprising because it agrees with Eboh and Ukpong, (2003) stated aptly that these two religious have been well involved in political destabilization as a nation. Eboh, (2005) also confirmed this by bases those differences have been the bases of farsion, animosity, hostility and war. Economy, (2004) reported that corruption is the bana of virtually all the poor sub-saharan African countries, but the Anambra State situation gives causes for particular concern.

Furthermore, the finding of the research question 2 revealed the social- ills which the state have faced because of impediments to include; greed, poverty, alcoholism, drug abuse, prostitution, child abuse, human trafficking, money laundering, political killing and thuggering. This is equally not surprising because Ntete nna, (2003) observed that in the present political dispensation those on top find their way to the seat of power through rigging of election results and militarized politics. He also remarked that election in Nigeria have resulted in vote buying and vote selling which make the electorates in Nigeria have no say in government.

Implication for Counsellors

Counsellors should organize workshops to create awareness for the gubernatorial candidates who are interested in politics. There, in the workshops, consequences of impediments in political development as well as social- ills should be x-rayed. Counsellors through orientation, seminars workshops and conference which they frequently organized at schools, Local Government areas, assist in propagating the consequences of impediments in political development and social- ills that follows it. Okonkwo, (2007) opined that the professional

counsellors cannot afford to remain dormant and complacent while the constraints in the implementation of the political development go on.

The role of counsellors is not limited to the schools alone. This is true because, Okonkwo, (2005) asserted that as bleak as the circumstances of guidance and counselling in Nigeria may appear, it can be said without fear of equitation that there is bright light yet to materialize, and certain steps are vital and must be taken by our government planners and the association.

Government with the advice from the counsellors should build counselling centres and clinics near political leaders' offices and quarters in order to bring the invaluable service of counsellors to the door step of every politician and government so that they will stop those actions that breed social-ills in Nigeria. The children, parents, communities and society at large would benefit from such centres if created.

Counsellors through media houses (Newspapers, radio, television) should educate all the politicians about the impediments and social ill that affect the political development of the Nation. The counsellors through creation of awareness on the issues of impediment and social ills and its attendant crises to politicians, open their eyes, this is because man is basically positive and forward moving, when he is giving an empathic understanding, he will move from the position of evil to good (Okonkwo, 2009).

Conclusion

Politically, socially and economically, Nigeria is plagued by several social-vices that seen to impede upon her development. As a plural society with diverse sentiments, political intolerance, ethnocentrism, moral decadence, poor leadership and problems championed by structural imbalance, are issues that constrain political development and reformation. All these problems enumerated above made counselling indispensable and invaluable to change the attitude of the people and this usher in a new realm of development.

Recommendations

- Counselling should be introduced in the tertiary institutions for graduating students. This ought to be done as soon as graduating students are writing their projects.

- Religious organization should employ the services of professional counsellors and use them to pass value oriented messages to their members.

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