

Views of Post Graduate Social Studies Students, University of Jos on Factors Militating against Patriotic Nigeria Citizens

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Abstract. This study examined the views of post graduate social studies education students of University of Jos on the factors militating against patriotic Nigeria citizens. Patriotism has been perceived as a key attribute to developing a nation and most developed nation are basking on the gains of patriots while underdeveloped nations remain in the shaft because absent of patriots or insignificant amount of patriots. In the case of Nigeria, patriotism is pertinent and a lot of hurdles happen to be hindering the patriotic zeal which the study investigated. In line with that, three objectives were formulated for the study and three corresponding research question were equally posted. The research design adopted for the study was a survey specifically cross sectional survey and the population was same as sample which consisted of 37 post graduate social studies education students for academic session 2018/2019. Zero sampling technique was used while structured questionnaire was developed for data collection. The data collected were analyzed using simple percentage where the analysis revealed that, corruption, religion and ethnicity happen to be the major factors affecting patriotism amongst Nigeria citizens and if addressed squarely Nigeria can have more and lot more patriots. The study recommended among others that, sensitization should be highly encouraged, ethnic and religious leaders should preach loyalty to the state against preaching loyalty to ethnicity or any other affiliation and also attitudinal change should highly be prioritize from the family level where right values and

patriotic attitudes will be instill on the young ones for sustainable growth and national rebirth.

Keywords: Patriotism, Citizens, Ethnicity, Religion, Social Studies Students

1. Introduction

A patriot is a warrior for a nation, a lover of a nation, and a person who pay allegiance to his nation. It is also someone who gives all and all for his nation, someone who can pay a supreme price to his country when the need arises. When you see a person whose love and interest for his nation above any other thing such person is a patriot. Countries will grow and develop when it citizens are patriot because such citizens will chant the strength and grace of the country all their lives and in whatever and wherever they may find themselves. Their allegiance is undiluted towards their country as it were. All countries in the world have patriots but the number of patriots in a country may not be significant to be able to make a reasonable impact for the cause of such country. To be a patriot requires a lot from the part of the government and the governed, By implication therefore, patriotism is more likely to harmonize with the siblinghood of humanity. This is because defending the democratic order could be a propelling force on individuals to make remarkable sacrifice. Tan (2004:138) says that this is attainable where: “citizens have a strong sense of fellow feeling for each other.”

In developed place like America most citizens are patriots as they owe allegiance to their country and in whatever they do they consider the country first which is why the country is stronger, another example in the Peoples' Republic of China which has become one of leading economy of the world, the citizens have love for their country at heart and owe their allegiance to the country other than any other interest. Developing self-acceptance is a pre-requisite to the acceptance and valuing of others and the nation (Banks, 2004). This means that, to be patriot one needs to be able to accept oneself as a citizen to be able to love the nation unconditionally.

Etymologically, patriotism was derived from the Latin noun *pater* – father. It refers to a deep feeling of love for one's fatherland, a fundamental disposition for the common good.

Advanced English Learner's Dictionary (2014) "patriotism or nationalism is love of country and willingness to sacrifice for it". Patriotism is an emotional journey of loyalty, allegiance, impartial love and total obedience to one's country or one's chosen country other than one's country of birth, which bestows all the rights and privileges accorded to him/her by the constitution. Patriotism conveys a less localized and temporalized sense of particularist effect as it is conceptually more related to people's feelings and acts as consociates regardless of the type of political configuration (e.g. be it the city-state, the nation-state, a region, etc). Thus, although it may at times coincide with nationalist concerns, it does not always overlap with nationalism as it signifies a more broadly conceived allegiance than the allegiance towards a nation-state. In as much as some quarters have argued that patriotism is not a total allegiance to state-nation, patriotism may concern attachment to an ethnos regardless of whether the latter has the status of the nation-state, or belongs to a multi-national state or (in more historical applications) to city-states. On this same point, Kateb (2006) says patriotism could be a form of jealous and exclusive loyalty or love of one's own locality without a professed corresponding antagonism towards others (McCleary, 2009).

In Africa as a continent we had and still have patriots who can be termed pan Africans such as Patrick Lumumba, Jomo Kenyatta, Julius Nyerere, Thomas Sankara, Kwame Nkrumah, Obafemi Awolowo, Nnandi Azikiwe, Tafawa Balewa, John J. Rowlings and Sekou Toure among others even though some people use nationalism and patriotism interchangeably this study is not concerned with comparison of both concepts. In our present day Nigeria we can say outrightly that, we have factors militating against patriotic citizens. This is because we may have patriots across the country who are not known but a lot of factors will keep them unknown and can even discourage them from keeping their patriotic spirit. It is apparent that for an average Nigeria citizen security which is not even guaranteed, fundamental rights and privileged supposedly to be enjoined as a citizen is equally not feasible or threatened, some many challenges affecting a patriotic citizen in Nigeria are abundant. Another serious problem why Nigeria patriots may not succeed is ethnicity and religious bigotry, this is a serious situation in Nigeria where the citizens are divided along ethnic and religious lines and the love or allegiance that is supposed to be for the country is now transferred to the ethnic or religion divide of the citizens. Religion has taken the loyalty of Nigeria citizens and the citizens now pay allegiance to either their religion or ethnic group to the detriment of the nation or country as it were. This tells why institutions are not working because recruitment, appointment, employment and host of other activities in the Nigeria are done on the ground of ethnicity, religious bias, nepotism and sectionalism. All these factors cannot make patriots in the country as those who are loyal to their ethnic group will not be loyal to the country and when they are given chance to exhibit an action in favour of the country they rather act in favour of their ethnicity or religion to the detriment of their country. This is not surprising as Duruji (2010) avers that before the intrusion of the British into what is now known as Nigeria, the various ethnic and cultural groups that make up the country existed as autonomous political entities.

Endemic corruption is another challenge of having patriots in Nigeria, this is simply because

actions and attitudes are guided by some selfish interest and when citizens are suppose to act like patriots they rather act in line with the selfish gains and interest and this tells why we have prevalent insecurity and all forms of security challenges across the country. For instance in the military, we have soldiers confronting the terrorist and bandits across the country and paying the supreme prize by sacrificing their lives for the love of the country and unfortunately such soldiers and officers who loss their lives are not even honoured, some are buried in secret locations and the benefit that ought to go to their families might even be siphon by their superiors to show the level of corruption being perpetrated in the country. These and many other factors cannot build a true patriot in an heterogeneous country like Nigeria where citizens are divided along corrupt ethnic and religious lines to the detriment of national growth and this reflects why as a country we are struggling with having patriots that can grow the nations. To this end the researcher wants to determine factors affecting patriotic citizen in Nigeria

2. Statement of Problem

Citizens who are patriots and are willing to serve the nation sincerely may have their hope and vision disdain because of corruption and nepotism, this is a situation which has led to colossal loss of value and function in our institutions in Nigeria which is why the institution are not working and cannot deliver on their mandate simply because the best brains are not picked and we end up having square pegs in round holes, people who are not competent are handpicked to perform the task and man the office they cannot be optimal in as a result of corruption which is endemic in Nigeria system.

Another thing of concern is the fact that religion and ethnicity have taken the loyalty that the nation is supposed to enjoy away from it citizens. They religion institutions and ethnic dynasty or hierarchy have failed in educating the citizens as regards the need to be patriots and be loyal to their fatherland at all cost above all other interest but rather what the religion and ethnic leaders do is to preach loyalty to the

religion and ethnic to the detriment of the nation or country as it were. Another worrisome aspect is the fact that, government on it part have failed to immortalize the great patriots and honour them so that the citizens will emulate such act and realize that it pays to be patriots as the country will never forget you in her history. In the school curriculum and history books, patriots are rarely mentioned, the school curriculum itself is faulty, it is not tailored towards moulding patriotic citizens via character building rather the emphasis is mainly on theoretical knowledge negating the character building which is key to patriotism.

These and other challenges have left Nigeria with less or without patriots and the patriots confronted with many hurdles and it becomes just like a situation of ship without a sailor or captain which may likely capsize. Thus, the researcher is interested in knowing some of the factors affecting the patriotic Nigeria citizens and the way forward in building a strong patriot.

3. Aim And Objectives

The general aim of this study in to investigate the factors militating against patriotic Nigeria citizens. Specifically, the objectives of the study includes to:

- find out the opinion of post graduate socials studies students on factors affecting patriotic Nigeria citizens
- examine the extent to which corruption affects patriotism of citizens
- determine the effects of ethnic and religious institutions on patriotism of the citizens

4. Research Questions

The following research questions are formulated to guide the study:

- What are the factors affecting patriotic Nigeria citizens
- To what extent is corruption affecting patriotic citizens in Nigeria
- What are the effects of religion and ethnic groups on patriotic citizens

5. Literature Review

Nigeria is not the only country in Africa that is peopled with persons from different multi-cultural ethnic origins and background, yet Nigerians seem to have displayed unpatriotic tendencies to a high degree among African nation-states. From the understanding of patriotism as a deep feeling of love for one's fatherland and a fundamental disposition of care for the common good, we hope to unravel a conceptual understanding that could help revamp the falling and failing Nigerian state. Patriotism is the force of unity that holds a people together within a particular nation-state. Patriotism according to Papastephanou (2013) is not the specific allegiance to a nation-state, as we may reserve this for nationalism. Thus, it is implied that though there may be varieties in language, culture, religion and ethnicity, the shared grounds of unity becomes the most cherished relational bond that runs through a people within a nation-state as Nigeria. Though we do not enjoy this common bond because of mutual distrust, it does not entail that the Nigerian state would/must end up in dissolution. According to Odimegwu (2006), the father-son relationship offers us some insight in understanding patriotism. The father has duties and responsibilities to the son. The son also has duties and obligations to the father. And so the duty of one is the right of the other in this relationship of mutual responsibility.

Odimegwu (2006) pushes this analysis back to its origin to establish that the duties and responsibility of the father antedates those of the son. And so it would seem that nature has so ordained these relations that the son shall have rights before responsibilities, while the father shall have responsibilities before rights. However, we deviate a little from this idea taking a leave from the Lockean idea on the origin of state. The state according to Locke is created through the medium of a contract in which the individual agrees with every other to give up to the community the natural right of enforcing the law of reason in order that life and property might be protected.

Thus, the point of contract where the individuals surrender their individual rights is the emergence of the nation/state or government, which is in turn burdened with the responsibility of providing protection for life and property. The father therefore predates the son, which also makes it impossible for the son to exist without the assistance of the father as there can be no son without a father. In the face of divided loyalties, the government is greatly incapacitated in carrying out her duties and functions to her citizens. As the various channels through which the government would have ordinarily reached her people are redirected for personal and selfish gains. Where the government has lost the trust of her people because it has failed, there is always disruption and agitations from different groups and this tends to make the country ungovernable.

Patriotism carries with it some sense of rational sentimental love and in the strict sense of the word, no one is born a nationalist, nor is anyone born a patriot; it is a constantly evolving phenomenon, hence it is nurtured. According to Beswick (2008:25), this: "may comprise the actions of members to secure or maintain the right to self-determination, as well as their desire to be perceived as a nation." It is virtually impossible to speak of the nurturing of that sense of patrimonial feeling towards one's country during the late adulthood of a person. It has to be a virtue whose inculcation begins at man's early formational stage.

Patriotic citizenship that bears a nationalistic outlook must take into cognizance the educational aspect of children at the early stage of childhood. The French revolutionist Mirabeau echoes this when he commented: "Begin with the infant in the cradle; let the first word he lips be Washington" (Berns, 2001). Though we do not advocate a form of patriotic calling that subsumes the individual in the group, to the extent that he loses his individuality, we cannot however avoid the civic training of children both at home and in school, with relevant themes that have practical bearings on the problems we face, not themes drafted out of curriculum of mere political propaganda. They should be themes that "call home the minds of youth and fix them upon the interests of their own

6. Methodology

The study adopted a survey research design. The population of the study consisted of 37 M.Ed social studies education students 2017/2018 session. The research used all the 37 students as sample which means zero sampling technique was employed. The instrument used for

collection of data was questionnaire structured by the researcher and titled questionnaire on opinion of post graduate social studies education M.Ed students in university of Jos. The instrument was structured on 4 point scale to allow respondents express their opinion by indicating a tick against the most appropriate option

7. Results

Research Question One: What are the factors affecting patriotic Nigeria citizens?

Table1: Percentage responses on factors affecting patriotic Nigerian citizens

SN	ITEM	SA	A	D	SD	Total
	Religion is a factor militating against patriotism	20	7	5	5	37
	Ethnicity is a militating factor to patriotism	14	11	7	5	37
	Nepotism is another factor affecting patriotism	12	14	5	6	37
	Total	46	32	17	16	111
	Percentage	41.2	28.9	15.4	14.5	100

The above table 1 presents detail of respondents as regards to opinion of post graduate social studies students in University of Jos on factors militating against Nigeria patriotic citizen. From the three items above it reveals that, 41.2% of the respondents agreed that, religion, ethnicity and nepotism are factors affecting patriotic Nigeria citizen. 28.9% also agreed while 15.4% disagreed and 14.5% strongly disagreed as well which mean that, religion, ethnicity and nepotism are key factors militating against the patriotism of Nigeria citizen. Thus, it obvious that, these factors are constrain to building patriotic Nigeria citizens

Research Question Two: To what extent does corruption affects patriotism of citizens?

Table2: Percentage responses on the extent to which corruption affects patriotism of Nigeria citizens

SN	ITEM	SA	A	D	SD	Total
	Corruption make citizens unpatriotic	12	14	4	7	37
	Corruption is a major factor militating against Patriotic Nigeria citizen	10	11	9	52	37
	Corruption break patriotic will and zeal of citizens	11	9	8	9	37
	Total	33	34	21	23	111
	Percentage	29.7	30.6	19	20.7	100

The above table 2 reveals detail of respondents as regards to extent to which corruption affects patriotic Nigeria citizens, 29.7% strongly agreed that, corruption is a major factor affecting the patriotic Nigeria citizens, 30.6% of the respondents equally agreed while 19% disagreed and 20.7% strongly disagreed to the items. It can be deduced that, corruption is a major problem affecting the patriotic Nigeria citizens as revealed by the study.

Research Question Three: What are the effects of religion and ethnic groups on patriotic citizens?

Table 3: Percentage responses on effects of religion and ethnic group on patriotic citizen

SN	ITEM	SA	A	D	SD	Total
	Religion affects patriotism of citizens	12	14	4	7	37
	Ethnicity is a problem of patriotic citizen	10	11	9	52	37
	Both religion and ethnicity are problems Of patriotic citizens	11	9	8	9	37
	Total	33	34	10	23	100
	Percentage	29.7	30.6	19	20.7	100

The above table 3 depicts responses of respondents as regards effects of religion and ethnicity on patriotic Nigeria citizens. 29.7% of the respondents strongly agreed that, religion and ethnicity are two factors affecting the patriotic Nigeria citizens. 30.6% agreed as well but 21% disagree while 23% strongly disagreed to the items. This shows that, religion and ethnicity are two major factors that affect the patriotic Nigeria citizen as revealed by the study hence these factors are to be checkmated accordingly.

8. Conclusion

Based on the empirical findings and analysis on this research work it will be concluded that the factors affecting patriotic Nigeria citizens includes corruption, religion and ethnicity among others, which makes it a serious problem for citizens to become patriotic in the study area hence these factors among others needs to be given serious and urgent attention. To be patriots requires a lot from the part of the government and the governed, By implication therefore, patriotism is more likely to harmonize with the siblinghood of humanity. This is because defending the democratic order could be a propelling force on individuals to make remarkable sacrifice. Tan (2004:138) says that this is attainable where: “citizens have a strong sense of fellow feeling for each other.”

9. Recommendations

The following recommendations were made based on the findings:

In view the findings, sensitization and enlightenment of citizens should be highly encouraged, religious institution should preach patriotism to the state and also ethnic leaders should equally chant and champions the cause of loyalty to the state other than ethnicity tribe or religion as well as any other affiliation. Another important thing is attitudinal change which should be encouraged from the family level and parents should teach their wards the need for sincerity and how to stand against corruption.

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