



Contemporary Democracy and the Roles of Traditional Rulers In Government: A Study Of Boki Local Government Area Traditional Rulers Institution

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Abstract

This study was aimed at examining contemporary democracy and the roles of traditional rulers in government with specific reference to Boki Local Government Area's traditional institutions in Cross River State. The population for the study was made up of three (3) villages and each of the six (6) clans of the Boki local government area. The sample size was 270 from the population of the study. The study adopted the descriptive survey design and made use of a questionnaire as an instrument for data collection. The simple percentage and chi-square were used for data analyses. From the results of the analyses of the data collected, it was realized that there is a significant relationship between the traditional rulers and the nation's polity. Traditional rulers play a significant role in implementing governmental rules at the grassroots level as well as in recruitment into their high offices. The researcher recommended that traditional ~~rulers~~ rulers' consultative and ~~programme-program~~ management ~~committee-committees~~ should be ~~set-up~~ set up. Local government chairmen and councilors being constitutionally subjected to elective offices should not join executive council sessions with traditional rulers. ~~In order to~~ To achieve the goals of good governance, grassroots ~~participations~~ participation, and community / rural development, local ~~governments~~ governments' traditional rulership consultative and ~~programme-program~~ committee (LGTCP) should be set up in each local government council.

Keywords: Traditional rulers, government, governance, questionnaire, consultative, grassroots participants, rural development, management committee.

1. Introduction

The institutional composition of the traditional rulers is based on the Weberian concept of traditional authority derived from a system of customary rights and duties. In Nigeria, traditional rulers are part of those whose primary distinguishing feature is attached to status conferment. Traditional rulers are those who primarily claim to be of royal ~~deseents~~ descent ~~of or~~ people who founded dynasties in the ~~past~~ history of their specific areas, and as a result of this, gained ~~respects~~ respect from the common people within their territories. When formal political power was taken from the traditional rulers, the common people came directly under the rule of local government councils, governed by the local government chairman and ward councilors. It has to be pointed out that these people (traditional rulers) have continued to live royally because their paraphernalia of office ~~have~~ has remained more or less intact. They have been constituted into a potent political force such that each state now has a traditional council of chiefs, members of ~~who~~ whom are given staff of office by the government with high remuneration. Some are provided official cars, and police escorts and are given licenses to do business such as crude oil lifting, etc. In some parts of the country, they dispose and sale to rich people's land which belongs to them collectively, thus depriving the peasants of land for farming and settlements. During the colonial period, they were used to introduce indirect rule to the people. Traditional rulers being organized communal authorities in the North were appointed as the native authority by the Governor-General and ~~have~~ had exclusive access to political participation. They were only charged with the responsibility of maintaining order and exercising the executive and judicial powers delegated to them by the Governor-General ~~over all~~ overall natives residing with-in the areas of their jurisdiction. Boki is an ~~ethic~~ ethnic group in the North-Eastern part of the Cross River State of Nigeria. It is bounded in the North by Obudu and Ogoja local government areas, Ikom local government in the West, and ~~by~~ Western Cameroon in the ~~South~~ Eastern ~~South~~ Eastern part, as a large ethnic group, respectively. There are certain villages of Boki in ~~the republic~~ Republic of Cameroon. A synthesis of the various ~~version~~ versions of the origin of Boki could be united thus: the Boki's Boki migrated from Zaire in central ~~African~~ Africa as far back as the 16th century, and settled in the Cameroon Mountains. With the rapid increase in population and the need to acquire more

fertile lands, they were to be successive and ordered migration. The assignment was given to hunters to survey any suitable place in the forest for habitation. Meanwhile, the rest of the ~~populations~~ population ~~were~~ was waiting for the feedback from the hunters. During the wait, an epidemic emerged which resulted ~~to~~ in the death of so many people. This hastened another dispersed and mass migration of the people even before the arrival of the assigned hunters. The unorganized departure took some people to Ntan near Ikom, most probably the Isoerghe, Irruan, and Barop Camps, some found their way ~~towards~~ toward Kakwagom in today's Yala local government area, most probably the Kakwagom camp. Throughout the course of migration, each group had a leader and whenever they finally settled, these leaders became their rulers (traditional rulers).

It was as a result of ~~this~~ these scattered migrations and resettlement that gave birth to the six (6) clans of today's Boki local government, viz:

- i. Irruan
- ii. Osokom I
- iii. Osokom II
- iv. Boje
- v. Abo
- vi. Eastern Boki

All these clans have rulers (village heads) in the respective villages and a paramount ~~ruler~~ ruler who is the overall head of all the traditional rulers in the local government.

During the pre-colonial period, traditional rulers in Boki performed numerous functions even though there were no written constitutions. Traditional rulers in Boki relied on customs and conventions and the consent of their people to rule their various domains. The traditional rulers enjoyed full ~~powers~~ power in their kingdoms during pre-colonial days. They commanded respect and obedience from their subjects, who regarded them as sons of the gods, their spiritual as well as their political leaders. The people believed that these traditional rulers ~~have~~ had regular communication with the spirits of their ancestors and to intercede with the gods and the spirits of the ancestors to the benefit of the living. In their capacity as priests, they made sacrifices and poured libations to the gods. As a result of these, they (traditional rulers) are charged with the responsibility of making laws, and enacting and interpreting the laws to the people. Traditional rulers in Boki then made use of certain agencies like age-grades and ~~secrets~~ cult secret cults like the "Mfam" as the situation may demand to maintain peace and order. Because the chiefs were the custodians of the traditions and culture of the people, it was their duty therefore to lead their people.

The chiefs could bestow ~~honour~~ honor in the form of chieftaincy titles on any ~~citizens~~ citizen. They were the custodians of the Boki land. They hold the land in trust for the people and they are normally appointed from royal families.

The advent of the European incursion into Nigeria resulted ~~to~~ in the introduction of the indirect rule system of government through Lord Lugard, the then colonial ~~governor general~~ governor-general who constituted the traditional rulers into native authority with the appointment of warrant chiefs in the Eastern part of Nigeria which Boki is also a part of. This accorded traditional rulers greater powers ~~of controlling to~~ control their societies. This idea of giving powers to the traditional rulers was particularly disliked by the rising educated elites who saw the traditional rulers as tools or agents of the imperialists. Since the traditional rulers ~~where~~ were not educated, the rising educated elites considered them as a blockage to the wheel of progress.

With the introduction of constitutional development in Nigeria, there came the development of political parties, economic expansion, the growth of towns, the spread of ~~western~~ Western education, and the emergence of new elites that is professionals such as teachers, accountants, lawyers, ~~clerk~~ clerks, etc. The authority and place of traditional rulers declined when Nigeria gained her ~~independence in~~ independence in 1960 also, the traditional ruler's institution was almost phased out of the government. In the colonial era, traditional rulers were not completely relegated ~~prior to~~ before independence in Nigeria, the House of Chiefs ~~were~~ was created for them. At the local level, they were visually elected to local councils (regions).

In the present day, although their powers have declined from the formal political sphere, they still have a role to play as far as contemporary governance activities are of great importance and ~~concerned~~ concern in Nigeria.

1.1 Objective of the study

The general objective of this study is to evaluate the role of traditional rulers in contemporary government in Nigeria. Specifically, the study aims to:

- i) Examine the roles of the traditional rulers in governance.
- ii) Ascertain the temporary government and ~~their~~ its relationship with the traditional ruler's council and other sections of the society.
- iii) Enlighten traditional rulers on their roles and to enable them rediscover themselves ~~so~~ as to function effectively in government.

1.2 Research questions

For ~~the purpose of~~ this project, the following research questions were formulated to guide the study:

- i. What are the roles of traditional rulers in governance at the grassroots level?
- ii. What is the significant relationship between the traditional rulers and the nation's polity?
- iii. How can traditional rulers contribute to an effective, stable, and ~~corruption~~ freecorruption-free society as aspired by the Nigeria-Nigerian government?

1.3 Research hypothesis

For the reason of this study, the following ~~hypothesis~~ hypotheses were formulated:

H₀: There is no significant relationship between the traditional rulers and the nation's polity.

H₁: There is a significant relationship between the traditional rulers and the nation's polity.

H₀: ~~There is no significant role played by traditional rulers~~ Traditional rulers play no significant role in implementing governmental policies at the ~~grassroot~~ grassroots level.

H₁: ~~There is a significant role played by traditional rulers~~ Traditional rulers play a significant role in implementing governmental policies at the ~~grassroot~~ grassroots level.

H₀: ~~There is no significant role played by traditional rulers~~ Traditional rulers play no significant role in implementing recruitment into their high offices.

H₁: There is a significant role played by traditional rulers in implementing recruitment into their high offices.

2. Conceptual framework

2.1 Traditional Rule: this entails the reign of a monarch or a title ruler vested with the authority to rule over a people in their affairs of life. Therefore, traditional institutions are being headed by traditional rulers and these institutions are very vital in bringing development closer to the people. Traditional rulers boost community development through the provision of boreholes, rural roads, formation of cooperative societies, setting up of markets, construction of culverts, construction of earth dams, mobilizing people for health ~~programmes~~ programs, and resolving disputes within their domains. It was discovered that poor road ~~network~~ networks, illiteracy, and financial constraints were obstacles to community development. This scenario presented a lack of access to ~~long distance~~ long-distance communities with non-passable roads and, a lack of understanding of projects initiated due to illiteracy as a result of low participation of community members in most projects initiated by traditional rulers.

According to Parson (1964), for any social system in which the community is part to survive, there are three basic functional ~~pre-requisites~~ prerequisites - adaption, goal attainment, and integration. These can be seen as challenges that communities must ~~solace~~ solve if they are to survive and progress.

Adaptation: This refers to the relationship between the traditional rulers and their communities. ~~In order to~~To survive, traditional ~~institution~~institutions must have some degree of control over the community.

Goal attainment: This refers to the need for all communities to set goals towards which socio-economic activities are directed procedures for establishing goals and deciding on priorities between goals are institutionalized.

Integration: This has to do with the primary adjustment of conflict in the community.

It ~~is convenes~~convenes with the ~~co-ordination~~coordination and mutual adjustment of the community members.

2.2 Traditional Rulers: Traditional rulers here mean natural leaders of the rural people ~~who~~ whom they recognize and support either due to traditional powers or imposed upon them as a result of certain events in the society. They are also persons who ~~in accordance with~~by the relevant law or chieftaincy ~~enforcee~~enforced in the state are recognized either as village heads, clan heads, or paramount rulers. Nigerian traditional rulers “derive their titles from the rulers of independent states or communities that existed before the formation of modern Nigeria”. Although they do not possess formal political power, in diverse situations, they continue to command respect from their people and as well exercise a considerable level of influence in the communities they rule. The Europeans had been in the business of trading with the coastal states, primarily exchanging cotton and other manufactured goods for slaves and palm oil products at centers such as Calabar, Bonny, and Lagos. The Niger Coast Protectorate was established in 1891 which during this period, held a small area along the coast. ~~As at~~In the period 1879–1900, the Royal Niger Company made a concerted effort to take total control of the interior, using disciplined troops armed with the Maxim gun, and making treaties of “protection” with the local rulers. The treaties of protection were in a bid to achieve a common agreement. The Royal Niger Company’s territory was sold to the British government in 1900, with the southern region merged with the Niger Coast Protectorate to become the Southern Nigeria Protectorate and the Northern Nigeria Protectorate remaining separate. In 1914 the two were merged into the Colony and Protectorate of Nigeria, with roughly the same boundaries as the modern state of Nigeria.

The first British High Commissioner for Northern Nigeria, Lord Frederick Lugard, attempted to rule through the traditional rulers and there was a great deal of success using this approach and ~~this~~this was later extended to the south. Lugard’s successor Hugh Clifford having seen the effectiveness of this approach in the north, left this system in place where the emirate system had

long traditions, but introduced a legislative council with some elected members in the south, controlling the traditional rulers to mainly symbolic roles without the active exercise of their own will over their subjects as should be the case. (Wikipedia). Traditional rulers have some roles and functions to play in contemporary governance which ~~includes~~ include administration, justice, and maintenance of law and order and they also command a lot of power and authority over their subjects. However, traditional rulers do not have exclusive powers to carry out certain legal jurisdiction unless those provisions are made under customary laws.

2.3 Colonialism: ~~Webster~~ Webster's Dictionary defines colonialism as the policy or practice of acquiring full or partial political control over another country, occupying it with settlers, and exploiting ~~labour~~ labor, mineral, and natural resources of the weaker country they dominate. Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy (2006) says “~~colonialism~~ Colonialism is a practice of domination, which involves the subjugation of one country to another”. In this plight, the Nigerian’s traditional system of administration was changed or subjugated to follow suit with the British colonial administration.

According to Siollun(2021), as cited in Amah (2023), a “major discovery is that the British government did not consider the diverse culture, history, and background of various ethnic groups they met before implementing a form of government to replace the pre-colonial government structure”. The idea of colonialism which primarily is concerned with the domination of the weaker country for selfish reasons could not allow the colonial masters to consider the background of their protectorate ~~due to the fact that~~ because it may in one way or the other mitigate against their agenda for some reasons. The mistake was when the northern and southern regions were amalgamated without giving ~~thoughts~~ thought to the diverse ethnic groups with different structures, ~~culture~~ cultures, and beliefs into a single nation without proper plans put in place to help curb the negative effects of the shock that would follow.

It was further realized that during the colonial era, it was the chief who carried out the orders of the Europeans, but now the chief is the central administrative body in local areas. The functions of the chiefs therefore include initiating actions enforcing laws and getting this done in general. At this point ~~in time~~, the traditional rulers were being used as instruments or weapons so to say, in the hands of colonial masters to achieve their aims, since the traditional rulers already have the respect of their subjects and as well command authority.

2.4 Contemporary governance: It is a period ~~of in~~ which reference is being made in ~~the act~~ or manner of governing or controlling power at a particular or present time.

The concept, therefore, means a period in which traditional rulers play their role in a manner of governing or controlling their subjects and their participation in the present government.

Writing on the role of traditionalism in political modernization, Apter (1909) after his study on the extent of modernization in Ashante and Buganda, asserted that modernization is quicker or faster where there are powerful traditional leaders. This is so because in the course of modernization of the contemporary governance and traditional ruler's institutions, educated people, with good royal connections are elected or appointed to bring modernization and development to the local area.

3. Theoretical Framework

Existing theories are used as a framework or guide in the course of research works ~~in order to~~ explain certain phenomena. This research, therefore adopts the functionalist theory and Max ~~Webbers-Weber's~~ typologies of authority to explain the roles of traditional rulers in governance.

The Functional Theory

Functionalism views society as a whole unit and considers the relationship of its (society's) constituent parts to the whole. That is to say, it recognizes and as well references the contributions of the parts made to the system as a whole. The functional theory pictures a scenario ~~that in which~~ the success of a society as a whole hinges on the collective contribution of the parts that make up such a society.

Haralambos (1980) argues that an analysis of any part of a society requires an analysis of its relationship to other parts and most importantly, of its contributions to the maintenance of the society.

Rex (1961) regards functionalism as an integrationist mode to explain ~~the~~ society and its structure in which activities, if they were regarded as explained at all, were explained in terms of the need to maintain the social structure. However, functionalists' inquiry in sociology employs a theological explanation system or an institution that exists for the system as a whole.

Weberian Concept of Traditional Authority

This concept is derived from the provision made from the system of customary rights and duties of traditional rules.

As posited by Max Weber, traditional authority derives its legitimacy from "an established belief by the society in the sanctity of immemorial traditions and the legitimacy of the status of those

exercising authority over them”. In this category are the different traditional chieftaincy institutions. Here, the social order is viewed as ~~seared~~sacred. The ruling authority (monarch) is usually defined by heredity and is thought to have been ordained by supernatural powers to rule. The subjects are bound to their rulers by traditional feelings or loyalty, customs, and sheer habits while the ruler reinforces his position by ~~reliance~~relying on such concepts as “the ~~define~~defined rights” of things.

Max Weber’s authority constructs no doubt represent one of the most valuable conceptual frameworks for studying modern bureaucratic organizations. ~~But~~However certain factors do limit its universal applicability. There are only a few countries in the contemporary world where traditional rulers still maintain their traditional roles or governance. These include the Arab countries of Abu Dhabi, Morocco, Jordan, Kuwait, Qatar, and the United Arab Emirates.

Conflict Theory

This theory was originally propounded by Karl ~~Max~~Marx as a critique of ~~the~~ structure functionalism.

Marx holds that “as groups become ~~enlarge~~enlarged and ascendant over each other, society changes, and this change persists as these rivalries conflict endures”. In Marx’s thought, a “society is found to exist in antagonistic groups engaged ~~in~~in perpetual conflict or opposition as a result of their desire to dominant organ control of scarce resources or position and or influence behavior or acquire and exercise power”.

MxGee (1980) defined conflict as “an action intended to destroy, inure, thwart or control another party”. That is, a conflict relationship is one in which the parties can gain only at the other’s expense.

Horton and Chester (1976) ~~sees~~see conflict as a process of seeking to obtain rewards by eliminating or weakening competitors. The predominant stand of the conflict model is to showcase the incompatibility of individual interests, stemming from unequal distribution ~~of~~of wealth, power, or security in the society. Thus, the relevance of this theory to the study of the roles of traditional rulers is that; some people make a case for the abolition of traditional ~~relationship~~relationships because they do not see its relevance in contemporary democratic Nigeria. To them, traditional rulers are willing collaborators in perpetuating policies and ~~programmes~~programs

~~which~~ ~~that~~ are not in line with the ~~interest~~ interests of the people. They are perceived as frontiers of exploitation and oppression of the people during the colonial era, the first republic, and the dictatorship of Late Gen. ~~Sani Abacha~~ Sani Abacha in which they were used to legitimize crimes committed against citizens by the government. They went further to give reasons and allegations why traditional rulers are not relevant to contemporary governance in Nigeria - that the traditional rulers compete for attention, supremacy, loyalty, and patriotism with the Nigerian State, instead of them to perform their functions, norms, and values; they also alleged that traditional rulers aid all manner of crimes, they are factionalized in their struggle for power and in those states where they are elected, the principles of democracy are breached and compromised. These prove that during the colonial era, there was a riot by Aba women in ~~a~~ the process of tax collection by traditional rulers. This shows that there is a conflict of interest between the traditional rulers and subjects. The traditional rulers ~~where~~ were however used as weapons indirectly by the colonial administration to achieve their ~~interest~~ interests.

~~Durkheim~~ Durkheim and Parsons maintain a postulation of the functional unity of the society – a perspective ~~which~~ that sees all parts of the society including traditional rulers as working together for the maintenance and integration of the society as a whole. Thus, the traditional institution is seen as performing positive ~~function~~ functions including consolidation of democracy. This is for reasons that: traditional rulers have a positive contribution to make in mobilizing the grassroots for political participation ~~by virtue of~~ by their closeness to the people, they enjoy legitimacy and so ~~are able to~~ can stimulate people to pay taxes and participate in community development ~~effort~~ efforts; they also serve as the channels of communication between the government and the people.

4. Empirical Framework

Aidelokhan (2022) in his research on traditional rulers in modern governance in Nigeria: an analytical discourse, the conclusion reached shows that the systemic decline of the power and authorities of the traditional institution in public administration started during the colonial era and has lingered more, even in ~~post-colonial~~post-colonial Nigeria, both under the military and civilian governments. The study proved that ~~in spite of~~despite the attempts to wipe out the traditional ~~rulers~~ruler's institution-institutions by successive government administrations, their impact is still very visible in the local administration of their various domains.

Traditional rulers' significant roles cannot be ruled out. This is because they have played noticeable roles in ~~nation building~~nation-building and assisted in propelling national development in Nigeria.

This study recommended that ~~the~~ traditional rulers should be integrated into modern government and that constitutional roles be assigned to them at the local administrative level in Nigeria.

In a research carried out by Abdusalam et al (2020) on the roles of traditional rulers in conflict resolution for sustainable democracy in Nigeria, the descriptive survey method was adopted and 180 members of traditional rulers were sampled through a simple random sampling technique. The findings from the study showed that traditional rulers have so many roles they play in conflict resolution in diverse ways. The study also revealed that neither age factor nor marital status was a barrier to the traditional rulers posing any significant difference in their roles in conflict resolution in their respective enclaves. It was however recommended that traditional rulers should familiarize themselves with issues that are common among individuals, and social groups as well as ~~providing~~provide any possible solutions to any conflict among them in the state ~~in order to~~to enhance and facilitate democracy in the society.

The above finding ~~clearly~~clearly points ~~at to~~to the significant importance and roles of traditional rulers in our society. If given the necessary support, it would help them achieve good governance, development, and collective participation of people at the grassroots level in government policies and ~~programmes~~programs.

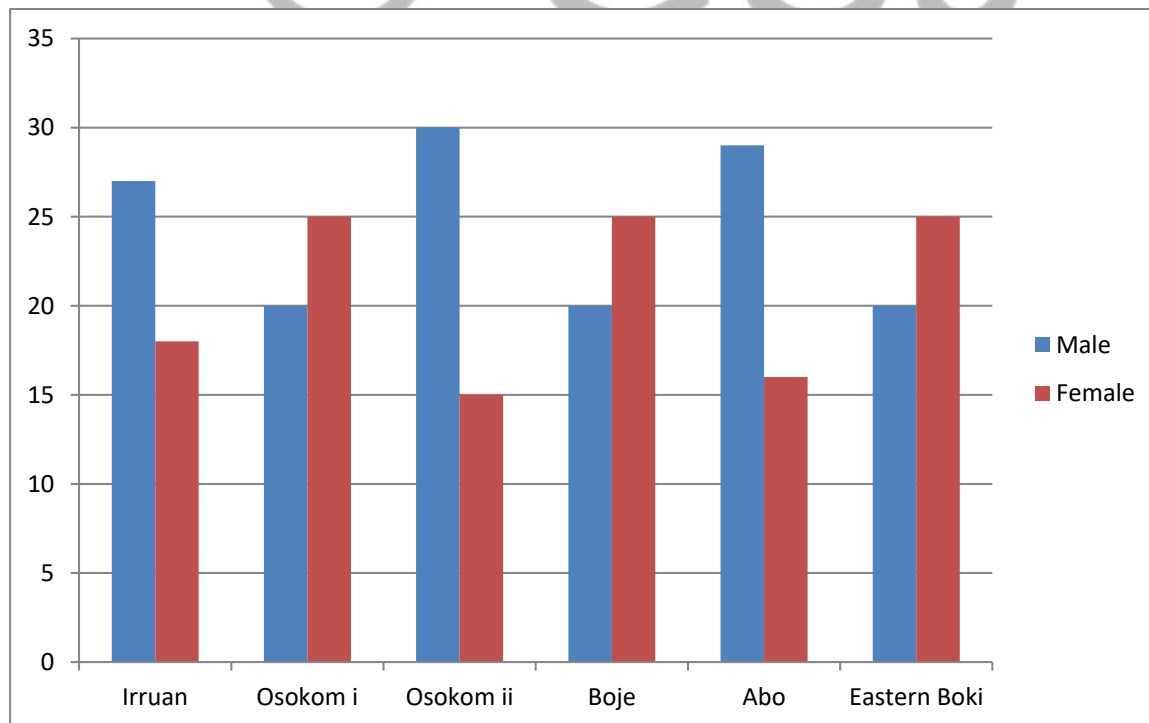
Also, in another study by Mustapha A. & Hadiza B.(2019), on traditional institutions and their roles: towards achieving stable democracy in Nigeria, the qualitative method of data analysis was employed, where data were gathered from secondary sources. It was realized that traditional institutions ~~play~~played a significant role in olden days. It was further discovered that with the encroachment of British colonial masters and democracy, their power became less recognized in the democratic movements. This happened so because the traditional were neglected and had less power in the society. It was recommended that ~~in order to~~to have a sustainable democracy,

traditional ~~institution~~ institutions need to be independent in discharging their legitimate duties. They need to be of service to their people first and not for people to serve them.

5. Research Methodology

~~In order to~~ To determine the roles of traditional rulers in contemporary governance, the descriptive survey design was adopted for this study. The design was deemed suitable for the study because it ~~gave the researcher an opportunity~~ allowed the researcher to engage in personal contact with the respondents to gather the required data. The results of the findings on this research are solely based on information provided by the respondents. The population of the study ~~was Boki~~ was Boki local government area and the study ~~areas were~~ areas were the six (6) clans of Boki local government area with a sample size of 45 respondents each from the six clans summing 270 from the entire study areas. The sample distribution can be seen in ~~fig~~ Fig. 1.1

Sample distribution across the six clans in Boki local government area



[Figure 1](#)

Source: ~~Field work~~Fieldwork 2024

5.1 Instrument for Data Collection

The researcher made use of a structured questionnaire carefully tailored to obtain appropriate data to achieve the purpose of the study. The instrument validity was determined by pretesting the questionnaires and appropriate corrections were made before final distribution.

6. Data Analysis

The data collected from the respondents will be using the simple percentage method as well as chi-square as a means of analyzing the results. However, 250 questionnaires were valid and useful for the analysis while 20 were found not useful due to errors arising from the respondents. The hypothesis, null hypothesis (Ho) was tested. The simple percentage was used to present the demographic information of the sampled population of the respondents ~~which and~~ the chi-square was used to test the hypothesis generated for the study.

6.1 Result

Research Question 1: ~~What~~ What are the roles of traditional rulers in governance at the grassroots level?

Hypothesis two confirms the answer to the above research question.

The question seeks to elicit information from the second hypothesis which states that ~~there is a significant role played by traditional ruler~~ traditional rulers play a significant role in implementing government rules at the grassroots level and the response of the respondents would be used to test the hypothesis as presented thus:

Ho: There is no significant relationship between traditional rulers in implementing government rules at the grassroots level.

Response

Hypothesis	Response of respondents		Total
	Yes	No	
	85	56	141
	63	46	109
	148	102	250

~~Degree~~ Degree of freedom (f) = (2 - 1)(2 - 1) = 1x1 = 1 Table 1

$$e1 = 83$$

$$e2 = 64.5$$

$$e3 = 87.5$$

$$e4 = 44.5$$

Calculating chi-square (χ^2), using $\frac{(O-e)^2}{e}$

$$\begin{aligned} \therefore & \frac{(85-83)^2}{83} + \frac{(56-65)^2}{65} + \frac{(65-58)^2}{58} + \frac{(46-45)^2}{45} \\ & = 0.5 + 1.25 + 0.43 + 0.22 \\ & = 1.98 \end{aligned}$$

Decision rule

Table value (χ^2) = 3.841

From the table analysis above, the obtained value of 1.95 is less than the table value (χ^2) of 3.841.

Therefore, the null hypothesis (H_0) is rejected while the alternate hypothesis (H_1) which states that there is a significant role played by traditional ruler traditional rulers play a significant role in implementing governmental rules at the grassroots is accepted.

Research Question 2: What What is the significant relationship between the traditional rulers and the nation's polity?

Hypothesis one has the answer to the research question above.

H_0 : There is no significant relationship between traditional rulers and the nation's polity.

Response

Yes	No	Total
94	62	156
60	34	94
154	96	250

Degree of freedom (D/F) = (2-1)(2-1) = (x-1) Table 2

$$e1 = 96.1$$

$$e2 = 57.9$$

$$e3 = 59.9$$

$$e4 = 36.1$$

Calculating chi-square (χ^2), using $(O-e)^2$

$$\begin{aligned} \therefore & \frac{(94-96)^2}{96} + \frac{(62-58)^2}{58} + \frac{(60-60)^2}{60} + \frac{(34-36)^2}{36} \\ & = -0.04 + 0.28 + 0 + 0.11 \\ & = -0.42 \end{aligned}$$

Decision rule

Total value (χ^2) = 3.841

Since the calculated value (χ^2) of 0.42 is significantly less than the table χ^2 of 3.841, the null (H_0) hypothesis is rejected while the alternate hypothesis (H_1) which states that there is a significant relationship between traditional rulers and the nation's policy is accepted.

Research Question 3: How can traditional rulers contribute to an effective, stable, and corruption-free society as inspired by the Nigeria-Nigerian governance?

This question is contended by hypothesis three (3) which states that there is a significant role played by traditional rulers to promote in promoting an effective, stable, and corruption-free society by implementing recruitment into their high offices. Therefore, the response to the question serves as data to represent the test of hypothesis three which is presented thus:

~~Ho: There is no significant role played by traditional rulers~~ Traditional rulers play no significant role in implementing recruitment into their high offices.

Response

Hypothesis	Response of respondents		Total
	Yes	No	
	82	58	140
	54	56	110
	136	114	250

Table 3 Degree of freedom (D/F) = (2-1)(2-1) = (2-1)

$$e1 = 76.2$$

$$e2 = 59.8$$

$$e3 = 63.8$$

$$e4 = 50.2$$

$$\therefore \frac{(82-76)^2}{76} + \frac{(58-60)^2}{60} + \frac{(54-64)^2}{64} + \frac{(56-50)^2}{80}$$

$$\begin{aligned} &= -0.47 + 0.07 + 1.56 + 0.72 \\ &= -2.82 \end{aligned}$$

Decision rule

Total value(χ^2)=3.841

Since the calculated (χ^2) table of 2.82 is less than the χ^2 observed from the χ^2 table of 3.841, the null hypothesis (Ho) is rejected and the alternate hypothesis (Hi) is upheld.

7. Discussion of Findings

From the results of the findings, hypothesis one (1) has confirmed that the role of traditional rulers has a significant relationship between the traditional rulers and the nation's polity through the tested hypothesis. This is because traditional rulers are regarded as royal fathers and custodians of our culture and know how to convince their subjects to participate in the nation's polity.

It was gathered during the investigation by the researcher that various political efforts are carried out by traditional rulers in the nation and their communities. They also acquaint their people with ~~government programmes~~ government programs and inform them about the importance of such ~~programmes~~ programs. On this issue, Egbe (1988) attributed the roles of traditional rulers to political recruitment and socialization. They also ensure that social institutions such as primary medical ~~centres~~ centers, roads, etc. with their areas of authority are adequately supported by their people.

Subsequently, it was revealed to the researcher in hypothesis two (2) which states that ~~there is a significant role played by traditional ruler~~ traditional rulers play a significant role in implementing governmental rules at the grassroots level through the acceptance of the alternate hypothesis that traditional rulers are seen as leaders of the rural people, it was discovered that they serve as a link between the government and the people at the grassroots level.

In the light of this, Ogboje (1980) stated that traditional rulers have some roles and functions to play in government which include justice, and maintenance of law and order and they also command a lot of power and authority over their subjects. Thus traditional rulers implement governmental rules at grassroots levels.

Furthermore, hypothesis three (3) assumes that there is a significant role played by traditional rulers in implementing recruitment into their high offices. The hypothesis was posited in the null form (Ho) and tested and the (Ho) hypothesis was rejected. Therefore, it proves to the researcher that traditional rulers disseminate information from the government with information relating to the problems and ~~aspiration~~ aspirations of their people.

It was ~~as well also~~ realized that traditional rulers help the government's law enforcement agencies in maintaining peace, order, and good governance in their rural areas.

In ~~the~~ light of the above, Bamigboye (1998) described traditional ruler's institution as a veritable tool for reaching the people and getting them ~~to~~ accept, promote, and appreciate ~~the~~ government's policies and ~~programmes~~ programs.

8. Conclusion

Traditional institutions in Nigeria may not have retained their historical significance, yet they have acquired new relevance in contemporary Nigeria ~~in view of given~~ their role in handling communal clashes, ~~and~~ youth unrest and mobilizing their communities towards development. This proves that co-opting them into local government administration since they enjoy ~~a~~ good level of respect ~~prove~~ ~~proves~~ much ~~more~~ beneficial than abolishing their existence. Judging from the findings made, the continued liaison of the president with traditional rulers with state councils of chiefs is driven not only by ~~an~~ ideological commitment to a set of principles, but predominantly by the fact that it is ~~absolutely~~ impossible to isolate traditional ruler's institution from ~~the~~ contemporary political circle in the country. If the colonial administration saw the existing native administrative system ~~as~~ useful and utilized it to their success, it ~~will~~ ~~would~~ be a total misappropriation to isolate such ~~important institution~~ ~~important~~ institutions and their roles in determining the fate of the rural populace ~~in with~~ which they are more often in contact ~~with~~. Based on the findings, the following recommendations were made:

1. Traditional ~~rulers~~ ~~ruler's~~ consultative and ~~programme~~ ~~program~~ management committee should be ~~set up~~ ~~set up~~ ~~in order to~~ achieve the goals of good governance, grassroots participation, and community/rural development.
2. They should have constitutionally approved remuneration ~~in view of given~~ the enormous burden they carry in maintaining law and order in their respective communities and mobilizing their subjects for self-help efforts in the absence of local, state, or federal government's presence.
3. Constitutional ~~provision~~ ~~provisions~~ for specific roles for traditional rulers relating to the traditional institution should be incorporated in the constitution with clear functions and limits of authority of the traditional ~~rulers~~ ~~rulers~~ ~~clearly~~ ~~spelt~~ ~~spelled~~.
4. Traditional rulers should be made to have more ~~powers~~ ~~power~~ in their communities ~~in order to~~ ~~to~~ shape their political and ~~socio~~ ~~economies~~ ~~socio-economic~~ landscape to suit the wishes of the people at the grassroots level.

5. Financial benefits to traditional rulers should be determined by the appropriate wages and salary body so that ~~over-ambitious~~ over-ambitious ~~council's~~ council chairmen who seek re-election will not mortgage their councils to satisfy the demands of traditional rulers and will also drag them into politics.

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