



Democratic Governance and Poverty Alleviation: Empirical Study of Ekiti State, Nigeria

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Abstract

The research work is on democratic governance and poverty alleviation: Empirical study of Ekiti State, Nigeria. Descriptive statistics was adopted to capture the objectives of the study. The results found out that majority are males and are within the age bracket of between 31-50 years, which is an indication that majority are still in their active and productive age. More so, majority fall within the low income bracket. The results of the study implied that most people believed that the present government is in the right direction, which have attendant implication on the poverty alleviation of the citizens of Ekiti State. Most respondents are of the opinion that the government performances in the area of economy, health, education and environmental sectors have been fair. Also, results revealed that majority of the respondents agreed to definitely use their votes as way of booting out any failed government in the State.

Key words: Democracy, Governance, poverty alleviation, Descriptive statistics, Ekiti State.

1.0 Introduction

1.1 Background to the study

In recent years, emphasis has been placed on the issue of poverty by the development economists. Most scholars believe that there is a strong correlation between governance and politics. Thus, there is an interface between governance and poverty reduction through political institutions which would create a new social order, public accountability and the mobilization of resources against the most daunting challenge of development in the country.

The main issue on poverty in development economics essentially centers on the interface between economic growth and poverty. Some argued that unless an economy is able to generate steady economic growth, poverty reduction or alleviation cannot be possible. Contrarily, others contended that economic growth is necessary but insufficient to engender poverty reduction. Thus, governance has become a key issue of poverty alleviation. Poverty, inequality and governance are now seen to be inseparably related, because without good governance, bad policy choices will be made, the people would have neither choice nor power, and the economy may likely deteriorate. More so, when poverty and inequality persist in a society, they weaken the political process and promote deficient governance.

Poverty is seen as a phenomenon in both developed and developing countries alike, but its presence and rapid growth in developing countries, like Nigeria, are major concerns. The World Social Summit held in Copenhagen in March 1995 pledged to eradicate poverty, create full employment and foster social integration. The summit was the largest gathering ever of world leaders at that time. Thus, each participating country was expected to come up with national anti-poverty plans, identify and allocate resources for poverty reduction, involve poor people in the formulation and implementation of the projects, specify the targets to be reached and evaluate performance periodically so as to assess the efficacy of the plans. Since the time of summit, the fight against poverty has received mixed results in Africa, and relatively little progress has been made. Since the end of the 1980s, the issue of good governance started dominating the international discussion about development and international assistance to developing countries (Wohlmuth, 1999).

Governance provides the institutional, legal and political framework not only for the design of poverty reduction policies but also for enhancement of the capacity of the poor to deal positively with and improve their material conditions. Governance ensures the participation of the poor in decisions that affect them and empowers them to get their views on the policy agenda.

As observed above, governance has emerged as a popular vocabulary of development literature; nevertheless, a consensus on definitions is elusive. However, in general terms, governance denotes 'how people are ruled, how the affairs of the state are administered and regulated as well as a nation's system of politics and how these function in relation to public administration and law. (Mills and Seregeldin, 1991).

As Barten *et al* (2002) noted, over the last years, the concept of governance has become central to the new development paradigm. Governance could be considered the result of the participatory approach to development, which was promoted during the last decade and, at a certain point, stressed the need to involve the state to ensure its success and sustainability.

Narrowly defined, good governance can simply mean effective government performance of its functions in the area of enforcement of law and order, revenue collection, allocation of resources, provision of infrastructure and promotion of human rights. Governance is examined as 'the manner in which power is exercised in the management of a country's economic and social resources for development' (World Bank, 1992).

Governance is assessed by researchers from a three dimensional perspective by: (i) process by which governments are selected, held accountable, monitored, replaced (ii) capacity of governments to manage resources efficiently and

formulate, implement and enforce sound policies and regulations; and (iii) extent of participation of the citizens in affairs of the state. (Kaufmann, Kray and Zoido-Lobaton, 2000).

1.2 Problem statement

"Good governance" appears to be the missing link in the road to development and poverty eradication. The statement that governance and political institutions matter for development could hardly be challenged today. Good governance spurs economic growth that consequently reduces poverty", as governance is usually characterized through democracy. Thus, there is an intrinsic value of democratic governance for human development, because of the intrinsic social value and political participation which enhances human wellbeing. Despite this general belief about democratic governance, it has been observed that, it does not have an automatic effect on poverty reduction on the citizenry. For instance in Nigeria, since 1999 that the mode of governance has been through democratically elected government, improvement in the standards of living of the populace has not been as remarkable as anticipated. The research questions are that, why has eradicating hunger and poverty proved difficult despite its being a declared goal of the international development community for more than half a century? Why has the number of hungry people increased in recent years? Why is poverty in particular persistent in Nigeria? Therefore, to what extent has the government of Ekiti State reduced poverty level of the Ekiti people?

1.3 Justification

With good governance, poverty reduction plan would not only involve policy papers, setting out what government intends to do about poverty, they include how the system of governance is to be structured so as to enhance participation, accountability, citizenship economic and political rights (political inclusion). It has therefore been argued that, it is only when people feel they have a stake and a voice in the process of development that they would throw themselves wholeheartedly into the development with a view of enhancing their standards of living. Good governance is therefore an essential precondition for development.

Nowadays, governance is an increasingly important component of debates about the state, society, and social-economic development that is especially topical in the context of poverty alleviation. Much of this controversy has come about as a result of an acknowledgement of the changing nature and role of the state in a globalized and interconnected world (Rosenau 2000).

Moreso, in analyzing the challenges of eradicating hunger and poverty, governance has attracted particular attention in the past decade. As Kofi Annan, then Secretary –General of the United Nations (UN), told world leaders in 1998: "Governance is perhaps the single most important factor in eradicating poverty and promoting development."

1.4 Objectives of the study

The objective of the study is to analyse the impact of the democratic governance on the poverty alleviation: using Ekiti state as our case study. Specifically, the study seeks to determine the socio-economic characteristics of the respondents in the study area; describe the impact of governance on economic profiles of the respondents and recommend, based on research findings ways of improving the governance through democracy in Ekiti state and Nigeria in general.

2.0 Literature Review

2.1 Forms of government

According to Nnaemeka (1994), forms of government can be classified into two categories: democratic and authoritarian. As summarized by Gulhati (1990), democracies fall into the following classifications – majority party or coalition governments, parliamentary or presidential systems, and proportional representation or single constituency electoral systems. In a more compact classification, Haggard and Kaufman (1989) indicated that democracies may be usefully distinguished according to whether they are "plebiscitary" or "consultative". In plebiscitary democracy, the political party is needed more for securing the vote than for the representation of interests. Consultative democracy, by contrast, provides institutionalised means for interest groups to influence, if not participate in, the policy process. Authoritarian regimes are also classified into "strong and weak" ones (Haggard and Kaufman, 1989). The two basic regimes types differ fundamentally in the way they exercise power and authority.

In liberal democracy, the exercise of power and authority tends, more or less, to be moderated by the rule of law, separation of powers, free elections, institutional pluralism, and respect for fundamental human rights. Authoritarian regimes, by contrast, exercise power and authority arbitrarily. In consequence, they are apt to be politically repressive, and they typically exhibit a relentless drive to perpetuate themselves in power.

The interest in exploration of the link between economic situation in the country and the role of the state has grown significantly with the development of governance, and particularly, the so-called 'good governance' has moved to the forefront in the debate over development policies (Brinkerhoff and Goldsmith, 2005). According to Brinkerhoff and Goldsmith, (2005), better run public institutions and other constituents of good governance are the most important instruments for fostering economic growth and reducing poverty. In general, governance has become a political catchword during the 1990s (Pierre and Peters, 2000).

Kjaer (2004) distinguishes between governance in public administration and public policy, governance in international relations, European Union governance in comparative politics, and good governance as promoted by the World Bank. However, the concept of governance is even much more complicated. As Olowu (2002) noted, the discourse on government has continued even though the definition of the concept remains controversial.

However, Kooiman (2000) developed the term societal (or social-political governance), which he argued is the arrangement in which both public and private actors aim at solving societal problems or create societal opportunities, and aim at the care for the societal institutions within which these governing activities take place.

The role of state on good governance context is re-directed from rowing to steering (Brinkerhoff 2003). The state is in charge of financial control, wise long-term planning, providing an equal welfare and offering a judicial system which upholds the law without bias (Azmat and Coghill 2005).

2.2 Governance and Economic Policy

The exercise of power and authority in both the political and economic spheres is the essentials of governance (Brautigam 1991). Given the two basic regime types, it follows that the exercise of power and authority can either be democratic or authoritarian. Although, the term “governance” has no generally agreed definition, there is little disagreement as to which of its elements affect economic performance. The relevant elements are skill and capacity, accountability, transparency and the rule of law. These elements, according to Brautigam, “affect economic performance through their impacts on fiscal integrity, on predictability, and on the creation of an environment conducive to productive investment”. But the definition of the term itself remains problematic. Both neutral and non-neutral definitions of governance are encountered in the literature.

Boeninger’s definition (1991) is a classic example of the non –neutral type. Boeninger defines governance as the “good government of society”. Good government according to him, “guides the country along a course leading to a desired goal. Thus, development itself, interpreted by, him includes the concepts of equity, social justice, and the effective exercise of basic human rights. Boeninger’s definition is considered non – neutral on two grounds; first, it excludes the possibility of bad government; and, second, it equated governance with democracy. A good example of a neutral definition is that proposed by World Bank. The World Bank (1989) defines governance as “the exercise of political power to manage a nation’s affairs” this interpretation has been favourably appraised by Landell-Mills and Serageldin (1991) on the following grounds:

It encompasses the state’s institutional and structural arrangements, decision - making processes, and implementation capacity, and the relationship between government officials and the public. It implies that public authorities play an indispensable and potentially creative role in establishing the economic environment and in determining the distribution of assets and benefits. Conversely, it also implies the possibility that the government may be “captured” by self-seeking elite with the intention of plundering the nation’s wealth. Most time, societies have always establish governments that promote the public interest, only to find that public resources have been diverted to private benefit and that power is being retained by violent and arbitrary means.

The World Bank’s definition is considered ‘neutral’ because it recognizes the possibility of bad government with democracy. Although, the elements of good governance, such as transparency, institutional pluralism, accountability, and the rule of law, are vital for the democratization of the society. Joan Nelson (1991) has succinctly summarized as follows:

There is a link between elements of good governance and economic growth. There is a strong correlation between high levels of economic wealth and democratic forms of government in the long run. But there is no clear link between democratic government and economic growth in developing nations. Efforts to test that relationship empirically have been inconclusive or contradictory - or both. Democracy is also obviously no guarantee of good government. There are all too many democratic governments (as well as many authoritarian ones) that are neither honest nor efficient nor growth-promoting. No consistent relationship exist between broad categories of political systems an equitable distribution of income. Obviously, a democratic regime cannot formulate good economic policy or deliver good economic performance unless it has the political will and the technical capacity to do so. It should also be clear that a benevolent dictatorship which happens to be technically competent can deliver good economic performance. The significance of good governance lies in its capacity to enhance the potential, in both democratic and authoritarian regimes, for good economic policy and good economic performance.

2.3 Relations between governance and poverty and food security

The dimensions of governance affect hunger and poverty in numerous ways:

Political stability and the absence of violence: A stable environment is a fundamental precondition for food security and development.

The rule of law: Poor and disadvantaged groups, especially the rural poor and women, often lack access to justice. The transaction costs of accessing the formal juridical systems are typically high, and the systems are often captured by elites who have few incentives to serve disadvantaged groups. Poor people thus have few prospects to defend their land or labour rights or to take action against violence, which contribute to inequalities.

Voice and accountability: The extent to which a country’s citizens can participate in selecting their government is a measure of the people’s voice and the public sector’s accountability, as is freedom of expression, association, and the media. The relations between this dimension of governance and development outcomes are complex. Famines are less likely to occur in functioning democracies with a free press. Even in democratic systems, however, poor people often struggle to make their voices heard as they need to form organizations and compete in political processes, which is particularly challenging for the rural poor.

Regulatory quality: Policy instruments and government regulations that create macroeconomics stability and force economic growth are obviously important for poverty reduction. However, regulatory and policy instruments cannot benefit the poorest and most disadvantaged groups unless equity – including gender equity-is considered in choosing those instruments.

Governance effectiveness and control of corruption: These dimensions of good governance are important for the implementation of every policy instrument that the state can use to alleviate poverty and ensure food security. The impact of increased public spending and donor funding is limited when the level of government effectiveness is low and corruption is widespread.

Environmental governance: Because most poor people depend on agriculture for their livelihoods, the governance of natural resources, such as water, soil, range-lands and forests, requires special attention to ensure that hunger and poverty reduction strategies are sustainable in the long run.

2.4 Good governance and capacity building in governance for poverty reduction strategies

Good governance can enhance capacity building in government for implementing poverty reduction strategies. This can be accomplished through institutionalizing the following:

- * Basic Political Order: where internal conflicts and war have undermined public authority in almost all spheres of life.
- * Political Legitimacy: through periodic free and fair elections during which results are acceptable to both winners and losers.
- * The Rule of Law: as an aspect of government without privileged regards to any individuals on the basis of tribe, religion, region of origin, race, gender, income or any other ground for discrimination.
- * Popular Participation: in policy making and decisions on resources allocation from the grassroots to the national level.
- * Effectiveness of formulation and Review of public policies:

3.0 Area of study: Ekiti State

Ekiti State is a state in western Nigeria, declared a state on October 1, 1996 alongside five others by the military under the dictatorship of General Sani Abacha. The state, carved out of the territory of the old Ondo State, covers the former twelve local government areas that made up the Ekiti Zone of the old Ondo State. On creation, it took off with sixteen (16) Local Government Areas (LGAs), having had an additional four carved out of the old ones. Ekiti State is one of the thirty-six states (Federal Capital Territory (Nigeria) that constitute Nigeria. Ekiti State is reputed to have produced the highest number of professors in Nigeria. Several pioneer academics are from the state.

Population as at 2005 estimate was 2,737,186. The State enjoys tropical climate with two distinct seasons. These are the rainy season (April–October) and the dry season (November–March). Temperature ranges between 21° and 28°C with high humidity. The south westerly wind and the northeast trade winds blow in the rainy and dry (Harmattan) seasons respectively. Tropical forest exists in the south, while savannah occupies the northern peripheries.

The Land is also blessed with water resources, some of its major rivers are Ero, Osun, Ose, and Ogbese. More so a variety of tourist attractions abound in the state namely, Ikogosi Warm Spring, Ipole - Iloro Water Falls, Olosunta hills, Ikere, Fajuyi Memorial Park Ado - Ekiti and so on. Moreover, the land is buoyant in agricultural resources with cocoa as its leading cash crop. It has abundant resources of different species of timber. Food crops like yam, cassava, and also grains like rice and maize are grown in large quantities. Other notable crops like kola nut and varieties of fruits are also cultivated in commercial quantities.

3.1 Sample procedure

A cross sectional data (an electronic opinion poll) was used to gather opinion of respondents through structured questionnaire in November, 2013 on the socio-economic characteristics and the methods of democratic governance of Ekiti State with respect to different sectors of the economy, such as poverty alleviation and job creation as well as issues bordering on welfare generally. It should be noted that an opinion poll was conducted electronically among the indigenes of Ekiti State and a total sum of two hundred and sixty four respondents filled the questions.

3.2 Method of data analysis

Descriptive statistics was used to describe the socio-economic characteristics and the issues of welfare of the citizens based on the method of governance in Ekiti State. Of the two hundred and sixty four responses, one hundred and forty four of them were not processed with the results as they were deemed incomplete. However, the survey had a margin of error of plus or minus 6 percent.

4.0 Results and Discussion

Table 1: Distribution of Respondents by Age, Gender and Income.

Information	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Age Bracket		
• 18-30	24	20.0
• 31-50	62	51.7
• 51-70	34	28.3
Gender		
Information		
• Female	15	12.5
• Male	105	87.5
Income Bracket (annual)		
Information		
• (< ₦100,000)	28	23.3
• (₦100,001–₦200,000)	22	18.3
• (₦200,001–300,000)	6	5.0
• (₦300,001–₦400,000)	8	6.7
• (₦400,001 and above)	56	46.7

Table 1 above shows that majority of the respondents were earning N400,001 and above per annum. This shows that majority of the respondents are still in their active productive age and averagely fall within the middle income earning

group by Nigerian standard. Majority are males and age bracket of between 31-50 years is an indication that majority are still in their active and productive age.

Table 2: Distribution of respondents by occupation

Information	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Occupation		
• Business and Financial Operation	21	17.50
• Management	18	15.0
• Education, Training and Library	16	13.33
• Architecture and Engineering	12	10.00
• Computer and Mathematical	10	8.33
• 18 Others	43	35.9

Table 2 above revealed the distribution of the respondents by occupation. The results indicates that high proportion of respondents engaged in Business and financial operators with 17.5 percent, management with 15 percent, while the least people were involved in construction and extraction, food vendors, para-military/security services, sales and related services and transportation and material moving businesses .

Table 3: Distribution of Respondents by Political Affiliations, Best Characteristics of Ekiti State, and Personal situation comparison to two years ago.

Political Affiliation

Information	Frequency	Percentage (%)
• APC	33	27.5
• PDP	19	15.8
• LABOUR	5	4.2
• UNDECIDED	57	48.5
• OTHERS	6	5.0

Best Characteristics of the Governance of Ekiti State

Information	Frequency	Percentage (%)
• Going in the Right Direction	62	51.7
• Going in the Wrong Direction	44	36.7
• Unsure	14	11.7

Personal assessment compared to 2 years ago

Information	Frequency	Percentage (%)
• Much better	45	37.5
• Somewhat better	21	17.5
• About the same	27	22.5
• Somewhat worse	16	13.3
• Much worse	11	9.2

Table 3 shows the respondents in terms of their political affiliation, the characteristics of the state and the personal situation changes that have occurred over the past two years. 27.50 percent of the respondents are sympathetic to the All Progressive Congress, 15.83 percent sympathetic to the people's Democratic Party, Labour Party enjoys the sympathy of 4.17 percent of the respondents, 5% of them are in other parties and the remaining 48.50 % are indifferent in terms of political affiliation.

Moreover, 51.67 percent of the respondents thought well that Ekiti state was going in the right direction to eliminate poverty, 36.67 % believed the state was going in the wrong direction and other respondents with 11.67% could not say with certainty which direction the state was going.

When comparing their personal assessment over the last two years of the present administration, majority of the respondents agreed that they were much better in terms of welfare with 37.6%, and 9.2% agreed that they were somewhat worse and much worse respectively over the last 2years ago. These results implied that most people believed that the present government was in the right directions which have attendant implication on the poverty alleviation of the citizens of Ekiti State.

Table 4: Distribution of Respondents by Government's Performance on the following issues: State Deficit/Debt, Healthcare, Unemployment/Jobs, Education, Social and Environment issues.

Government's Performance

Information	Frequency	Percentage (%)
(State Deficit/Debt servicing)		
• Excellent	9	7.5
• Good	18	15.0
• Fair	26	21.7
• Poor	17	14.2
• Very poor	44	36.7
• Undecided	6	5.0

The government should increase its borrowing for development project

Information	Frequency	Percentage (%)
• Strongly Agree	15	12.5
• Agree	19	15.8
• Neutral	11	9.2
• Disagree	34	28.3
• Strongly Disagree	41	34.2

Government Performance (Healthcare)

Information	Frequency	Percentage (%)
• Excellent	17	14.2
• Good	23	19.2
• Fair	40	33.3
• Poor	22	18.3
• Very poor	16	13.3
• Undecided	2	1.7

Government Performance (employment/jobs)

Information	Frequency	Percentage (%)
• Excellent	5	4.2
• Good	15	12.5
• Fair	37	30.8
• Poor	28	23.3
• Very poor	34	28.3
• Undecided	1	0.8

Government Performance (Education)

Information	Frequency	Percentage (%)
• Excellent	23	19.2
• Good	27	22.5
• Fair	28	23.3
• Poor	22	18.3
• Very poor	19	15.8
• Undecided	1	0.8

The government should introduce an education tax

Information	Frequency	Percentage (%)
• Strongly Agree	19	19.0
• Agree	25	21.6
• Neutral	23	23.0
• Disagree	20	17.2
• Strongly Disagree	29	25.0

Government Performance (Social Issue)

Information	Frequency	Percentage (%)
• Excellent	25	20.8
• Good	24	20.0
• Fair	27	22.5
• Poor	24	20.0
• Very poor	18	15.0
• Undecided	2	1.2

Government Performance (Environment)

Information	Frequency	Percentage (%)
• Excellent	17	14.2
• Good	25	20.8
• Fair	33	27.5
• Poor	19	15.8
• Very poor	22	18.3
• Undecided	4	3.3

Government Performance (Tourism)

Information	Frequency	Percentage (%)
• Excellent	32	26.7
• Good	30	25.0
• Fair	31	25.8
• Poor	14	11.7
• Very poor	11	9.2
• Undecided	2	1.7

Table 4 describes the state government's performance with respect to State Deficit/Debt, Healthcare, Unemployment/Jobs, Education, Social Issues and Environment.

Majority (over 50%) of the respondents are of the view that government performance in debt servicing was poor or very poor. This is an indication of the fact that the citizens are quite concerned about the perceived rising debt profile of the state and her ability to service the debts in the future.

On healthcare sector, about two thirds of the respondents believed the government performance has been fair, good or excellent. Obviously, the health care programme of the government is very well perceived by the respondent.

On the unemployment or the job creation, majority of the respondents (over 50%) are not satisfied with the government's performance in terms of job creation. It is important to note that too many of the respondents are of the view that it is part of the responsibilities of the government to provide employment to the citizen. This is an indication that the government has a lot of works to do in developing entrepreneurial spirits of the citizen rather than waiting for government employment.

Under the education sector, 28 percent of the respondents viewed government's performance has being excellent but majority with 23.3 percent believed that the effort of the government had while the least being undecided with 0.83 percent.

On social issues, highest proportion of the respondents opinion on government performance on social issues was fair, 15 percent were of the view that the government performance was poor while about 2 percent were indifference about the efforts of government.

Under environmental protection, 14.2 percent of the respondents viewed the efforts of the government has being excellent, 20.8 percent believed that the performance of the government has been good while 27.5 percent, 15.8 percent and 18.3 percent opined that government efforts on environmental issues have been fair, poor and very poor respectively and the least being 3.3 percent are indifference about the performances of the government on environmental issue.

On tourism, majority of the respondents with 25.8 percent believed that efforts of government on tourism have been fair enough while the least with 1.7 percent are indifference about the efforts of the government on tourism. This implies that citizens are very impressed about the governance with respect to tourism.

The average percentage of the citizenry is of the opinion that the government performances in the area of economy, health, education, environmental and tourism sectors have been fair. This implies that governance in the state still needs to double efforts in the area of giving democratic dividends to people.

Table 5: Distribution Of Respondents by the Level of their agreement with:(i) Local government is necessary (Third tier of government) (ii) the Government should increase its borrowing for development project (iii) the House of Assembly membership to be on part-time basis (iv) Likelihood of Voting in next Election in Ekiti State. If Local governments is necessary (Third tier of government)?

Information	Frequency	Percentage (%)
• Strongly Agree	72	60.0
• Agree	30	25.0
• Neutral	7	5.1
• Disagree	8	6.7
• Strongly Disagree	3	2.5
The government should increase its borrowing for development project		
Information	Frequency	Percentage (%)
• Strongly Agree	15	12.5
• Agree	19	15.8
• Neutral	11	9.2
• Disagree	34	28.3
• Strongly Disagree	41	34.2
The House of Assembly membership to be on part-time basis		
Information	Frequency	Percentage (%)
• Strongly Agree	64	53.3
• Agree	23	19.2
• Neutral	14	11.7
• Disagree	12	10.0
• Strongly Disagree	7	5.8
Likelihood of voting in next Election		
Information	Frequency	Percentage (%)
• Definitely Will	71	59.2
• Probably Will	18	15.0
• Probably Will Not	16	13.3
• Definitely Will Not	9	7.5
• Undecided	6	5.0

Table 5 shows the distribution of the respondents on whether the local governments (Third tier of government) is necessary, majority of the respondents (60%) strongly agreed that the local government system is necessary, 25% percent agreed, 6.7 percent disagreed, and 2.5 percent disagreed respectively to the issue of the necessity of local government. This result might be due to the understanding of the local government being the closest to the grass root or rural people. On whether the government should increase its borrowing for development projects, 12.50 percent of the those interviewed strongly agreed that the government should increase its borrowing for development projects, 15.8 percent

agreed and 7.5 percent are neutral, 28.3 percent disagreed, when 34.2 percent strongly disagreed, and 1.7 percent is indifferent about it. The implication of this is that majority did not support government borrowing to implement project in Ekiti State.

Whether or not the state house of assembly membership should be on part-time basis; 53.3% constituting the majority strongly agreed that the membership of house of assembly should be on part time basis, while 11.2 % are indifferent respectively in their opinion. This implied that the citizen of the state advocated for membership to state house of assembly to be on part-time basis as people have always opined that it is a wasteful spending in a presidential system of government.

On the likelihood of voting in the next gubernatorial election in Ekiti State. The results revealed that majority of the respondents agreed to definitely vote while about 5 percent were undecided. This results indicate that any government who fails to perform up to the expectation of the people, it is through voting in the next election that would determine the continuation or otherwise of such government.

5.0 Conclusion and Recommendation

This research has been able to find out the feelings and or opinion of citizens of Ekiti State as regards their styles of governance with particular reference to poverty alleviation and the general welfare. This research concluded that majority are still in their active and productive age, majority are within the low income earner, present government is in the right direction which have attendant implication on the poverty alleviation of the citizens of Ekiti State. Also, majority opined that the government performances in the area of economy, health, education, environmental and tourism sectors have been fair, the membership of house of assembly should be on part time basis and respondents agreed to definitely vote as way of booting out any failed government in the state.

The research therefore recommends that government should show more sincerity in providing more infrastructural facilities, employment opportunities for the productive age people and improvement in the various sectors of the economy viz-a-vis education, health, environment, tourism and host of others with a view to ameliorating the poverty level of the citizens of Ekiti State and Nigeria in general.

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