

**INFLUENCE OF POLITICS ON THE APPOINTMENT OF VICE CHANCELLORS,
MEMBERS OF GOVERNING COUNCILS AND OTHER PRINCIPAL OFFICERS IN
THE NORTH-WEST STATES OF NIGERIA**

ELUJEKWUTE, EDWIN CHUKWUAGUZIE (PhD)
Department of Educational Foundations
Faculty of Education,
Benue State University, Makurdi, Nigeria
E-mail: elujekwuteddy@gmail.com Tel: +2348037530328

&

AJA, JANE OGOMA (PhD)
Department of Business Education
College of Education, Oju, Benue State, Nigeria
E-mail: janeaja65@gmail.com Tel; +2347036679003

&

ABACHI NYISHIMA DEMVIHIN (PhD)
Department of Educational Foundations
Faculty of Education
Benue State University, Makurdi, Nigeria
E-mail: ademvihin@gmail.com Tel: +2348078855306

Abstract

This study investigated the Influence of Politics on the Appointment of Vice-Chancellors, Members of Governing Councils and Other Principal Officers in Public Universities in the North-West States of Nigeria. Specially, the study examined the staff perception of the influence of political factors on the appointment of vice chancellors, Members of Governing Councils and other principal officers in public universities in North-West States of Nigeria such as partisan politics, ethnic and sectional considerations, religious affiliation, favoritism, the quota system and catchment areas policy. Three (3) research questions and three (3) hypotheses respectively guided the study. The review of related literature was done under the Conceptual framework which identified the influence of political factors on the appointment of vice-chancellors, members of governing councils and other principal officers in public universities. Descriptive survey design was adopted for the study. The population of the study comprised twelve thousand one hundred (12,100) Academic and Senior administrative staff from 13(thirteen) public universities in North-West States of Nigeria. A sample of one thousand two hundred and ten (1,210) of Academics and Senior Administrative Staffs from Ten (10) selected universities was used for the study. A 15-items structured questionnaire was developed by the researchers titled "Influence of Politics and Appointment of Vice Chancellors and Council Members Questionnaire (IPACMQ)" was used to collect data for the study. A reliability estimate of 0.82 was established for the instrument. Mean and Standard Deviations were used to answer the research questions while Chi-square was used to test the hypotheses at 0.05 level of significance. The findings revealed that partisan

politics, ethnic, sectional factors, religious, favoritism, the quota system and catchment area policy significantly influenced appointment of vice chancellors, members of governing councils and other principal officers in public universities in the North-West States of Nigeria. Based on the findings, it was recommended amongst others that the search committee of each university should transparently screen the Vice-Chancellors, before their appointment. Also, the congregation committee of each university should ensure that members of governing councils are thoroughly screened before their appointment. Finally, the senate search committee should be empowered to recommend other principal officers before appointment. Therefore they should not be handpicked by the President or Governors and Vic-Chancellors, so as to reduce the influence of politics on the appointment of key officers in public universities. Conclusions were made and the implications of the findings drawn.

Keywords: Politics, Appointments, Principal Officers, Governing Council Members, Universities, North-West Nigeria.

Introduction

The growing politicization of education is a factor for state control and planning education in most nations of the world. In Nigeria and many other developing countries, educational institutions (particularly public universities) are witnessing more and more government interest and control (Ukpong, 2017). Education is a process of teaching, training and learning in schools, colleges or universities to improve knowledge and develop skills in the modern society, education is no longer seen solely as a set of skills, attitudes and values but as a services or a product to be sold by academic institutions that have transformed themselves into service providers (Elujekwute,2019). The art of good governance in higher institutions particularly in public universities, therefore calls for effective balancing and manipulation of the internal and external political considerations that tend to mitigate their management. Politics and education are therefore linked together and this can be seen in the management of education. Denga (2005) cited in Akpakwu and Okwo (2014) consented to this statement when he said “no one can take education out of politics neither can anyone take politics out of education. In North-West States of Nigeria, education is regarded as an instrument for social, economic, technical and political development. This perhaps explains why educational institutions, agencies, communities and individuals in the area to a large extent influence the management of educational system.

The term politics encompasses the activities involves in getting and using power with a particular group or organization in public life and being able to influence discussion that affect a country or a society. Politics is therefore an act whereby someone uses his or her power or authority to influence the decision of others to his or her advantage. According to Okunamiri (2005) politics is a struggle over values, power and scare resources in which the aim of the conflicting interest are to gain the desired values and resources at the expense of other rivals. Politics and education are interrelated and inter woven. Education is offshoot of the political system. This explains why education is influenced by political factors when political considerations such as sectionalism, favoritism, ethnicity, religion, partisanship, catchment area, quota system policies influence the appointment of vice-chancellors, members of governing council and other principal officers in public universities, morale of students and staff is damped, mediocrity is enthroned and productively affected.

The North-West States of Nigeria is multi-religious, multi-linguistic thereby making public universities political manipulations and influence by political actors. The stakeholders of educational system in the area have expressed serious concerns over the likely influence of political factors on appointment of vice chancellors, members of governing councils and other principal officers in public universities, with adverse consequences for standard and productivity. Educational administrators of public universities are confronted with personnel issues and problems which demand that they make and take decisions. As resources are generally scarce to satisfy the competing needs of their institutions and various interests, educational administrators are bound to make choices from available alternatives. Their choices or decisions could be however be influenced by numerous political factors from outside or from within the institutions that could have implication on the appointment of vice-chancellors, members of governing council and other principal officers in the public universities. Whether from within or from outside, the educational managers of these universities should take decision that discriminate against certain alternatives. Such discrimination or preferences may be borne out of political considerations, political factors may influence the appointment of external and internal members of the governing councils, vice chancellors and other principal officers, and these may have implication for effective and efficient management of the educational system.

It is speculated that the visitors use their authority and influence to appoint people of their religious affiliation, ethnic or sectional and partisan political background to the councils of the public universities. This has become more apparent when considering the fact that in Nigeria, the government bears much responsibility for governance and funding of public universities. Debates concerning the degree to which public universities should be insulated from external political partisan influence, in terms of the appointment of external members of governing councils, have therefore continued to grow day by day in the North-West States of Nigeria. Indeed, some observers believe that the alleged politicization of the management of public universities have caused the authorities of these universities to take directive from politicians. According to Okunamiri and Ajoku (2008) politics of education could be referred to as the social and political contexts of education carried at identifying the various social and political factors, influence, issues and problems which affect education production process It is alleged that the appointment of vice chancellors, members of governing councils and other principal officers of public universities is ethnically, religiously and sectional influenced by the politics associated with the appointment of vice chancellors, members of governing council and other principal officers of the public universities could be punctured by rancor, bitter, infighting and sometimes open confrontation which have serious consequence for the effective management of university educational system. Ethnicity, religion, sectionalism, quota system and favoritism could be brought into play depending on the ideological composition of the governing council and senate of the universities. Knott and Payne (2006) states that president, governors or visitors may be concerned with appointing qualified heads of public universities, power of appointment is the subject of occasional at use by visitors (president and governors) who choose to play politics with educational system. The implication of this for effective and efficient management of public universities is likelihood of vice chancellors and other principal officers appointed or elected on the basis of ethnic loyalty and sectional politicking showing bias in favour of these from their ethnics, religious or sectional background who may

have helped them to power and by so doing may contribute to the ineffectiveness and inefficiency of their universities.

Okunamiri (2005) notes that politics of education involves a complex inter-relationship among interest groups, politicians and bureaucracy Okunamiri further adds that considering the whole educational structure the politician wants institutions to serve particular goals and needs of political party in power. Perhaps, this explains why visitors (Governor/president) often handpick members of governing councils, to bring the educational system under partisan control. Dunn (2009) and Mishia (2012) points out that governors and president more often than not lead the way in shaping the general fiscal policies that influence public universities and also appoint members of governing councils, vice chancellor and other principal officers which place them in commanding positions to influence the management of public universities. This raises the concern of the sort of exact balance that exists between politicians and the authority of public universities in term of management. In the North-West States of Nigeria, the yawning educational gap between it and the southern States of Nigeria and also to eradicate poverty, ignorance, diseases and achieve socio-economic and political development has intensified educational activities in the area. This perhaps explains why the states in the area are competing. In the similar vein, government, local government areas and communities and individuals are desirous of benefiting from the advantage that university education offers within its locality while the staff and students of the public universities also want to participate effectively and meaningfully in the management process of their institutions in order to improve their welfare. However, the concern expressed by the relevant stakeholders of education in the North-West States of Nigeria appears to be speculations that ought to be authenticated, therefore, based on the serious concerns expressed by the stakeholders of public universities on the likely influence of politics on the appointment of vice chancellors, members of governing councils and other principal officers in public universities in the North-West States of Nigeria. With consequences for, lack of standard and productivity in the educational system. There is the need for this study to find out the extent to which political factors influences the appointment of vice chancellors, members of governing councils, and other principal officers in public universities in the North-West States of Nigeria.

Statement of the Problem

In the North-West States of Nigeria, there has been public outcry by the relevant stakeholders of public university education, especially Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU), lecturers, educational administrators, Students, parents, and the general public over the likely influence of political factors on the management of public universities such as appointment of vice chancellors, members of governing councils, and other principal officers in the public universities. Prominent among these concerns is the alleged use of power and authority by visitors to appoint vice chancellors, members of governing councils, and other principal officers to positions on the basis of political factors or consideration. It is speculated that universities in North-West States of Nigeria, vice chancellors, members of governing councils and other principal officers are not appointed on merit that it is done on the basis of ethnic, religions, sectional, catchment area policy, quota system and partisan considerations rather than on qualifications and merit. These speculations are weighty enough to warrant an empirical investigation. Based on these observations, the problems of the study is therefore to find out the political factors influencing appointment of vice chancellors, members of

governing councils and other principal officers in public universities in North-West States of Nigeria.

Purpose of the Study

The purpose of this study is to investigate the influence of politics on the appointment of, vice chancellor, members of governing councils and other principal officers in public universities in the North-West States of Nigeria. Specifically, the study sought to;

1. Examine the influence of political factors on appointment of vice chancellors of public universities in North-West States of Nigeria
2. Find out the Influence of Political factors on appointment of members of governing councils of public universities.
3. Ascertain the influence of political factors on appointment of other principal officers of public universities

Research Questions

The following research questions guided the study:

1. To what extent do political factors influence appointment of vice chancellors in public universities in North-West States of Nigeria?
2. To what extent do political factors influence appointment of members of governing councils in public universities?
3. To what extent do political factors influence appointment of other principal officers in public universities?

Research Hypotheses

The following hypotheses were formulated and tested at 0.05 level of significance

- 1 Political factors has no significant influence on appointment of vice chancellors in public universities in the North-West States of Nigeria
- 2 Political factors has no significant influence on appointment of members of governing councils in public universities
3. Political factors have no significant influence on appointment of other principal officers in public universities.

Significance of the Study

The findings and recommendations of the study may be of immense benefits to stakeholders in education such as the Educational administrators, Government, teachers, parents and the general public, who may get some useful information on the influence of Politics on the appointment of vice chancellors, members of governing councils and other principal officers in public universities and as well may devise means of ameliorating the political manipulation and the influence of politics on federal and state universities in the study area. The findings and recommendations of this study will be an eye opener to the Government to desist from unnecessary interference on the management of public universities, thereby negatively affecting the productivity and standards in the public universities as well as undercutting the constitutional independence or autonomy of the universities. Finally, the findings and recommendations of this study may expand the frontiers of knowledge by contributing to the knowledge bank on the likely influence of politics on the appointment of vice chancellors, members of governing councils and other principal officers of public universities and stimulate further research on the subject matter and related areas as well make proper

recommendations to educational policy makers to use and help revive our educational system for better national development.

Review of Related Literature

The review of related literature was carried out under the following sub-headings that are relevant to the study.

Concept of Politics and Education

The term politics is the consisting of struggle among actors pursuing conflicting desires on public issues. Politics to different groups have many connotations Okunamiri and Ajoku (2008) sees politics as dealing with power, that is how power is structured, pursued captured, retained and lost. The mission of power is the right of the politician who is empowered by society to make public policies (based on the political ideology of its party). A careful observation on the organization and administration of education in modern society will show that it is closely interwoven with politics and politicking. The union of politics and education within a common frame of philosophy Socrates was the first person who designated politics and education as distinct and above all interrelated, subjects of systematic inquire. Denga (2005) opines that no one can take education out of politics nor can anyone take politics out of education. This means that education and politics are linked together in all societies. Asemah (2010) sees education as a process whereby society inculcates the work, while things of the society into its people to be better able to cope with the problems of the society and contribute meaningful to its well-being and development. Education can therefore be defined as the process of bringing desirable changes into the behavior of human beings. It is also the process of acquiring knowledge and habits through instruction or study in formal educational setting. Ajaegbu and Ibeziem (2005) remarks that while schools are not themselves political institution, they are products of the political process. In recognition of the relationship between politics and education, the national policy on education (FRN 2014) states that education is not only the greatest force that can be used to bring about redress, but it is also the greatest instrument that a nation can make for the quick socio-economic development. In view of the above, Elujekwute (2019:10) states that it is clear that politics and education is fused together. It is very difficult to separate one from the other in modern times "politics fashions education and education modifies politics." Politics could also be defined as all activities that are directly or indirectly associated with the emergence, consolidation and use of state power. Okeke (2015) sees politics as a civilizing agent and a way of ruling in divided society without violence. Therefore, whether defined in terms of man being a political animal, the art of the possible "who gets what, where and how" the struggle for power or the authoritative allocation of resource and values, politics has the state as its centerpiece. Educational programmes could be said to be functional if it consistently justifies that purpose for which it was adopted despite all odds. Ajaegbu and Ibezim further states that education is said a powerful agent of progress and development. Elujekwute (2019) defines education as the aggregate of all the processes by which a child or young adult develop abilities, attitudes and other forms of behavior which are of positive value to the society in which he lives. From the foregoing, it can be inferred that education is necessary for economic and social development. Politics has also been defined as the governing of men and women, in his book *The Governing of men*, the American political scientist Austin Ranney, discusses the relationship between those who govern and who are governed between ruler and the ruled.

He argues that this relationship is central to political life (Nnoli, 2013). Among academics, politics is often defined as the authoritative allocation of values. Emphasis is put on how resources are allocated by the system of authorities in society. Pioneered by the American political scientist social life which some believe to be as unchanging as the laws of physical life. According to Ogbonnaya (2009) politics has been at forefront of education in Nigeria. For instance there was a partnership arrangement between church and state in education. Under the partnership arrangement, the missionary societies used the establishment of schools for purpose of conversion, the production of lay readers, catechists, teachers and literate personal for commercial houses. When the British colonial government became involved in education, its own purpose was mainly to produce literate and clerical staff who would keep the colony in a subordinate position for continued exploitation. Therefore, the politics adopted by any educational system are essentially drawn the government in power (the political system). Educational policies are therefore those guidelines expedient both for political socialization and for national socio-economic and cultural development. Every government or political party is conscious that to ensure its political, social and economic success, the school must be involved in the promotion of interests of governing power. The Nigeria government believed very much in education of her citizens. This can be illustrated from her use of education for social, economic and political development of educational opportunities and for ethnic harmony.

Influence of Political Factors on Appointment of Vice Chancellors in Public Universities in the North-West States of Nigeria

The office of the vice chancellor is an administrative position considered to be the highest in hierarchy of authority in the management of university structure. The office is occupied by a person charged with the tasks of planning, controlling and coordination of human, material, financial and time resources to foster the attainment of the university's goals and objectives. The vice chancellors as the chief executive of the university have multi various task to accomplish for successful management of the university. Amaeleker (2005) describes the functions and roles of the university vice chancellor as head teacher, vice chancellor, and leader of the school, school father, adviser, chief administrator, executive, innovator, policy maker, organizer, communicator, school authority educator, perfectionist and philosopher. Ezeocha (2009) sees the function of the vice chancellor as supervision of instructions curriculum development, aid evaluation, school community relations and management of school finance, staff and students, personnel administration among others According to Ogbonnaya (2009) the vice chancellors of public universities consists of highly rated academics drawn from different Geo –Political Zone for federal higher institutions or different senatorial zones in the case of state universities .However, in the North –West States of Nigeria, vice chancellors of public universities are appointed by the President for federal and governors in the case of state owned public universities. The concern expressed by the stakeholders observes that the president and governors power/authority to appoint Vice Chancellors in the area is considerably influenced by political factors. The president and the governor who incidentally is the visitor to the federal universities and state universities repetitively is alleged to appoint vice chancellors of the universities mostly from hi/her ethnic and sectional background, Ogbonnaya (2009) states that vice chancellors are usually appointed based sectionalism, favoritism, religious, ethnic sentiments and among others. Ogbonnaya further observes that when this happens as it's mostly the case in the public

universities, the vice chancellor will not succeed in accomplishing his/her functional management of the university. The politicization of the appointment of vice chancellor by president and governors has caused federal and state public universities coordinating boards and system governance structure to take directives from the president or governor rather than from professional educators. According to Sehmadt (2006) president and governors often handpick vice chancellors to bring the public universities under partisan control. Elujekwute (2019) states that vice chancellors are appointed by President/Governors in order to erode public universities autonomy, academic freedom and undue political interference in the management of the public universities, thereby lowering productivity and academic standards. According to Akpakwe and Okwo (2014) the appointment of vice chancellors of the public universities is assumed to have political undertones .partisan political background to the councils of the universities.

This has become more apparent when considering the fact that in Nigeria, the state bears much responsibility for governance and financing of public universities. It is also alleged that the appointment of vice chancellors is ethnically, religiously or sectionally influenced. The politics associated with the appointment of vice chancellors of the universities could be punctuated by rancor, bitter infighting and at times open confrontation which could have serious consequences for the effective management of the public universities. The ethnicity, religion, sectionalism and quota system could be brought into play depending on ethnic, religious, sectional or ideological composition of the council and the senate. Knott and Payne (2006) cited in Akpakwe and Okwo (2014) observes that governors or visitors may be concerned with appointing qualified heads of higher institutions, the power of appointment is the subject of occasional abuse by visitors or governors who choose to play politics with higher education. The implication of this for personal management in public universities is the likelihood of vice chancellors and other principal officers appointed or elected on the basis of ethnic loyalty and sectional politicking, showing bias in favor of those from their ethnic, religious or sectional background who may have helped them to power and by so doing, may contribute to the ineffectiveness and inefficiency of their public universities. Debates concerning the degree to which public universities should be insulated from external political partisan influence, in terms of the appointment of appointment vice chancellors have therefore continue to grow day by day in the North-West States of Nigeria. Indeed, some observers believe that the alleged politicization of the management of the public universities have caused the authorities of these universities to take directives from politicians. Ajayi and Ayodele (2005) notes that government involvement in university governance through the appointment of political stronage as vice chancellors has been a point of shift between the government and academic staff union of universities (ASUU) for some time now and this negates effective and efficient management of public universities in the area of study.

Influence of Political Factors on Appointment of Members of Governing Councils in Public Universities

Members of Governing Councils is a statutory body constituted by the federal government in terms of federal universities and state government in the case of state universities for the control of policy, finance, personnel and physical resources of a university. It is also responsible for policy making and regulations. The council is the highest political body of any university and its membership comprises from both inside and outside the university environment. According to Ogbonnya (2009) the governing councils of public universities

consists of highly rated individual drawn different Geo-political Zone for federal higher institution or different Senatorial Zones in the case of state universities. In the North-West States of Nigeria, members of the governing councils of the public universities are appointed by the president for federal and governor in the case of state owned institutions. The concerns expressed by the stakeholders, observes that the president and the governor's power and authority to appoint members of the governing councils, in the area is considerably influenced by political factors. The president and the governor who incidentally is the visitor to the federal universities and state universities respectively is alleged to appoint council members of the universities mostly from his ethnic or sectional background. According to Akpakwu and Okwo (2014) a good number of governing councils are usually appointed based on religious, sectionalism, favoritism and ethnic sentiments. Akpakwu and Okwo further adds that when this happens as it's mostly the case in the public universities; the council will not succeed in accomplishing its constitutional objectives or functions as well achieve the university educational goals.

Odimegwu (2008) reports that the politicization of the appointment of members of governing councils and heads of higher education by increasing activist president and governors has caused federal and state higher education coordinating boards and system governance structure to take directive from the president or governors rather than from professional educators. Again raising questions of exactly which sort of exact balance should exist between politicians and their states public higher education. Marcus (2005) corroborates this opinion that in recent years governors have emerged as visible, active policy makers with significant influence on university education especially in area of staff employment, appointment and promotions. Sehmadt (2006) notes that, president and governors often handpick members of governing councils so as to bring the public universities under partisan control. In the North-West States of Nigeria, the governors' power over budget is the principal instrument of politicked control that he exerts on the universities. In state where governors or visitors exercise their power to purse, their fiscal leadership has the potential of exercising a great deal of influence on the management of the universities. Dzurgba (2008) states that appointment of members of governing councils is subject to occasional abuse by visitors or governors who choose to play politics with the university education. When visitors or governors appoint council members base on religion or ethnic sentiments, hence the morale of lecturers and students dampens and lowers effective and efficient of the management of the public universities. Dzurgba further maintains that it gives the visitors or governors direct in route into the internal affairs of the management of the public universities.

Influence of Political Factors on the Appointment of Other Principal Officers

The other principal officers include Deputy vice chancellors (Academic and Administration), register, bursa, Libran and among others. The President/governors and vice chancellors powers/authority to appoint other principal officer of public university is to bring the universities under partisan control; this could sometimes lead to rancor and bitter infighting and at times open confrontation that may have serious consequences on the do not frown at political favoritism. The appointment of unqualified persons as other principal officers of public universities would most likely compound the effective and efficient management of the universities. The fact that government at Federal and state levels appoint vice chancellors and other principal officers who share their political views shows that they have ulterior political motives. Knott and Payne (2006) and Mgbekem (2005) states that the governors

power to appoint other principal officers of the universities undermine the constitutional independence of universities and are often an attempt by governors to hold control of these universities. The president and governor's power of appointing other principals officers gives them direct routes into the internal affairs of public universities. Florenstano (2010) reports that most governors are said to appoint other principal officer who share their political vision and who will initiate and implement their policies in the university. Ajayi and Ayodele (2005) states that the appointment of other principal officers is a political ploy by president and governor's to erode university autonomy and academic freedom in public universities.

According to Dika and Janosike (2005) the perceived tendency of the president and governors to appoint other principal officers mostly from their ethnic background and for other ulterior motives amounts to induce political interference in the effective management of public universities. Ethnic and sectionalism could be brought into play depending on the ethnic, sectional or ideological composition of the councils and the senate. The president or state governors may be concerned with appointing qualified other principal officers of universities, the power of appointment is the subject of occasional abuse by the president or governors who choose to play politics with university education. According to Mgbekem (2005) and Adegbele (2007) packing governing councils vice chancellors and other principal officers with political faithful for the express purpose of undercutting the autonomy of universities has always been challenged by the Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU) and students union of that universities in agreement. The visitors/governors or vice chancellors power/authority to appoint other principal officers sometimes led to rancor and bitter, in fighting that may have serious consequences on the effective management of the public universities. When other principal officers are appointed based on ethnic sentiments as a result unqualified personnel are recruited into the public university system.

Methodology

The area of the study is North-West States of Nigeria; it is one of the Six Geo-Political Zones in Nigeria. The North-West States of Nigeria comprises, Kebbi, Sokoto, Zamfara, Katsina, Jigawa and Kano States. Descriptive survey research design was adopted for the study. The population of the study comprised Twelve thousand one hundred (12,100) Academic and Senior administrative Staff of public universities in North-West States of Nigeria (NUC, 2018). This population consisted of Academic and Senior administrative staff from six Federal and six States of Public Universities in the Study area. A sample of one thousand two hundred and ten (1,210) of academic and senior administrative staff was from 12 public universities in the North-West States of Nigeria, was used for the study. A stratified random sampling technique was used to select the sample size because the population was heterogeneous. A 15- items structured questionnaire developed by the researchers titled "Influence of Politics and Appointment Vic-Chancellors, Council Members Questionnaire (IPACMQ)" was used for data collection. The questionnaire was validated by experts in the Department of Educational Management and Test & Measurement from the Faculty of Education, Benue State University, Makurdi. The questionnaire was trial tested using 30 academic and 30 senior administrative staff of public universities in North-Central, Nigeria that were not part of the sampled population. The data collected was analyzed using Cronbach Alpha correlation co-efficient which yielded 0.86. The coefficient indicated high internal consistency which proved that the instrument was reliable to be used for field work. The data collected was analyzed using Simple Descriptive Statistics of Mean and Standard Deviations to answer research questions.

A mean cut-off point of 2.50 was used for decision making. Any mean score of 2.50 and above was accepted as been significant while any mean score below 2.50 was rejected as not been significant. The research hypothesis was tested using Chi-square (χ^2) test of goodness of fit at 0.05 level of significance.

Result and Findings

Research Question One:

To what extent do political factors influence appointment of vice chancellors in public universities in North-West States of Nigeria?

Table 1:

Mean Rating and Standard Deviation of Academic and Senior Administrative Staff on the Influence of Political Factors on Appointment of Vice Chancellors in Public Universities in North-West States of Nigeria

Item No	Item Description	VHE	HE	LE	VLE	\bar{X}	STD	Decision
1	Appointment of vice chancellors by the presidents/Governor with political faithful for the purpose of undercutting the constitutional independence or autonomy of universities dampens the morale of lecturers and students hence lower academic standards in my university.	614	317	200	76	3.22	0.94	HE
2	The President/Governors powers to appoint vice chancellors particularly from his/her ethnic domination and loyalty unqualified personnel are appointed as result reduce standard and quality students' academic achievement in my university.	544	426	192	48	3.21	0.85	HE
3	The politicization of the appointment of vice chancellors by the president or governors has caused the university governance structure to take direction from the president/governors rather from professional educators in my university.	358	485	284	83	2.93	0.89	HE
4	Sectional and ethnic consideration, Quota system, catchment area policy and religious affiliation do influence appointment of vice chancellor in my University.	524	501	116	69	3.23	0.84	HE
5	Vice chancellors are appointed by the President/Governors in order to erode university autonomy, academic freedom and undue political interference in the management of my university.	530	495	113	72	3.24	0.86	HE
Cluster Mean/Standard Deviations						3.13	0.91	HE

Table 1 shows respondents on the mean and standard deviation on the influence of political factors on appointment of vice chancellors in public universities in North-West States of Nigeria. This result reveals that items 1-5 have mean scores and standard deviation of 3.22 (STD. 0.94), 3.21 (STD. 0.85), 2.93 (STD. 0.89), 3.23 (STD. 0.84) and 3.24 (STD. 0.86) respectively. Based on the boundary criteria for decision making, it means the mean scores for items 1-5 were above the cut-off point of 2.50; an indication that political factors has positively influenced the appointment of Vice-chancellors in Public Universities in the North-West

States of Nigeria. The respondents agreed that appointment of vice chancellors by the presidents/governors with political faithful for the purpose of undercutting the constitutional independence or autonomy of the universities dampens the morale of lecturers and students hence lowers academic standards of the universities. More so, president/Governors powers to appoint Vice Chancellors, particularly from his/her ethnic domination and loyalty, thus unqualified personnel are appointed as a result reduces standard and quality of student's academic achievements in the Universities. They have also agreed that the politicization on the appointment of the vice chancellors by the presidents/governors has caused the universities governance structure (management) to take directives from the presidents/governors rather from professional educators in the universities. Also that Sectional and ethnic consideration, Quota system, catchment area policy and religious affiliation do influence appointment of vice chancellor in Public University. The respondents agreed that Vice Chancellors are appointed by the President/Governors in order to erode university autonomy, academic freedom and undue political interference in the management of the universities. The mean of 3.13 and a standard deviation of 0.91 were also found to be above the cut-off point of 2.50. This implies that political factors influence appointment of vice chancellors in public universities in the North-West States of Nigeria to high extent.

Research Question Two:

To what extent do political factors influence appointment of members of governing councils in public universities?

Table 2:

Mean Rating and Standard Deviation of Academic and Senior Administrative Staff on the Influence of Political Factors on Appointment of Members of Governing Councils in Public Universities.

Item No	Item Description	VHE	HE	LE	VLE	\bar{X}	STD	Decision
6	President/Governors appoint members of governing council who share their political vision and who will also initiate and implement their policies in public universities.	537	517	112	103	3.22	0.89	HE
7	The Appointment of members of governing council is subject of occasional abuse by governors and president who choose to play politics with the university education.	633	495	130	114	3.30	0.92	HE
8.	When Political factors such as ethnicity, sectionalism, favoritism, partisanship, catchment area policy and religion do influenced appointment of members of governing council of public universities thus, morale of lecturers and students dampens and lowers effective management of the universities.	527	429	296	100	3.22	0.88	HE
9.	When the president appoints members of governing council base on religion or ethnic sentiments, thus the council will not succeed in accomplishing its constitutional objectives or functions.	460	456	167	89	3.10	0.89	HE
10	When the president/governors appoint members of governing council, it gives them a direct in route into the internal affairs management of the public universities.	351	480	67	135	2.82	0.97	HE
Cluster Mean/Standard Deviations						3.14	0.82	HE

Table 2 shows respondents on the mean and standard deviation on the Influence of Political factors on appointment of Members of Governing Councils in Public Universities in North-West States of Nigeria. This result reveals that, items 6 -10 have mean scores and standard deviations of 3.22 (STD. 0.89), 3.30 (STD. 0.92), 3.22 (STD. 0.88), 3.10 (STD. 0.9) and 2.82 (STD. 0.97) respectively. Based on the boundary criteria for decision making, it means the mean scores for items 6-10 were above the Cut-Off point of 2.50 and indication that political factors influenced on appointments of members of governing councils in public universities in North-West States of Nigeria. This is an identification that the respondents agreed that president/governors appoint members of governing council who share their political visions and who will initiate and implement their policies in public universities and that the appointment of members of governing council is subject of occasional abuse by governors and presidents who choose to play politics with the university education. More so, when political factors such as ethnicity, sectionalism, favoritism, partisanship and catchment area policy do influence appointment of members of governing councils of public universities, thus morale of lecturers and students dampened and lower effective management of the universities. They have also agreed that when president/governors appoints members of governing councils

based on religion or ethnic sentiments thus the council will not succeed in accomplished its constitutional objectives or functions. Also, the respondents agreed that when president/governors appoint members of governing councils, it gives them direct in routes into the internal affairs management of the public universities. The mean of 3.14 and standard deviations of 0.82 were also found to be above the cut-off point of 2.50. This implies that political factors influence appointment of members of governing councils in public universities in the North-West States of Nigeria to high extent.

Research Question Three

To what extent do political factors influence appointment of other principal officers in public universities?

Table 3:

Mean Rating and Standard Deviation of Academic and Senior Administrative Staff on the Influence of Political Factors on Appointment of Other Principal Officers in Public Universities.

Item No	Item Description	VHE	HE	VE	VLE	\bar{X}	STD	Decision
11	Tribal consideration rather than merit and qualification are used in appointment of other principal officers hence hinders productivity in my university.	561	422	157	70	3.22	0.88	HE
12	The visitors power/authority to appoint other principal officers sometimes led to rancor and bitter, in fighting that may have serious consequences on the effective and efficient management of public university in my school.	551	380	150	129	3.12	0.99	HE
13	The President/governor's power to appoint other principal officers is often attempt by president/governor to hold public universities under strict partisan control.	438	420	236	116	2.98	0.97	HE
14	When other principal officers are appointed based on ethnic sentiment as a result unqualified personnel are recruited in my university.	513	449	199	49	3.18	0.85	HE
15	Government involvement in the appointment of other principal officers negates effective and efficient management of public universities in my school.	416	440	278	78	2.99	0.91	HE
Cluster Mean/Standard Deviations						3.02	0.92	HE

Table 3 shows responses of the respondents on the mean and standard deviation on the influence of political factors on appointment of other Principal Officers of public universities

in the North-West States of Nigeria. This result reveals that items 10-15 have mean scores and standard deviations of 3.22 (STD. 0.88), 3.12 (STD. 0.99), 2.98 (STD. 0.97), 3.18 (STD. 0.85) and 2.99 (STD. 0.91) respectively. Based on the boundary criteria for decision making, it means the mean scores for items 10-15 were above the cut-off point of 2.50, which implies that political factors influences on appointment of other principal officers in public universities in the North-West States of Nigeria. The respondent agreed that tribal consideration rather than merit and qualification are used in appointment of other principal officers hence hinders the productivity in public universities and also they agreed that the visitors powers/ authority to appoint other principal officers sometimes led to rancor, bitter and infighting that may have serious consequences on the effective and efficient management of public universities. They have also agreed that the President/Governors power to appoint other principal officers is often an attempt by President /Governors to hold the public universities under strict partisan control. The respondents as well agreed that when other principal officers are appointed based on ethnic sentiment as a result unqualified personnel are recruited in the public universities. More so, the respondents agreed that Government involvement in the appointment of other principal officers negates effective and efficient management of public universities. The Mean of 3.02 and a standard deviation of 0.92 were also found to be above the cut-off point of 2.50. This implies that political factors influence appointment of other principal officers in public universities in the North-West States of Nigeria to high extent.

Testing Research Hypotheses

In testing the three hypotheses of this study, the Chi-square (χ^2) statistical tool was used to test the hypotheses at 0.05 level of significance and the result are presented on tables 4 to 6

Research Hypothesis One:

Political factors has no significant influence on appointment of vice chancellors in public universities in the North-West States of Nigeria.

Table 4:

Chi-square (χ^2) Analysis of Academic and Senior Administrative Staff on the Influence of Political Factors on Appointment of Vice-Chancellors in Public Universities in North-West States of Nigeria

Opinion	Observed N	Expected N	Residual	Level of sig.	df	X ^{2cal}	P-value	Decision
VLE	92	300.9	-209.9	.05	1	428.23	.00	Sig.
LE	165	300.9	-96.8					
HE	194	300.9	.88.4					
VHE	468	300.9	241.3					
								Not accepted

(P – Value = 0.00; P = 0.00 < 0.05)

Table 4, shows Chi-square (χ^2) value of (3df) = 428.23.P<0.05. With this result, the null hypothesis which states that Political factors have no significant influence on appointment of vice chancellors was not accepted. This implies that there is significant influence of political factors on the appointment of vice chancellors in public universities in the North-West States

of Nigeria, which means that vice chancellors are appointed on the basis of ethnic basis in public universities in the North-West states of Nigeria.

Research Hypothesis Two:

Political factors has no significant influence on appointment of Members of Governing Councils in public universities

Table 5:

Chi-Square (χ^2) Analysis of Academic and Senior Administrative Staff on the Influence of Political Factors on Appointment of Members of Governing Councils in Public Universities

Opinion	Observed N	Expected N	Residual	Level of sig.	df	X ^{2cal}	P-value	Decision
VLE	44	300.9	-256.8	.05	1	418.82	.00	Sig.
LE	76	300.9	-147.8					
HE	503	300.9	.228.3					
VHE	580	300.9	137.3				Not Accepted	

(P – Value = 0.00; P = 0.00 < 0.05)

Table 5, shows Chi-square (χ^2) value of (3df) = 418.82, P< 0.05. This result shows that the null hypothesis which states that Political factors has no significant influence on appointment of members of governing councils was not accepted, implying that there is significant influence of Political factors on appointment of members of governing councils in public universities in the North –West States of Nigeria. This implies that when president/governors appoint members of governing councils in public universities, it gives them a direct route into the internal affairs management of the public universities in North-West States of Nigeria.

Research Hypothesis Three:

Political factors have no significant influence on appointment of Other Principal Officers in Public Universities in North-West States of Nigeria.

Table 6:

Chi-Square (χ^2) Analysis of Academic and Senior Administrative Staff on the Influence of Political Factors on Appointment of Other Principal Officers in Public Universities

Opinion	Observed N	Expected N	Residual	Level of sig.	df	X ^{2cal}	P-value	Decision
VLE	92	300.9	-209.9	.05	1	430.32	.00	Sig.
LE	156	300.9	-146.9					
HE	494	300.9	.191.4					
VHE	468	300.9	165.4				Not Accepted	

(P – Value = 0.00; P = 0.00 < 0.05)

Table 6, shows chi-square (χ^2) value of (3df) = 430.32, P< 0.05. With this result the null hypothesis which states that Political Factors has no significant influence on appointment of other principal officers was not accepted. This implies that there is significant influence of political factors on appointment of other principal officers in public universities in the North-

West States of Nigeria, which means that visitor or governors power/authority to appoint other principal officers, sometimes led to rancor and bitter, in fighting that may have serious consequences on the effective and efficient management of public universities in the North-West States of Nigeria.

Discussion of Findings

The first finding of this study was that political factors have significant influence on the appointment of vice chancellors in public universities in North-West States of Nigeria. This finding is in line with Ogbonnaya (2009) who observed that governors and president often handpick vice chancellors to bring the college campus and public universities under partisan control. Ogbonnaya further maintained that when this happens as is mostly the case; the management of the public universities will not succeed in accomplishing its constitutional objectives or functions. Corroborating this, Dunn (2009) and MeCLendon (2012) pointed out that governors more often than not lead the way in shaping the fiscal policies that influence higher education and also appoint vice-chancellors. This raises the concern of the sort of exact balance that exists between politicians and the authorities of public universities in terms of their management. Kayode and Abisoye (2013) maintained that ethnic, partisan political consideration, religions affiliation, quarter system, catchment area policies, politicization among others influence the appointment of vice-chancellors of the public universities in North-West States of Nigeria and as a result reduces standards quality students' academic achievement in schools. This finding is not in agreement with Florenstano (2010) who remarked that most vice chancellors appointments are devoid of political manipulation and influence in the public universities in the North-West States of Nigeria. Florenstano further noted that universities as centre of learning and research, vice chancellors are mostly not appointed on the basis of merit and experience rather than on political considerations. Therefore, the visitors or governors powers to appoint vice chancellors particularly from his/her ethnic background and loyalty as result unqualified personnel are appointed. The politicization of the appointment of vice chancellors by visitors or governors has caused the university governance structure to take direction from the visitors or governors rather from professional educators.

The second finding was that political factors have significant influence on appointment of Governing Councils in public universities in the North-West States of Nigeria. This finding agreed with Elujekwute (2019) who affirmed that a good number of governing councils are usually appointed on religious, sectionalism, favoritism and ethnic sentiments. Elujekwute further maintained that when this happens as it's mostly the case in the public universities, it gives the visitors or governors direct in route into the internal affairs management of public universities. Marcus (2005) opinioned that in recent year, President/Governors have emerged as visible active policy makers with significant influence on university education, especially in area of appointing members of governing councils of public universities. Marcus further maintained that the appointment of members of governing councils is subject of occasional abuse by the visitors or Governors who choose to play politics with the university education. Mgbekem (2005) reported that the governors or visitors power to appoint members of governing councils of the public universities undermine the constitutional independence of the public universities and is often an attempt by visitors or governors to bring the universities under strict political control. Therefore, Government involvement in the appointment of other principal officers negates effective management of the higher educational system. When

political factors such as ethnicity, sectionalism, favoritism, partisanship, catchment area policy and religion do influenced appointment of members of governing councils of public universities thus, morale of lecturers, students dampens and lowers effective management of the universities.

The third finding of this study was that political factors have significant impact on appointment of other principal officers in public universities in the North-West States of Nigeria. This finding is in line with Knott and Payne (2006) who observed that governors and presidents powers to appoint other principal officers of public universities undermine the constitutional independence of the universities and often an attempt by governors to hold control of these universities. In collaborating this finding, Dike and Janosike (2005) who maintained that perceived tendency of the president and governors to appoint other principal officers mostly from their ethnic background and for other ulterior motives amounts to induce political interference in the effective and efficient management of public universities. Ajayi and Ayodele (2005) noted that Government involvement in the university governance through the appointment of other principal officers sometimes negates effective management of public universities. This finding is in agreement with Elujekwute (2019) who observed that visitors or governors power to appoint other principal officers sometimes led to rancor and in fighting that may have serious consequences on the effective and efficient management of the public universities. When tribal consideration rather than merit and qualifications are used in appointment of other principal officers hence hinders productivity in the public universities.

Conclusion

Based on the findings of the study, it was concluded that political factors such as sectional, ethnic, partisan, catchment area policies, the quota system, religious affiliations and among others influence the appointment of vice chancellors, members of governing councils and other principal officers of public universities in North-West states of Nigeria.

Recommendations

Based on the findings, the following recommendations were made:

1. The Senate Search Committee of the each University should be mandatorily empowered to recommend candidates of impeccable credentials for the appointment of Vice chancellors of public universities. Therefore, Vice-Chancellors should not be handpicked by the president or the governors in public universities hence ensuring effective and efficient management of public universities.
2. The Educational Administrators should provide policy that would ensure that members of governing councils are thoroughly screened by the congregation committee of each university and recommended or otherwise before their appointment of members of governing councils, since the congregation is made up of Academic and Senior Administrative Staff. It will enable them to know the political antecedents of the prospective members and candidatures with a view to making adequate recommendations.

3. The Educational Administration should ensure that Senate Search Committee of each university should be empowered to recommend other principal officers for their appointment therefore they should not be handpicked by the president/Governors or vice chancellors

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