THE CHALLENGES AND SURVIVAL STRATEGIES OF MINORITY ETHNIC GROUPS IN CONTEMPORARY NIGERIAN SOCIETY: A STUDY OF SOME SELECTED ETHNIC GROUPS OF MIDDLE-BELT REGION, NIGERIA

BASHAMA, KAZE AKWANGA
Post Graduate Student Department of History
Faculty of Arts
Nasarawa State University, Keffi
Email: akwangakaze@yahoo.com
+2348130717309

&

SABO, ANCHE UGAH
Post Graduate Student, Department of History & International Studies
Faculty of Arts
Federal University of Lafia
Nasarawa State
Email: anche.ugah@yahoo.com OR, anchson88@gmail.com
+2348169613558

&

MOHAMMED ABDULLAHI MOHAMMED
Department of History
Jigawa State Collage of Education and Legal Studies
Ringim, Jigawa State
Email: nabayimohammad1976@gmail.com
+2347064897003

Abstract

This research work is a survey of the current situation of minority ethnic groups in Nigeria. The travails and struggles of ethnic minority communities in Nigeria are to guard against both cultural extinctions, socio-political and economic marginalization. These have taken a centre stage in the Nigerian polity, attract the attention of scholars and formed part of Nigeria's historiography. This is concerning the wider dimensions and conditions of ethnic minority alienation and discontent in Nigerian federalism. Actually, in a fundamental sense, the problem of Nigeria's ethnic minorities has resulted directly from specific contradictions and tensions in the evolution and operation of the Nigerian federal system. Several aspects of this federalist crisis can be readily identified. They include the over-centralization of the government system; the inadequate recognition of the country's ethnic configuration in the territorial organization of the federation; the relatively limited development of accommodative consensual or power-sharing mechanism; the lack of equal representation in governance, etc. The purpose of this

study is to discuss the challenges of the minority groups and their survival strategies, particularly of the middle-belt region (central) of the Nigerian state. The research work examined the challenges of the minorities group and how they can strategize to survive in our Nigeria contemporary times.

Keywords: Minority, marginalization, middle-belt, Nigeria, minority ethnic groups.

Introduction

In many parts of the world today, struggles between different cultural and racial groups are being played out, many times leading to strained enmity and frequently bloodshed. As a result of this strained relationship, in most cases has led to bloody wars in the different areas of the Nigeria state, for instance, Tiv and Jukun, Agatu and Igbira, Fulani Herders and host natives, etc., while in other sub-African states, example includes; Ethiopia and Eritrea, Ivory Coast, Somali and Sudan (Owen, 1992). In the same vein, a good number of refugees and immigrants move from one community to the other, in an attempt trying to escape from such conflict or running away from poverty in search of a greener pasture. Occasionally, they get to a new community only for them to be rejected by the host ethnic people who are assumed to be immigrants themselves some years past (Owen 1992). As is the case in Abuja, Lagos and other major urban centres, there is an influx of migrants either as a result of the conflict in conflict-prone states/areas such as Katsina, Zamfara, Maiduguri, Southern part of Kaduna, etc., as insurgency, farmers-herders clash, marauders, unknown gunmen, etc. Today, there is increased immigration into most urban states in Nigeria with the antecedents of conflicts and clashes as well as the benefits and opportunities. It is important to note that, this same issue of minority problem has resulted to amongst other problems, wobbling democracy, high level of illiteracy rate, high moral decadence, high rate of unemployment, lack of motorable roads, increasing rate of population growth, etc. Some scholars blame it on the national and regional leadership (Makinwa, 1981), others blame it on corruption (Aluko, 1988: 11).

In a multi-cultural society like Nigeria, there are some groups of people who will certainly be on the advantageous side due to population or early contact with the colonialists or because of their educational attainment.

The middle-belt, in particular, has felt marginalized since before independence in 1960 just as the case of other minority groups in Nigeria and also, lends her voice for recognition. The minority ethnic groups have been struggling for equality, fairness and full participation in the taking and sharing of the "National Cake". The majority tribes as claimed are the Hausa/Fulani, Igbo and Yoruba, while the minority ones are people of different ethnic groups found in the Northern, Eastern and Southern parts of Nigeria (Galadima, 2010, p.13).

This study tends to examine the extent to which the minority group has been able to strategize and face the challenges that have posed a threat to their survival in Nigeria contemporary society.

The Problem Encountered in the Course of Research

Several problems were encountered in the course of this research work, thus; some of the

major research questions which inform this study have insufficient written literature on the people of the middle-belt collectively. This singular lack of literature left the researchers with the burden of conducting extensive and elaborate oral interviews among some groups of people within the area of study as a minority group, their challenges and how they have survived as a minority group.

People of the Middle-Belt
The middle-belt as espoused by Obadiah Mailafiya; is everything outside the core shariah north, from Southern Borno to Southern Adamawa, Southern Kebbi, Southern Gombe, Southern Bauchi, Southern Kaduna and Southern Niger, to Plateau, Nasarawa, Kogi, FCT, Taraba, Kwara states and FCT. The area is made up of motley of clans that are ethnographical of Niger-Congo, Bantu, Chadic and Nilo-Ethiopic extraction. The people of this region are the descendants of the great Nok civilization that descended from ancient Egypt and the Nilotic cultures of Meroe and Kush. It is asserted that the middle-belt is the most populous and largest region by landmass in Nigeria with an estimation of about a 40million people and 300,00sq. km. The area is blessed with green savannah and with a variegated climate. The area can grow different types of food crops and fruits, have good fertile land for animal rearing, etc. The area is also blessed with good weather, vegetation, natural shield from the enemies which explains why they were not conquered by the jihadist. The middle belt is made up of so many ethnic groups that account for over 70% percent of the entire ethnic groups in Nigeria.

Research Questions
The following research questions were put in place in pursuance of this research:
   (a) Where is the place of the minority ethnic groups in contemporary Nigeria?
   (b) How has colonialism contributed to the continuous domination of minority ethnic groups?
   (c) What has characterized the relationship between the so-called majority ethnic groups and the minority ethnic groups?
   (d) How have the minority ethnic groups been able to survive despite the domination?
   (e) What has constituted the challenges faced by the minority ethnic groups?

Aim and Objectives of the Study
The crux of this research work is the challenges of minority groups and ethnic survival strategies in contemporary Nigerian societies; taking some selected ethnic groups as a case study within the area under study.

This study is informed and motivated by the following interrelated objectives to examine the strategies employed by the minority groups for their survival.
   (a) To examine the place of the minority ethnic groups in contemporary Nigeria society.
   (b) To examine how colonialism has contributed to the domination of the minority ethnic groups in Nigeria.
   (c) To examine the place/relationship of the minority ethnic groups and the major group.
   (d) To examine how the people were able to survive as a minority ethnic groups among the major ethnic groups.
   (e) To examine the challenges faced by the people as a minority ethnic group.

(f)   To provoke further research into the challenges and plights of the minority ethnic groups beyond the chronological scope of this study.

Significant of the Study

This research work is significant in that it will contribute tremendously to increasing our understanding and add to the knowledge of the challenges confronted by minority ethnic groups in Nigeria.

Similarly, because the study on minority ethnic groups in Nigeria is increasingly attracting scholarly attention more than it had been before, and is consequently an important aspect of Nigerians historiography; this study will go a long way in contributing to the achievement that is been recorded in exposing the minority challenges and the consequences this will pose in neglecting their call and also of true federalism in Nigeria. Furthermore, the study will complement other researches on the problems of the minority which have been in existence long before independence and to date left unresolved. It will also help us in understanding the people that are made up of the middle-belt and hopefully increase our knowledge of the challenges of minority ethnic groups in Nigeria at large.

Scope of the Study

This study is interested in people of the middle-belt region in contemporary times. The choice of this coincides with the challenges faced by the minority ethnic groups in Nigeria. In other words, the concern of this topic of research work is with the minority ethnic groups of the middle belt region.

This research work is aimed at covering the minority ethnic groups of the middle belt region of the Nigerian state. The population to be studied is in Nigeria land. The minority ethnic groups chosen for the research work are those within the middle-belt region. The sample to be chosen for this study will be fairly representative of the minority ethnic groups of the Ninzo, Koro, Kwalla, Margi, Bachama, Kambari, Igbira, Igede, Amwamwa, Jarawa, Zuru, Kona, Tangale and Ogorispeaking people of; Kaduna South, Nasarawa, Plateau, Maiduguri South, Adamawa South, Niger, Kogi, Benue, FCT, Bauchi South, Kebbi South. Taraba, Gombe South, Kwara States respectively. An extension of this study to cover a larger area of the country would provide more data to enhance broader ideas of the people of middle-belt but the researcher is limited to particularly the above selected ethnic groups by time and fund to exhaust the whole minority group in the country.

Definition of Terms

There are terms mostly and commonly used in this research either to stress a point or to put a point or idea across. In an attempt to erase confusion in the use of these terms, this research work embarks on the definition of certain terms.

Note that all terms are defined with specific reference to the concern of this research work.

Minority: This is the state of being a minor or any sub-group that does not have a numerical majority/strength. The Merriam Webster dictionary defines a minority as the

group that is the smaller part of a larger group; a group of people who are different from the larger group in a country, area, etc. in some way (such as race or religion).

Group: Is a collection of individuals/people who have regular contact and frequent interaction, mutual influence, common feeling, who work together to achieve a common set of goals.

Minority group: Minority group is a term referring to a category of people differentiated from the social majority, that is; those who hold the majority of positions of social power in a society, and maybe defined by law. The differentiation can be based on one or more observable human characteristics including ethnicity, race, religion, caste, gender, wealth, health or sexual orientation. Usage of the term is applied to various situations and civilizations within history, usage of the term as applied to various situations and civilizations within history, despite its popular non-association with a numerical, substantial majority in the 'social science', the term 'majority[1] is used to refer categories of persons who hold fewer positions of social power.

Survival: This is the state or fact of continuity to live or exist especially despite difficult conditions; something from an earlier period that still exists or is done.

Challenge: This is the situation being faced with, or something that needs great mental or physical effort to be done, successfully and therefore tests a person's ability.

Strategy: It is a method or plan chosen/adopted to bring about a desired future, such as the achievement of a goal or solution to a problem. It is also the art and science of planning and marshalling resources for their most efficient and effective use. The term is derived from the Greek word for generalship or leading an army.

Contemporary: This means of the present, age, modern, same time, period, co-existence in time.

Research Methodology
This study seeks to assess the challenges of the minority ethnic groups and their survival strategies in contemporary Nigeria with interest to the middle-belt ethnic groups. This is a descriptive study, in other words, this study is based on the information gathered through the questionnaires on the challenges and survival strategies of the selected minority ethnic groups of the middlebelt region.

The researchers utilized the questionnaire as an instrument for eliciting information from the respondents. The questionnaire will be divided into different sectors for easy management. The sections are described below accordingly.

Method of Data Analysis
According to Fox (1969), data are collected only from the sample, and we intend to use these sampled data to make inference about the entire population. The data were obtained through the process of administration of the questionnaire; this was done by converging the frequency of resources to percentage.

Furthermore, numerical data from "Likert" scoring techniques presented a simple bar chart to present the various problems and their frequencies as they evaluate the challenges of the selected ethnics as a minority group.

Percentage of Responses (PR) = $\frac{Frequency}{Number} + \frac{100}{1}$

Percentage of Response (PR) = $\frac{No\ of\ response}{No\ of\ questionnaire}$ $= \frac{100}{1}$

F = Frequency of responses or number of responses of clan heads and villages. N = Totalnumber of clan heads and villagers of the total number of the questionnaire. The data collected enabled the researcher to evaluate the percentage of various villagers' challenges as minority groups. The data earlier collected would be analyzed using the table and mathematical calculations. This primary data analysis will be done using a simple percentage.

Simple percentage involves determining the percentage of responses using the formula: $x/n \times 100/1$ where x = frequency of responses, N = Total number of responses.

Data Presentation, Analysis and Interpretation
This section deals with data presentation, analysis and interpretation, it serves as the core of research for the fact that it gives measurement and shapes to the raw data collected during the data collection process. It is also important in research of this nature because only accurate data analysis and interpretation could yield a useful and reliable conclusion.

The questionnaire is sectionalized into two but related perspectives. The first section comprises the socio-demographic characteristics of respondents while the second focuses on the respondent's recommendations. The data was analyzed based on the total outcome of responses provided by the respondents, using frequency distribution and a simple percentage rate.

Data Presentation
The data for this research are analyzed using the percentage approach, while analyzing the data gathered, the simple data tabulated and presentation will be applied. The total number of respondents and its makeup are shown under the "response" column while the total percentage and its make-up are being shown under the "%" column. The options to each question will be shown under the "option" column.

Determination of percentage of Returned and Unreturned Questionnaire
A total number of one hundred (100) copies of the questionnaire were distributed to both the communities, use for sampling the views of participants in evaluating the challenges of minority groups in their survival strategies in contemporary Nigerian societies using some selected ethnic groups in the middlebelt region, as a case study out of which eighty (80) copies of the questionnaire were returned as shown in the table below.

Basically, on a simple majority, 80% is a good representation of the view of the respondents on which inference can be drawn for this study. 70 out of the 80 respondents were not representing 87.5%, 10 representing 12.5% were female, while 30 respondents representing 7.5% were NCE holders, 20 representing 25% were B. A Holders, 20 representing 25% were B. ED holders and 10 representing 12.5% were other qualifications. 10 representing 12.5% are between the ages of 13-15,18.75% representing 15 respondents are of the 16-25, 35 representing 43.75% are between the ages of 22-30, while 20 representing 25% are between the ages of 37 and above, 70 respondents representing 87.5% are Christians while 10 representing 12.5% are Muslims.

Sex, Qualification, Age and Religion
Table 1: shows the sex, qualification, age and Religion of the respondents.

Sex of response		Qualifications				Age				Religion	
Male	Female	NCE	B. A	B.ED	Others	13-15	16-21	22-30	31 Above	Christianity	Islam
70	10	30	20	20	10	10	15	35	20	70	10
87%	12.5%			25%	12.5%	12.5 %	18.75 %	43.75%	25%	87.5%	12.5 %

Table 1.1:

Ethnic Groups	Questionnaire Location	Administered TQD	TQD	TQNR
Ninzo	Kaduna	10	10	--------
Koro	Nasarawa	10	8	2
Margi	Abuja	10	7	3
Bachama	Nasarawa	10	6	4
Kambari	Lapai	10	8	2
Igbira	Lokoja	10	8	2
Igede	Makurdi	10	7	3
Amwamwa	FCT	10	10	--------
Jarawa	Mararaba	10	8	2
Kwalla	Bukuru	10	8	2
Total	----	100	80	20

Mathematically, the percentage of the questionnaire returned and not returned can be determined.
Assume that:
TQD = Total Questionnaire Distributed
IQR = Total Questionnaire Returned
TQNR = Total Questionnaire Not Returned

    (i)   Percentage of questionnaire returned
    (ii)   <u>TOR x 100</u>i.e<u>80 x 100</u>

TQD100

(iii)   Percentage of questionnaires not Returned

TQNR x 100i.e20 x 100 = 80%

TQD   100

Analysis of the Respondents Data

Table 2: Showing respondents responses on their challenges of the minority groups and their survival strategies in contemporary Nigerian societies.

S/No	Items	Response				Total
		SA	A	N	D	
1	The middle-belt people are also of the minority tribe.	20	40	10	10	80
2	Colonialism contributed to the domination of the middle-belt people.	50	20	5	5	80
3	The middle-belt people are not comfortable as a minority group and are not properly represented in government.	40	30	2	8	80
4	Do you think the minority group have a sense of security?	20	30	10	20	80
5	The term minority group is not only used in the place of representation in governance.	30	35	5	10	80
6	Do you think the minority group enjoys same community development as the majority group?	5	10	5	60	80
7	Will power-sharing formula in government solve minority groups uproar when they are not discriminated upon?	40	30	--	10	80
8	The government should use force to quench the minority group agitation.	4	4	2	70	80
9	Will you support the continuous cry for recognition by the minority group?	55	20	--	5	80
10	Looking at the population of minority ethnic groups in the middle-belt (central) in Nigeria, should they be treated as a minority group?	10	20	10	40	

SA   =   Strongly Agreed

A   =   Agreed

N   =   Neutral

D   =   Disagreed

This Abbreviation applies wherever used in this work.

Discussion of Findings

Item 1: States the selected ethnic groups are also of the minority tribe, 20 respondents representing 25% strongly agreed, 40 respondents representing 30% agreed, 10 respondents representing

12.5% were neutral while 10 respondents representing 12.5% disagreed. From the analysis of the responses, the respondents believe that the middle-belt people are also a minority tribe.

Item 2: States; colonialism contributed to the domination of the middle-belt people, 50 respondents representing 62.5% strongly agreed, 20 respondents representing 25% agreed, 5 respondents representing 6.25% were neutral and 10 representing 6.25% disagreed. Base on the analysis, it is evident that colonialism immensely contributed to the domination of the middle-belt people and are treated as a minority group.

Item 3: States; the middle-belt people are not comfortable as a minority group and are not properly represented, 40 respondents representing 50% strongly agreed, 30 respondents representing 37.5% agreed, 2 respondents representing 2.5% were neutral while 8 respondents representing 10% disagreed. The analysis has shown that middle-belt people are not comfortable as a minority group and that they are not well represented in governance.

Item 4: States; do you think the minority ethnic groups have a sense of security when they are discriminated against? 20 respondents representing 25% disagreed; the data collected indicates that the minority ethnic groups have a sense of insecurity.

Item 5: States, the term minority ethnic groups is not only in the place of representation in governance. 30 respondents representing 37.5% strongly agreed, 35 respondents representing 43.75% agreed, 5 respondents representing 6.25% were neutral and 10 respondents representing 12.5% disagreed. The data analyzed shows that the term minority does not only use in the place of representation in governance.

Item 6: States; do you think the minority ethnic groups enjoy the same community development as the majority group? 5 respondents representing 6.25% strongly agreed, 10 respondents representing 12.5% agreed, 5 respondents representing 6.25% were neutral, 60 respondents representing 75% disagreed. From the responses, it is glaring that the minority ethnic group community do not enjoy the same development as that of the majority ethnic group.

Item 7: States; will the power-sharing formula in government solve minority uproar when they are not discriminated upon? 40 of the respondents representing 50% strongly agreed, 30 respondents representing 37.5% agreed, 0 respondents representing 0% did not indicate anything and 10 respondents representing 12.5% disagreed. From the data collected, it is clear that if the power-sharing formula is adopted, it will reduce the agitations by the minority ethnic groups being they are carried along in governance.

Item 8: States; government should use force to quench the minority agitation. 4 respondents representing 5% strongly agreed, 4 respondents representing 5% agreed, 2 respondents representing 2.5% remain neutral while 70 respondents representing 87.5% disagreed. This shows that the use of force should not be used to quench the minority agitation,

Item 9: States; will you support the continuous cry for recognition by the minority ethnic groups? 55 respondents representing 68.75% strongly agreed, 20 respondents representing 25% agreed, 0 respondents representing 0% were neutral no opinion and 5 respondents

representing 6.25% disagreed. This reveals that there will always be support for the continuous cry for recognition by the minority ethnic groups.

Item 10: States; looking at the population of the minority ethnic groups of the middle-belt in Nigeria, should they be treated as a minority group? 10 of the respondents representing 12.5% strongly agreed, 20 respondents representing 25% agreed, 10 respondents representing 12.5% were neutral while 40 respondents representing 50% disagreed. This shows that with the population of the minority ethnic groups of the middle-belt in Nigeria, the data believe that the minority ethnic groups should not be treated as a minority group.

Summary of Research Findings

From our analysis, the following findings are deducted.

   i) Because of the differences in Socio-cultural practices, history and backgrounds, minorities have to grapple with the issues of identity everywhere which gives rise to the problem of adjustment with the majority community.

   ii) Different identity and their small number relative to the rest of the society develops a feeling of insecurity about their life, assets and well-being. This may arise at times when the relationship between the majority and the minority communities in society are trained on their non-inclusion in governance etc.

   iii) The minority community in the society may remain deprived of the benefits of opportunities for development as a result of discrimination. This is because of the difference in identity, the minority community develops the perception of the sense of inequity.

   iv) The panacea to the continuous agitation of the minority group is to give them a sense of belonging by involving them in the daily running of the state and not by the usage of forced to curb their continuous cry for recognition.

   v) Lastly, the continued cry by the minority agitation may lead to civil unrest in a state as such, it is strongly advised that the term minority group should not feature in any state for peaceful co-existence and development of the state.

Analysis of the Respondents Data:

Table 2.1: Response on the Middle-Belt People as Minority Group:

Variable	Number of respondents	Percentage of Responses (%)		
		Yes	**No**	**I Don't Know**
Are the people of the middle-belt a minority group?	80	70 (87.5%)	10 (12.5%)	0 (0.0%)
Do you support the struggle by the minority ethnic groups for recognition?	80	65 (81.25%)	9 (11.25%)	6 (7.5%)
Do you think the minority ethnic groups are marginalized?	80	75 (93.75%)	5 (6.25%)	0 (0.0%)

Table 2.2: Minority Ethnic Groups Are Represented in Government

Variable	Number of respondents	Percentage of Responses (%)		
		Yes	No	I Don't Know
Are the minority ethnic groups represented in government?	80	10 (12.5%)	68 (85%)	2 (2.5%)
Are the minority ethnic groups recognized by the government?	80	30 (37.5%)	55 (68.75)	5 (6.25%)
Is the presence of government felt by the minority ethnic groups?	80	5 (6.25%)	75 (93.75%)	0 (0.0%)

Table 2.3: Is Confrontational Method a Solution to Curb Minority Problem?

Variable	Number of respondents	Percentage of Responses (%)		
		Yes	No	I Don't Know
Do you support the minority ethnic groups to be confrontational in pushing their demands to the government?	80	2 (2.5%)	78 (96.5%)	0 (0.0%)
Do you think the government should be confrontational in curbing the demands of minority ethnic groups?	80	4 (5%)	75 (93.75%)	1 (1.25%)
Will you support loggerheads by both groups as a means of resolution?	80	3 (3.75%)	77 (96.25%)	0 (0.0%)

Table 2.4: Will Power Sharing in Government Solve Minority Problem?

Variable	Number of respondents	Percentage of Responses (%)		
		Yes	No	I Don't Know
Is power-sharing formula the solution to minority cry?	80	35 (43.75%)	40 (50%)	5 (6.25%)
Is the cry by a minority for marginalization in government alone?	80	20 (25%)	60 (75%)	0 (0.0%)
Will minority agitation be solved by the provision of social amenities by the government?	80	77 (96.25%)	3 (96.75%)	0 (0.0%)

Table 2.5: Do You Support the Continuous Cry by the Minority for Recognition?

Variable	Number of respondents	Percentage of Responses (%)		
		Yes	No	I Don't Know
Do you think the minority ethnic groups should continuously cry for recognition?	80	55 (68.75%)	22 (27.5%)	3 (3.75%)
Will the cry for recognition by the minority ethnic groups solve her problem?	80	42 (52.5%)	35 (43.75%)	3 (3.75%)
Should government neglect the minority cry?	80	10 (12.5%)	70 (87.5%)	0 (0.0%)

Table 2.1: On either the middle-belt people are minority group, out of eighty respondents, 70 representing 87.5% said Yes, 10 representing 12.5% said No and 0 representing 0% said they don't know. On the support for the struggle by minority ethnic groups for recognition, 65 respondents representing 81.25% said Yes, 9 representing 11.25% said No while 6 respondents representing 7.5% said they don't know. The respondents were asked if minority ethnic groups are marginalized, 75 respondents representing 93.75% said Yes, 5 representing 6.25% said NO and 0 representing 0% believed that they don't know; which shows that the minority ethnic groups are marginalized.

Table 2.2: The item states: Is the minority ethnic groups represented in government? Out of 80 respondents, 10 representing 12.5% said Yes, 68 representing 85% said No and 2 representing 2.5% said they don't know. Are the minority ethnic groups recognized by the government? 30 respondents representing 37.5% said Yes, 55 respondents representing 68.75% said No while 5 respondents representing 6.25% said they don't know. Is government presence felt by the minority ethnic groups? 5 respondents representing 6.25% said Yes, 75 representing 93.75% said No and o representing 0% said they don't know. It shows that the minority ethnic groups are not recognized.

Table 2.3: This item states: If the minority ethnic groups should use confrontational method to push their demands to the government. 2 respondents representing 2.5% said Yes, 78 representing 97.5% said No while 0 representing 0% said they don't know. On either government should be confrontational in curbing the demands by the minorities; 2 respondents representing 5% said Yes, 78 representing 97.5% said No and 0 representing 0% said they don't know. Is Will having loggerhead by both groups a means of resolution? 3 respondents representing 3.75% said Yes, 77 representing 96.25% said No while 0 representing 0% said they don't know. The submission is the peaceful resolution should be sort for not using confrontations.

Table 2.4: On, if the power-sharing formula is the solution to minority cry, 35 respondents representing 43.75% said yes, 40 representing 50% said No and 15 representing 6.25% said they don't know. On if minority cry is for government alone, 20 respondents representing 25%

said Yes, 60 representing 75% said No and 0 representing 0% said they don't know. On if the minority cry will be resolved by the provision of social amenities and infrastructural development by the government, 77 respondents representing 96.25% said Yes, 3 representing 3.75% said No and o representing 0% said they don't know. Minority problem could be solved if attention is given to them by the government by providing social amenities etc.

Table 2.5: On, do you think the minority continuous cry for recognition will solve her problem? 55 respondents representing 68.75% said Yes, 22 representing 27.5% said No and 3 representing 3.75% said they don't know. Will the cry for recognition by the minority solve her problems? 45 respondents representing 52.5% said Yes, 35 representing 43.75% said No and 3 respondents representing 3.75% said they don't know. This implies that the continuous cry by the minority will draw government attention to her and will to a greater extent solve their problems. On should government neglect the minority cry? Out of 80 respondents, 10 representing 12.5% said Yes, 70 respondents representing 87.5% believed that government should not neglect the cry of the minority, while 0 respondents representing 0% said they don't know. By this submission, it is glaring that the majority think that the government should give listening ears to the minority and not neglect them.

Conclusion
The essence of this research work is to examine the challenges of minority ethnic groups in Nigeria and their survival strategy taking the middle-belt as a case study. The study was conducted to determine the extent to which the minority group is being discriminated against.

The research findings show that there is a continuous agitation of the minority ethnic groups seeking recognition and equal presentation in Governance. This implies that the ability of a country to move to the place of rapid development, the agitation of the minority should be diplomatically curbed. Since the attainment of independence in 1960, the ethnic minority groups in Nigeria were subjected to a majority suppression, founded on the ethnic-regional structure of the country. Many ethnic minority groups came up to project their grievances.

Though many gains have been registered in the promotion of minority interest, many problems abound also. Be that as it may, the problem of minorities in Nigeria is likely to go on unless a constructive solution of the ethnic minority problems is proffered through the promotion of equality and reciprocity in inter/intrastate relationships in Nigeria and equal opportunities with the majority groups are affected, only then will unity and democratic governance in the country will be guaranteed. The resolution of this problem will not only ensure improved local identification with governmental structures, but it will also make these institutions more responsive to the needs of their constituencies.

Recommendations
1. There is a need to address the leadership crisis. An attempt should be made to discourage the idea of choosing a leader because of his ethnic group, religion and political affinity. Whoever should serve in the best interest of Nigerians should be allowed to serve, especially at the highest seat (President) irrespective of his or her tribe, religion or political affiliation.

2. The cry by the minority concerning political exclusion and marginalization is an indication that theory is not matched with practice in respect of popular democracy, in Nigerian. This sustainable development upholds popular representation, equitable participation and distribution of wealth as opposed to the selection of candidates whose loyalty is to the party and not the people.

3. To solve the problem of unhealthy privacy, Nigeria should separate a truly federal system in which every section or even ethnic group is autonomous concerning its internal affairs.

References

Achebe, C. (1981).The Trouble with Nigeria. Fourth Dimension Publisher.

Adeniyi, O. (2011).Power, political and death: A front-row account of Nigeria under the late President Yar'Adua. Kachifor Publisher.

Anujwom, E. E. (1981).*Ethnic conflict and democracy in Nigeria: The marginalization Question.* Journal of Social Development in Africa.

Baarinsa, D. (Tell May, 2002).*Obasanjo and the Nigerian problem*.

Barzilai, G. (2003).Communities and law: Politics and cultures of legal identities. University of Nigeria Press.

Daniel, S. (2009). *Definition of national minorities in international law*. Journal of US-China Public Administration. Retrieved 04/01/2021. https:/www.edu.us_chinarelations.

Daniel, S. (2008). *National minorities in the law of the EC/EU*. Romanian Journal of European Affairs.   Retrieved   03/02/2021.   Retrieved   18/04/2021. https:/www.edu.romanianjournal

Diversity Training University International (2008). *Cultural diversity glossary of terms*.

Diversity Training University International Publications Division.

Galadima, L D. (2010).Brother against brother: The press, identify politics and conflict management in Northern Nigeria. Selidan Publisher.

Hadier, H. M. (1951). Woman as a minority group. Social Forces.

America's Other Minority (June 13, 2008). The Washington Times. Retrieved 11/03/2021. http://www.washingtontimes.com

Joe, R. F.(1984). Racial and ethnic relations. Practice Hall.

Larry, D. (1983).Class, ethnicity and democratic state: Nigeria 1950-1966. Comparative Studies in Society and History.

Miller, D. (2003).Political philosophy: A very short introduction, Oxford University Press.

Nnoli, 0. (1980.Ethnic politics in Nigeria: Enugu – Nigeria, Fourth Dimension Publisher Co. Ltd.

Ojigbo, 0. (1980).Nigeria returns to civilian rule. Jubijaria Publisher.

Osaghae, F. E (1993).Nigeria since independence: Crippled giant. Hurt and Company

Pal, M. (1977).Consensus and conflict in Nigeria societies: An introduction to sociology. Longman.

Suberu, R. (1991).The struggle for new states in Nigeria. African Affairs.

Ukpo, U. (1977).Ethnic minority problems in Nigerian politics. Liber Pryck A-B.