

Influence of Channels Tv Politics Today on Nigeria Democracy among Residents of Aniocha North Local Government Area in Delta State

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Abstract

This study was carried out to determine influence of Channels TV Politics today on Nigeria democracy among residents of Aniocha North Local Government Area. This study seeks to examine and x-ray the influence of channels TV Politics today on Nigeria democracy among residents of Aniocha North Local Government Area. Since the audience judges the information they receive from the media, it becomes imperative to find out: the influence of channels TV Politics today on Nigeria democracy among residents of Aniocha North Local Government Area of Delta State, Nigeria. The contributions of Politics today on channel television to the electioneering participation of Aniocha North Local Government Area residents, and ascertain the perception of Aniocha North Local Government Area residents towards Channels TV "Politics Today" programme in sustaining Nigeria's democracy. The Agenda setting theory and the Media Dependency Theory served as the theoretical frameworks for the study. The population of the study was 142,600 based on the 2006 National Population Commission. Four hundred (400) residents of Aniocha North Local Government Area of Delta State were used as sampled size using Taro Yamane formula. Questionnaire was used as the survey instrument for data collection. The findings of the study revealed that the programme is capable of sustaining resident's interest and participation in political activities. The study also concluded that the programme is a sharpener as it shapes political thoughts of audience and is capable of making or influencing them to take informed political decision.

Keywords: Audience, Perception, Public Affairs, Programmes, Democracy, Politics, Television

Introduction

Television broadcasting is a major source of information gathering and dissemination. Television broadcasting through its numerous programmes gives education, enlightenment, news and entertainment to heterogeneous audience simultaneously. Television is a dependent variable to the people (audience) for knowing and being acquainted with the happenings around them. That is why Baron (2012,p.21) says that " no matter how we choose to view the process of mass communication, it's impossible to deny that an enormous portion of our lives is spent in interacting with the Mass media" it's an overwhelming reality that the television is part of our daily lives. Audience relates to television broadcast through its programmes which are the products or content of the station. The social influence impacted on television viewers cannot be overemphasized. The uniqueness of the television is based on the audio-visual aspect of television which makes it an instrument for social change and the mobilization of citizens for public good. The broadcast programmes are aired in variety of way that makes it interesting. Programmes are like the oil with which the palm kernels are eaten. Everything about broadcasting is predicted on programmes. The programmes form the true essence of the existence of the television. We have news, children, and public affairs programmes etc as types of programmes. TV programmes are functions of what happens in the society. Everything that happens in the society forms the content / programmes of the television broadcast, it's the duty of the broadcast media to report the government to the society and report the society to the government. Broadcasting does not exist in isolation, but rather it happens with the active connivance of the society thereby functioning as the rare view mirror of the society. It picks up values, interprets the value and makes them the life of the society. Broadcast media as the fourth estate of the realm reveals government policies to the audience through her programmes which are informative, educative, engaging and as a watch dog to the society, television programmes x-rays topical issues and bring about public debate on television. It is cohesive for television stations like Channels Television that is one of the leading and renowned media house in Nigeria to disseminate information, news items, air development projects, political programmes and pitfalls of the executives, legislative and judicial arms of government in Nigeria. Channels television has shown great capacity in the above regards. However channels television have contributed and still contributing to the sustainability of democracy in Nigeria through its most celebrated television programme titled *politics today* which does a great deal in the areas of mobilization, information dissemination and educating the Nigeria citizens on the political happenstance around country. The media has as a matter of fact continued to play the intermediary role between the citizens and the political environment.

Statement of the problem

Politics today on Channel TV was originally created in 2002 by *channels TV* as a political program. Virtually all political parties in Nigeria including the ruling party, the All Progressive Congress (APC) have been interviewed on the program to elicit their perspectives on topical and national issues, yet Government control of print and broadcast media in many African countries leaves little scope for dissenting opinions. Such are the obstacles to media freedom. He who

pays the piper dictates the tune, as government owned media will never speak badly of the government even when she brings obnoxious policies, in the same vain some private media commercialize news just to make ends meet. It against these backgrounds that the researcher, in this study seeks to examine and x-ray the influence of channels TV Politics today on Nigeria democracy among residents of Aniocha North Local Government Area. Since the audience judges the information they receive from the media, it therefore becomes imperative *to find out the influence of channels TV Politics today on Nigeria democracy among residents of Aniocha North Local Government Area, more so to find out the contribution of Politics today on channel television to the electioneering participation of development of the Nigeria democracy. And to ascertain the perception of Aniocha North Local Government Area resident's towards Channels TV "Politics Today" programme in sustaining Nigeria's democracy.*

Conceptual Clarification

According to Channel TV website (www.channeltv.com), Channels Television is a Nigerian independent 24-hour news and media television channel based in Lagos, Nigeria. The parent company, Channels Incorporated, was founded in 1992, a year before the Nigerian government deregulated the broadcast media. It began broadcasting in 1995. Its primary focus is producing news and current affairs programs on Nigerian domestic issues. The Channel's mission is to act as a watchdog on governmental policies and activities. Operating in Nigeria's popular broadcast media market, Channels Television is the first and only thriving national TV brand, dedicated solely to the dissemination of news. It is the first Nigerian broadcaster to stream its television programming live for 24 hours. Channels television is the market leader in independent news in Nigeria. BBG-Gallup research shows Channels attracts 17% of Nigeria's adult population weekly, or nearly 20 million people. Channels has received the Best Television Station of the Year" award from the Nigerian Media Merit Award Trust thirteen of the last seventeen years. It was the first Nigerian and African media organization to stream its news and programs live, the first and only TV station in Nigeria with over 1,000,000 YouTube subscribers, and the first and only TV company in Nigeria with almost 7,000,000 social media followers, fans, and subscribers. As Channels already enjoys wide popularity for its English-language content and operates a professional news organization with a nationwide reporting network, it is positioned to extend its franchise into northern Nigeria in Hausa and subsequently into Southern Nigeria in Yoruba and Ibo languages. Its flagship programs, News at Ten, Sunrise Daily and Politics Today are the most popular and most watched television programmes in the Country. Channels TV takes enormous pride in its role of an unbiased, candid observer of events in Nigeria, and its indisputable position today, as market leader, in its chosen but exclusive sphere, is an eloquent testimony to its unceasing innovativeness and remarkable evolution. The company is home to award-winning and outstanding broadcasters who have remained one of its key strengths.

However Politic today is one of the most celebrated programs on channels TV. 'politics today' is a one hour weekly political show on channels television that seeks to bring a broader, more in depth perspective to issues in the political realm. It is also aimed at bringing viewers analysis from all the angles for a better understanding. We understand politics may be a complex business and the activities of the players may sometime appear complicated to comprehend; that's why we bring you the players themselves. Politics today is a show that x-rays recent significant development and activities in the world of politics in and around Nigeria. Political perspective of national issues are captured and analyzed in each edition. The program is anchored/ presented by Seun Okinbaloye

Concept of Democracy

Democracy as opined by Ekhatu E.Z (2024) is a form of government, in which the people have the authority to deliberate and decide legislation ("direct democracy"), or to choose governing officials to do so ("representative democracy"). In order words it is the government of the people, for the people and by the people. **Democracy** is a system of government in which the people have the right and authority to deliberate, contribute and decide legislation. This is also called direct democracy. Or the act of choosing governing official to lead for a period of time, this is also known as representative democracy

Democracy implies that the people who have been elected by the people are accountable in different ways to the people who voted or elected them. Every citizen has a role to play in the participation in governance. Citizen involvement in government is to ensure the hold the elected officials accountable.

According to Jones, (2004) Democracy, a derivation from demos, the common people, and cracy, the government, refers to government by the people, rule of the majority, or a government in which the supreme power is vested in the people and exercised by them directly or indirectly through a system of representation in which free elections, basic rights, and a free educational system are necessary: citizen participation in democracy is highly needed for the good of the country.

Aniocha North Local Government Area

According to the Delta State government (www.deltastategov.ng), Aniocha North Local Government Area of Delta State is the study area. Aniocha North local government area was created in 1991, it was carved out of the

old Aniocha local government. It has a total of eighteen towns with its administrative headquarters in Issele uku. It lies between longitude 060 141 and 060 301 North of the equator and Latitude 060 181 and 060 371 East of the Greenwich meridian. It is bounded to the North by Edo state, to the south by Aniocha south local government area of Delta State, to the West by Ika North-East local government area of Delta State and to the East by Oshimili North local government area of Delta State.

Aniocha North had a population of 142,600 by the 2006 population census. The towns that make up Aniocha North include; Issele-uku, Issele-azagba, Issele-mkpitime, Onicha-ugbo, Obior, Onicha-olona, Onicha-uku, Ezi, Obamkpa, Ugboodu, Ukwunzu, Ubulubu, Ogodor, Ugboba, Idumuogo, Idumuje-unor, Idumuje-ugboko and Aniofu. Aniocha north Local Government Area comprises three clans: Ezechima clan, Idumuje clan, and Odiani clan, with the largest clan being Ezechima, which encompasses 9 towns.

Furthermore, these clans are further divided into a total of 18 towns that make up the Aniocha Local government area.

(A). Ezechima clan

1. Issele Uku, LGA headquarters 2. Onicha-Ugbo 3. Issele-Azagba 4. Issele-Mkpitime. 5. Obior 6. Obomkpa 7. Onicha Olona 8. Ezi 9. Onicha-Ukwu

(B). Idumuje clan

10. Idumuje-Unor 11. Idumuje-Ugboko 12. Aniofu

(C). Odiani clan

13. Ubulubu 14. Ugboba 15. Ugboodu 16. Ugodor 17. Ukwu-Nzu 18. Idumuogo

Five of these communities, (Issele-uku, Issele-azagba, Issele-mkpitime, Onicha-ugbo and Obior) in Ezechma clan are enjoying semi urban status and are more affected by this waste management concerns. The other communities have shown all the potential attributes to develop into major urban centre in the next few years. The people of the area are predominantly peasant farmers, civil servants and artisans. Aniocha North local government has a tropical climate with two distinct seasons, the dry and wet seasons. Average rainfall is between 1800mm and 3000mm. average temperature is between 25°C to 32°C. The vegetation ranges from mangrove swamp along the coastal region and rain forest in the other places. Most of the communities are highly susceptible to erosion due to its nature of topography which is steeply particularly in the northern part of Aniocha north local Government area. The local government is situated on a highland and covered with brick-red clay soil. Some traces of solid rock can be found in the so many towns of the local government. The topography of the towns at the extreme north is also steeply and they are properly drained towards the river Ohe and Ewohimi River which are tributary of the River Niger. River Ohe and Ewohimi River is actually the boundary line between Aniocha North and the neighbouring Edo state and runs through the entire northern corridor of Aniocha North local government. Most of the communities on the northern part are highly susceptible to erosion due to the steeply nature of the topography around that area. Aniocha North has a tropical climate with two distinct seasons, the dry and wet seasons. For political purposes, Aniocha North is further divided into 10 federal wards structure and 20 DSIEC wards structure.

Characteristic features of Aniocha North Local Government Area are as follows

- Languages: The predominant languages spoken in Aniocha North LGA are Ibo, Idumuje, Onukumi and English. There are traces of bini words in the Ibo, olukumi and idumuoje languages spoken in Aniocha north. Words like idumu, okpohoba, Onwu, Ogbe, osioba, onoku etc
- Ethnic Groups: The main ethnic groups in the area, are the Delta Ibo people, comprising of a mix race with majority who laid claim to Benin migration and few from the east of the Niger. The area has a rich history, with several pre-colonial kingdoms. The Aniocha north people were once part of the Benin Empire.
- Landscape: Aniocha North LGA is mainly lowland, with an average elevation of 300-850 meters above sea level.
- Natural resources: There is a commercial deposit of kaolin, pure coal, Kalocalo stones etc in large quantity
- Economy: The main economic activities in the area are agriculture (crops like yam, corn, cassava, plantain, vegetables, Melon (egusi), palm oil, and rice), the production and sales of the native Akwa ocha (woven white clothe), trade (local markets and shops), petty business and different artisanal works
- Culture: Aniocha north is rich in culture and traditions, all 18 towns have a unique annual festival that strengthens the bond of the people. Popular festivals includes Inneh festival Ogbanigbe festival, Omelife Idumogo festival, and the New Yam Festival, celebrated after the harvest season. Part of the culture of Aniocha north people is the Akwaocha (white hand woven clothe) and Okpu ododo (red cap) and original traditional beads, (ejije, eshulu, aka,etc), Masquerades, traditional okanga dances, Olingba dances, and music. Aniocha north also has unique traditional songs and tunes
- Tourism: Some notable tourist attractions in Aniocha North LGA include the -Obi and Omu Palaces, which are UNESCO heritage sites found in every community in Aniocha north. Ohe Ugboodu river, mysterious Mkpitime

groove at Issele-mkpitim, Onichakodi shrine at lion junction Ogbekenu village in Onicha-ugbo town. Ezechime shrine at Obior town. Mount Ned Nwoko at Idumuje-Ugboko. Rivers, and many more in the various Kingdoms.

- Religion: Christianity and African traditional religions are widely practiced in the LGA, with many churches and shrines dotting the landscape. There is religious tolerance in the Local government. Moslems are however free to practice their religion without hindrance.

- Education: The LGA has several primary and secondary schools, including government-owned and Pockets of private institutions. Aniocha north is the host of Sport university of Nigeria at Idumuje-Ugboko and national Open University of Nigeria at Onicha-ugbo. There is also an NYSC orientation camp at Issele-uku. Its import to note that over 60 percent of the population of Aniocha north home and abroad are highly educated.

- Health: Health facilities in the area include primary healthcare centres and hospitals, providing basic healthcare services to the community. It's worthy to note that the equipments in the health care centres and few hospitals in the LGA are obsolete and they are under staffed. One can only hope that the current state government will at least upgrade the hospital and health care centres to state of the art just like federal medical center (FMC) Asaba

- Transportation: The LGA is currently accessible by earth roads and public transport, including buses and taxis. However, there is no organised transport scheme to cater for the transportation need of the communities for a better rural-urban integration, so that goods and services produced in the LGA can get to the market easily; The Asaba International Airport is also relatively close by, thereby serving as a gateway to the area. There are too many bad roads that require government attention. Aniocha north is in dare need of good roads, (gutters) drainage system, pipe borne water, street lights and steady electricity is needed urgently to fast track development and achieve the rural urban integration, in order to stop the rural to urban migration being witnessed in the LGA due to perceived inequalities.

Aniocha north has two constituencies, yet INEC and government has deprived Aniocha north people the right to have two houses of assembly members. This act is perceived as a total abuse of the democratic principle of separation of powers and a gross violation of section 6 of the 1999 constitution, this abuse has led significantly to the under development of Aniocha north.

Empirical review of related studies

Ezeoke and Innocent (2024) investigated Channels Television's "Politics Today" and Abia Residents' Interest in Political Participation. Anchored on the agenda setting theory and The Media Dependency Theory, the study employed survey research design. The findings of the study revealed that political participation among Abia residents was significantly high, primarily due to the influence of the "Politics Today" programme. The programme not only exposed residents to politics but also sustained their interest and participation in political activities. Based on the findings, it was concluded that exposure to Channels Television "Politics Today" influences the audience to participate in elections and other electoral processes. Based on the findings, it was recommended that the programme should be utilised as a means for political organisations to interact with residents through interviews, public service announcements and similar activities.

This study is relevant to this research as both emphases on politics today on Channels TV. The empirical study population is drawn from Abia while this study population is drawn from Aniocha North Local Government Area residents in Delta State. This looks at Channels Television's "Politics Today" and Abia Residents' Interest in Political Participation. While the current study streamlined its scope by examining influence of Channels TV *Politics Today* on Nigeria democracy among residents of Aniocha North Local Government Area. The onus in this research is to examine and determine the influence of channels TV *Politics Today* on Nigeria democracy among residents of Aniocha North Local Government Area.

Ekhatu E.Z (2024) also did a study on Audience Perception of Public Affairs Programme on Nigeria Democracy.

Anchored on political economy and media accountability theory, and using survey design method, the study found that politics today on channels television has contributed significantly to the development of Nigeria's democracy through the dissemination of information, education of audience about political issues. Finding also shows that the public perception of the issues frequently discussed on politics today on channels television are considered favourable, highly positive and signifies acceptance. The issues discussed on politics today as capable of contributing to a healthy and sustainable political climate in Nigeria. It further revealed, from the findings, that the programme provides a framework for the government to be responsible to the people. The study concludes that, the programme generally sensitize, educate, inform, mobilize, enlighten and persuade audience to take an informed political decision in future political decisions in Nigeria and time allocated to the programme is inadequate to effectively explore the various issues raised in the programme. The study recommends that more time should be allotted to the programme and the media as the fourth estate of the realm should be given free hand to operate and function as the watchdog of the society

The above study reviewed is relevant to the study, in the sense that they both lay emphases on the programme '*Politics Today*' on Channels television. While the previous work of Emmanuel Zelinjo Ekhatu (2024)

looks at Audience Perception of Public Affairs Programme on Nigeria Democracy: A Case Study of Politics Today on Channels Television. This current study streamlined its scope by examining only the Influence of Channel's TV Politics Today on Nigeria Democracy among residents of Aniocha North Local Government Area. However the study of E. Z Ekhato (2024) employed political economy theory and media accountability theory. While this current study is anchored on **Agenda setting** theory and media *Dependency* theory.

Theoretical Frameworks

- i. Agenda setting theory
- ii. Media dependency theory

Agenda setting theory, Baran and Davis (2006:316) point out that Bernard Cohen is credited with refining Lippmann's idea (that average people (residents of Aniocha North Local Government Area) just can't be trusted to make important political decision based on simplified picture) in agenda setting theory. Cohen (1963; 13) reaffirms that the media is significantly more than the purveyor of information and opinion. It may not be successful much of the time in telling people (residents of Aniocha North Local Government Area) what to think but it is stunningly successful in tell its readers what to think about. And it follows from this that not only on their personal interest, but also on the map that is drawn for them by the writers, editor's presenters of programmes and publisher of the paper they read, especially by the educated residents of Aniocha North Local Government Area and their LGA leadership taking advantage of the media. Therefore, the agenda setting theory further confirm that media can help propagate and preserve societal values and drive the residents of Aniocha North Local Government Area by the kind of coverage given to the LGAs by the media. The media should be seen helping the residents to shape political reality. Therefore, the residents of Aniocha North Local Government Area must use the media to communicate to people and LGA must work hand in hand with the media in order to assert its rightful place in the society. The media should bring all the activities with regards to examining and determining the influence of channel's TV *Politics Today* on Nigeria democracy among residents Of Aniocha North Local Government Area in the society to line light. According to Asemah (2011) cited in Olaoye, Enyindah & Asemah (2022 p.300) agenda setting refers to the ability of the mass media to influence the level of the public's awareness of issues as opposed to their knowledge about those issues. The theory assumes that the media sets the agenda for the public to follow. Therefore, editors, newsroom staff and broadcasters play an important part in shaping the public agenda in choosing and displaying news. Media audiences learn about a given issue and how much importance to attach to the issue from the amount of information in a news story and its position (Anwumabelem & Asemah, 2021). Cohen (1963), cited in Asemah, Nwammuo & Nkwam-Uwaoma (2017) asserts that the media may not be successful in telling people what to think. Still, they are stunningly successful in telling them what to think about. Wimmer & Dominick (2000, p. 408) argued that "agenda setting by the media suggests that the public agenda or what kind of things people discuss think or worry about is powerfully shaped and directed by what the media choose to publicise. Anwumabelem & Asemah, (2021) stated that one of the issues with the agenda-setting theory is that it is difficult to measure despite numerous compelling reports to the contrary presented Channels Television has been able to shape their opinions, perceptions and decisions they take on political matters surrounding the nation Nigeria.

Media dependency theory is a systematic approach to the study of the effects of mass media on audiences and of the interactions between media, audiences, and social systems. It was introduced in outline by the Sandra Ball-Rokeach and Melvin DeFleur in 1976. Media Dependency theory conceives of dependency as a relationship in which the fulfillment of one party's needs and goals is reliant on the resources of another party. A main focus of the theory is the relationship between media and audiences. In industrialized and information-based societies, individuals tend to develop a dependency on the media to satisfy a variety of their needs, which can range from a need for information on a political candidate's policy positions (to help make a voting decision) to a need for relaxation and entertainment.

In general, the extent of the media's influence is related to the degree of dependence of individuals and social systems on the media. Hence media dependency theory was chosen to examining and determining the influence of channel's TV *Politics Today* on Nigeria democracy among residents Of Aniocha North Local Government Area. Two of the basic propositions put forward by Ball-Rokeach and DeFleur are as follows: the greater the number of social functions performed for an audience by a medium (e.g., informing the electorate, providing entertainment), the greater the audience's dependency on that medium, and the greater the instability of a society (e.g., in situations of social change and conflict), the greater the audience's dependency on the media and, therefore, the greater the potential effects of the media on the audience.

There are potentially three types of effects that result from an audience's dependency on the media: cognitive, affective, and behavioral. Cognitive effects are changes in an audience's attitudes, beliefs, and values, including changes brought about by the media in its role in political "agenda setting." Affective effects include, for example, the development of feelings of fear and anxiety about living in certain neighbourhoods as a result of over exposure to news reports about violent events in such areas. An example of a behavioral

effect is “deactivation,” which occurs when individual members of an audience refrain from taking certain actions that they would have taken had they not been exposed to certain messages from the media. Not voting in political elections may be such an effect. It fit as theoretical basis for this research “the influence of channel’s TV *Politics Today* on Nigeria democracy among residents Of Aniocha North Local Government Area”

Since its inception, media dependency theory has generated many cross-disciplinary studies. It has also served well as a theoretical basis for research in the domain of political-campaign communication, in which the relationship between the mass media, the electorate, and political candidates is a central focus.

Methodology

The survey design method was used for this study. The population of the study is drawn from residents of Aniocha north local government areas of Delta State. The researcher randomly selected Aniocha north out of other local government areas in Delta states. The selected Aniocha north local government areas (Delta north), population is 142,600 (Population Density, 2022). The sample size for this work is 400, which is drawn from residents of Aniocha north local government areas of Delta State. The sample size figure of 400 was derived using the sample size determination formula proposed by Taro Yamane. The sampling techniques employed in the collection of data were the simple random sampling and the purposive techniques. The simple random technique was adopted to allow the researcher give all respondents in the defined population equal and independent chance of being selected for the sample.

The research instrument for collecting data for this study is the questionnaire. The instrument for this study was administered to 400 (four hundred) residence of Aniocha north local government area, with Issele-uku as the head quarter. Aniocha north local government area is made up of 18 [eighteen] towns. The towns in Aniocha north are: Issele-uku, Issele-azagba, Issele-mkpitime, Onicha-ugbo, Obior, Onicha-olona, Onicha-uku, Ezi, Obamkpa, Ugboodu, Ukwunzu, Ubulubu, Ogordor, Ugboba, Idumuogo, Idumuje-unor, Idumuje-ugboko and Aniofu.

To reach the populace, the researcher distributed the 400 copies of questionnaires among the 10 (ten) federal wards in Aniocha local government area.

The researcher with the aid of one research assistant gave 40 copies of the questionnaires to 40 respondents in 10 wards. The research study covered all the wards in Aniocha north local government area. The completed copies of the questionnaires were collected on the spot upon completion. This study's results were provided in tabular form and evaluated using frequency and simple percentage

The data collected from the field is presented as follows.

Section A: Bio Data

Table 1: Showing Gender of respondents

Gender of Respondents	Frequency of Response	Percentage of Response (%)
Male	256	64 %
Female	144	36 %
Total	400	100 %

Source: Field Survey, 2022

From the data collected, majority of the respondents are males, this is because the male respondents are 256 representing 64% of the total respondents while the number of female respondents are 144, representing 36% of the total number of respondents.

Table 2: Showing the Age Distribution of Respondents

Age Range	Frequency of Response	Percentage of Response (%)
18-22 years	12	3
23-29 years	24	6
30-36 years	164	41
37 years and above	200	50
Total	400	100

Source: Field survey, 2022

Data collected from the field revealed that majority of the respondents are those who fall under 37 years and above as they are 200 representing 50% of the total number of respondents. Respondents who fall under the age range of between 18 – 22 years representing 3% of the total numbers of respondents are the least as they were only 12 of them.

Table 3: Showing the Marital Distribution of Respondents

Marital Status	Frequency of Response	Percentage of Response (%)
Single	10	2.5 %
Married	360	90 %
Separated	20	5%

Divorced	10	2.5%
Total	400	100%

Source: Field Survey, 2022

Among the respondents, the married are more. They are 360 representing 90% of the total number of respondents. While the singles and divorced are ten (10) respondents each representing 2.5% each, those that are separated are twenty (20) representing 5% of the total number of respondents.

Table 4: Showing the Religion Distribution of Respondents

Religion of Respondents	Frequency of Response	Percentage of Response (%)
African Traditional religion ATR	26	6.5 %
Christian	360	90%
Muslim	14	3.5 %
Total	400	100%

Source: Field Survey, 2022.

Majority of the respondents surveyed are Christians as 360 of them representing 90% of the total number of respondents identify with the religion. While 24 respondents representing 6% of respondents are Muslims, only 16 respondents representing 4% of the total number of respondents practice African traditional religion.

Table 5: Showing Distribution of Respondents per wards

Wards	Frequency of Response	Percentage of Response
OBIOR./ONICHA-UKU ward 1	40	10
ONICHA-UGBO WARD2	40	10
WARD 3	40	10
WARD 4	40	10
WARD5	40	10
WARD6	40	10
WARD 7	40	10
WARD 8	40	10
WARD 9	40	10
WARD 10	40	10
Total	400	100

Source: Field Survey, 2022.

The above table gives a breakdown of the population of ANIOCHA NORTH local government area

Table 6: Showing the Extent to Which Respondents Watch Politics Today

Items	Frequency	Percentage
Large Extent	300	75%
Low Extent	90	22.5%
Not Exposed	10	2.5%
Total	400	100%

Source: Field Survey; 2022

Majority of respondents agreed that they are exposed to the programme titled politics today on channel television.

Table 7: Showing the contribution of Politics today on channel television to the electioneering participation and development of the Nigeria democracy

Item	Perception Values	SA	A	D	SD	Total	X	Decision
		4	3	2	1			
i.	Issues discussed on politics today could and would contribute to a healthy political climate in Nigeria	380 1520 95%	15 45 3.75%	5 10 1.25%	0 0 0	400 1575/400 100%	4.9	Accepted
ii.	Issues discussed on political today would not contribute to a healthy political climate in Nigeria	- - -	04 12 1%	22 44 5.5%	374 374 93.5	400 430/400 100%	1.0	Rejected

iii	Politics today on channels and shaped audience political thought and decorum in decision making processes	390 1560 97.5%	05 15 1.25%	0 0 0	05 05 1.25%	400 1580/400 100	3.95	Accepted
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Source: Field survey, 2022

Table 10 shows that to a high extent, that Aniocha North Local Government Area respondents perceive the issues discuss on politics today as being capable of contributing to a healthy and sustainable political climate in Nigeria. It also helps to shape the thoughts of residents of Aniocha north in making political decisions and participating in electioneering process.

Table 8: Showing Aniocha North local Government Area respondents perception on the extent channels TV politics today programme give detail political news coverage in sustaining Nigeria's democracy

Item	Perception Value	SA	A	D	SD	Total	*	Decision
		4	3	2	1			
i.	Politics today on channels TV gives detailed political news	360 1440 90%	15 45 3.75%	10 20 2.5%	15 15 3.75%	400 1520/400 100%	3.8	Accepted
ii.	Political on channels TV does not give detailed political news	05 20 1.25%	05 15 1.25%	390 780 97.5%	0 0 0%	400 815/400 100%	2.03	Rejected
iii	The programme is fair and unbiased	300 1200	90 270	5 10	5 10	400 1490/400	3.7	Accepted

Criterion mean = 3.0 Source: Field survey 2022

From the data collected from the field as shown in the table 11 above, the respondents strongly agreed that politics today on channels television gives detailed political news. Majority of respondents strongly agreed that the programme politics today on channels television is fair and unbiased. This implies that politics today on channels television do generally detailed political news.

Table 9: Showing the influence of channels TV Politics today on Nigeria democracy among residents of Aniocha North Local Government Area.

Item	Influence Value	SA	A	D	SD	Total	*	Decision
		4	3	2	1			
i.	The programme has increased political awareness and public enlightenment among residents	316 1264 79%	28 84 7%	25 25 6.25%	31 31 7.75%	400 1404/400 100%	3.5	Accepted
	The programme is capable of sustaining residents interest and participation in political activities	300 1200	90 270	5 10	5 10	400 1490/400	3.7	Accepted

The table shows that the programme has increased political awareness and public enlightenment among residents. The programme is capable of sustaining resident's interest and participation in political activities

Discussion of findings

R Q 1: What is the contribution of Politics today on channel television to the electioneering participation and development of the Nigeria democracy?

From the various data presented as shown on the various tables establishes the fact that the contributions of politics today on channels TV are enormous. From the data collected from the field as shown in table 6, show that large extent of Aniocha north respondents are exposed to politics today on channels TV, respondents have access and

are exposed to the programme politics today. Hence it encourages residents of aniocha local government participation in Nigeria's democracy, which is a clear indication that programme titled politics today on channels TV contributes and continues to contribute positively to development of democracy in Nigeria. This finding is closely related and supported by the empirical study of Ezeoke and Innocent (2024), who employed the agenda setting theory and The Media Dependency Theory to drive home the extent the programme has influenced their interest in political participation. Finding reveals that the programme not only exposed residents to politics but also sustained their interest and participation in political activities. Politics today as shown from the data collected from the field as presented in table seven (7) reveals that majority of respondents strongly agreed that issues discussed on politics today could and would contribute to a healthy political climate in Nigeria, this is because politics today on Channels Television provides various shades of enlightenment on political issues and stories as they unfold in Nigeria. The programme also provide a platform for various political perceive through interviews, debates and responses. This is just as it provides an opportunity for political actors and actresses (Political Key Player) to air their view. And more so the programme provides a forum and political parties to debates their qualification for office before the audience.

Politics today has contributed to the political enlightenment of the audience (see table 7,8, & 9), The tables shows that politics today has contributed to the development of Nigeria. The data collected revealed that the programme has contributed to the development of Nigerians democracy through the dissemination of information, education of the audience about political issues, enlightenment of the audience who are the potential electorates, media advocacy, subtle mobilization of the electorates and general sensitization of the media audience who are potential voters in elections.

Politics today on channels TV help masses to make informed political decisions. The Program Politics today on channels TV increase the level of awareness on national issues. Bearing in mind the 2023 general election and the high level of awareness and participation among eligible voters

RQ2: what is Aniocha North Local Government Area respondent's perception on the extent channels TV politics today programme detail political news coverage in sustaining Nigeria's democracy?

The answer to this question can be proffered from Table 8, which shows that the Aniocha North LGA audience is favourably disposed to the issues that are discussed on politics today? This is because they see the issues are timely, controversial, highly challenging and debatable. Therefore the public perceptions from the data collected from the field as shown in the table 11 above, the respondents strongly agreed that politics today on channels television gives detailed political news. Majority of respondents strongly agreed that the programme politics today on channels television is fair and unbiased. This implies that politics today on channels television do generally detailed political news. And Respondents perceive the presenter as not biased and they agreed that political analysis/question are not one sided. The programme is committed to presenting the news with proven facts

RQ3: What is the influence of channels TV Politics today on Nigeria democracy among residents of Aniocha North Local Government Area?

The programme has increased political awareness and public enlightenment among residents. More so the programme is capable of sustaining resident's interest and participation *in political* activities. Respondents are also of the view that the programme sharpener and shape political thoughts of audience and is capable of making or influencing them to take informed political decision in the past and future elections especially during the 2023 general elections in Nigeria.

Conclusion

Channels TV politics today programme continues to hold significant influence in the lives of residents of Aniocha North Local Government Area especial among the politically exposed. Hence the study x-rays and examines the influence of the programme on Aniocha North Local Government Area residents. Based on the finding it encourages residents of aniocha local government participation in Nigeria's democracy, which is a clear indication that programme titled politics today on channels TV contributes and continues to contribute positively to development of democracy in Nigeria. The researcher concluded that programme has increased political awareness and public enlightenment among residents. More so the programme is capable of sustaining resident's interest and participation *in political* activities. The study also concluded that the programme sharpener and shape political thoughts of audience and is capable of making or influencing them to take informed political decision. Moreover in conclusion that politics today on channels television do give generally detailed political news. And the presenter is not biased and they agreed that political analysis/question are not one sided. The programme is committed to presenting the news with proven fact

Recommendations

Researcher recommends that the programme should be utilised as a means for political organisations to interact with residents through interviews, phone in, public service announcements activities and similar audience in making voting decision and having a public opinion about politics. More time should be allocated to the programme.

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