

Social Studies Teachers' Perceptions of Benefits of Economic and Social Integration in the South-western States of Nigeria

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ABSTRACT The study investigated the perception of social studies teachers on social and economic integration benefits in the South-west, Nigeria. This study adopted descriptive survey research method. The sample of this study consisted of 486 social studies teachers, 162 secondary schools and 54 local government areas which were randomly selected in 18 senatorial districts in all 6 South -western States in Nigeria. Questionnaire was the major instrument developed and used for the study. The result of the findings showed that there is a positive multiple relationship among the two independent variables (social integration benefits and economic integration benefits) and social studies teachers perception ($R = .538$). This implies that the two variables are relevant and could influence social studies teachers' perception. Also, 28.6 percent of the total variance in teachers' perception is due to the social integration and economic integration benefits variables (Adjusted $R^2 = .286$). This means that the remaining 71.4 percent is due to other factors and residuals. The findings being investigated for in this study is a continued and collective social and economic integration development strategy consciousness that would allow the people living in South-west Nigeria to enjoy social and economic integration benefits to the fullest while knowing their perceptions about it.

INTRODUCTION

The protectorates of the Southern and Northern Nigeria were amalgamated in 1914 by the Fredric Lord Lugard (Joseph 2014). What is today known as Nigeria is made up of different ethnic groups. In the North Hausas, Fulanis, Kanuris, Nupes and others exist and in the South, Yorubas, Ijaws, Ibos, Ibibos, Kalabaris among others coexist (International Labour Organizations and African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights 2009). Nigeria is a combination of different people of various social backgrounds and beliefs (Hofstede 1983). For how long do people have to wait before it is known that internal integration of regions will stimulate national cohesion in Nigeria and will place the Nation on a better pedestal?

The late Sage, Chief Obafemi Awolowo, of blessed memory, lifted the South-west to a high pedestal and became the cynosure of all eyes (Fenske 2008). Also, Dr. Nnamdi Azikiwe and Alhaji Tafawa Balewa took marvellous actions that transformed the Eastern and Northern Regions respectively (Ezera 1959). This made people to be proud of their regions and concentra-

tions were on development al projects. Corruption and other vices were low. The level of accomplishment made people from other regions to rush to the Western Region in search of greener pastures and Ibadan, the capital city of the defunct Western Region became the greatest city in West Africa. Lagos, the former capital city of Nigeria, is also in this region. The first television station in African was established in Ibadan. The city is also proud of many institutions and centre of learning.

Statement of the Problem

Though, over the years, the successive Nigerian South-west governments have been trying to integrate their state economies both socially and economically but there has been a reduced awareness of the people in the region. This is induced by the perception of social studies teachers to teaching social and economic integration and its benefits in Nigerian schools in the region. There has not been a proper orientation and effective mobilization of people most especially the students.

In order to spread the message of social and economic integration and its benefits in the region as regards the perception of social studies teachers, there is a need for us to examine, investigate and ascertain the perception of social studies teachers to socio-economic integration benefits in the South-west Nigeria so that the pace of integration and declining peoples' attitude towards this integration will be improved thus, the focus of this study is to ascertain the perception of social studies teachers on social and economic integration benefits in the South-west Nigeria.

Objective of the Study

- ♦ To investigate the perception of social studies teachers on the benefits of social and economic integration.
- ♦ To establish the relationship between the benefits of social and economic integration in Nigeria.

Research Questions

- ♦ What is the perception of social studies teachers about benefits of social and economic integration of South-west?
- ♦ What are the benefits derived generally by the people from socio-economic integration in Nigeria?

Literature Review

Theoretical Framework

Social and Economic Integration in the South-west Nigeria

Orebe (2011) opined that, in the case of South-west Nigeria, regional integration must be seen as a leveraging factor on our communalities even where it is not exactly a silver bullet, it will allow us escape the stranglehold to which an unprofitable union has shackled us for close to a century.

Considering the political and economic policies of Nigerian Federal Government, it is necessary to find an alternative so that the impending doom will be averted. Each of the six geopolitical regions should adopt more practical approaches. Why not begin with the South-west zone, which was patterned after Lagos, being the former capital city of Nigeria. The South-

western political zone of Nigeria is made up of Oyo, Lagos, Ogun, Ondo, Osun and Ekiti State (Guichaoua 2010; Nigeria Tribune 8 August 2016; My Destination 2016). Though the Yorubas form the majority of the people in the South-west zone, other tribes like Igbos, Edos and so forth form part of the population.

The South-west is accommodating. A Lagos resident needs not to be a Yoruba, but rather that individual who lives in Lagos, works in Lagos and adds to the advancement of Lagos in all ramifications (Gutkind 1969). Numerous non-Yoruba individuals who have settled for a considerable length of time in various parts of Yoruba land, have a Yoruba dialect with its fragile lingos, have between hitched and regularly had eaten with relish the prohibited natural products (generally saved for indigenes) even, the resonating stanzas in Yoruba tunes and their 'marvellous verses' are no more strange to their ears. The Nigerian South-western zone is luxuriously honoured with fertile land, energetic and strong individuals (both indigenes and non-indigenes).

Benefits of Social Integration

Social combination is a profoundly alluring result that mirrors the presence of social union (Heyns and Stefiszyn 2006). Social orders are in an ideal situation in the event that they advance social coordination through comprehensive approaches that diminish monetary imbalance and neediness, and advance maintainable and impartial improvement.

In developed nations, the objectives of steady, beneficial and nice work have been immovably grounded in social contracts and have in this manner impacted work and welfare strategies in significant ways. According to Baker (2009), European and African social popular governments have been occupied with accomplishing financial objectives that bring steadiness and social union both inside every individual country and inside the European and African Union. Interestingly, the creating scene has confronted tireless hindrances in its endeavours to achieve these twin objectives regardless of its late monetary development. In fact, social integration:

- ♦ creates a stable and decent job opportunities for traditionally under-represented persons and groups,
- ♦ Enhances conflict resolution, peaceful co-existence and common social value to solve societal problems, and

- ♦ Paves way for an exchange of ideas and policies for effective administration in the society.

Benefits of Economic Integration

It is very important to stress that economic integration is a free access to business sectors of the other part states (Cerny 1997). Since the phase of the basic business sector, particular local assets are made to reallocate incomes from more created states to less created ones. Along these lines, improvement of the part states is evened out, with less created ones growing speedier, prompting an expansion of their income per capital and in this manner obtaining more from more created accomplice states. In addition, the following are the other economic integration benefits:

- ♦ *Political Cooperation:* A group of states can have significantly greater political influence than each of them would have individually. This integration is an essential strategy to address the effects of conflicts and political instability that may affect the region. Useful tool to handle the social and economic challenges associated with globalization.
- ♦ *Employment Opportunities:* As economic integration encourages trade liberation and leads to market expansion, more investment into the country and greater diffusion of technology, it creates more employment opportunities for people to move from one state to another to find jobs or to earn higher pay. For example, industries requiring mostly unskilled labour tends to shift production to low wage zones within a regional cooperation.

Social Studies Teachers' Perception of Social and Economic Integration

Provincial integration is for those who have thoughts to let 'philanthropy starts at home' that is South-west, by exhibiting that, some areas can be more noteworthy than the level expected and this will spare Nigeria a ton of assets and make her a better country (Ekanola 2006). The old Western Nigeria amazingly grabbed the opportunity from the mid-1950s under the competent and flawless authority of Chief Obafemi Awolowo and made the region a model of good

administration and improvement in Nigeria as well as Africa at large.

Apart from the free instruction programme which was intended for the freedom of the general populace from the bondage of numbness, the region likewise embarked on the most goal-oriented and thoroughly considered infrastructural improvement in Africa, bringing about such eminent achievements such as good road network, educational institutions, health facilities and a host of other infrastructural facilities. Other gargantuan projects such as the Liberty Stadium, the best of its kind in West Africa then, the quarter century Cocoa House, the tallest building of its sort in West Africa at the time, the first TV station in Africa, University of Ife (now OAU) among others sprang up. The point here is that, improvement at the sub-national level has dependably and unquestionably been the impetus of advancement and improvement at the national level. This pattern of improvement must be accentuated. Indeed, even from the start, the constituent units or parts of today's Nigerian alliance has not generally considered or seen her advancement from the same point of view (Afigbo 1991; Harneit-Sievers 2002).

METHODOLOGY

This study adopted descriptive survey research method because of its nature of population and variables, the perception degree of social studies teachers on social and economic integration benefits in the South-west Nigeria was determined. Also, opinion of the respondents and their data collected were considered necessary as facts which form a good basis for theoretical concepts and analysis of this study. The research questions were answered on the basis of the information given by the respondents which is the major responsibility of the design adopted that will enhance the pragmatic solutions to the research questions. Study population consisted of junior secondary schools social studies teachers in all secondary schools in six South-western states in Nigeria. Simple Random Technique was adopted for this study in selecting Local Government Areas (LGAs) and secondary schools where this study was carried out. Three LGAs were selected in each state's senatorial districts while three secondary schools were also selected in each Local Government Area (LGA). The researchers made use of three social studies teachers in each school.

The sample for this study consisted of 486 social studies teachers, 162 secondary schools and 54 LGAs selected from 18 senatorial districts in all 6 South-western States in Nigeria. The instrument used for this study was a self-developed and structured questionnaire by the researchers for the selected secondary schools social studies teachers. The research instrument had two major sections, Section A which contained the items on the demography of the respondents, items include; sex, marital status, educational qualification, year of work experience and present status. Section B which contained series of questions structured along the four point Likert scaling systems for each variable with options ranging from Strongly Agree, Agree, Strongly Disagree, to Disagree. Data were analysed using descriptive and inferential statistical tools.

RESULTS

On the research question that sought to know the view of social studies teachers about the benefits of socio-economic integration in the south-west Nigeria, results show that the larger percentage of social studies teachers indicated high perception via their responses to the items in the questionnaire due to their previous experiences and benefits derived from integration.

On the research question that sought to know the benefits derived generally by the people from social and economic integration in the south-west Nigeria, it was discovered that people living in south-west Nigeria were deriving more benefits through social and economic integration which stimulates investors' confidence through peaceful environment as well as bringing development to the south-west compared to other regions in Nigeria this may be as a result of presence of peaceful co-existence in the south-west compared to the Northern and Eastern parts of Nigeria.

On the research question that sought to know the relationship between the benefits of socio-economic integration and the perception of social studies teachers in the south-west Nigeria, it was discovered that there was a positive and significant relationship between the benefits of social and economic integration and the perception of social studies teachers in the south-west Nigeria because most people believed that absence of social and economic in-

tegration will have negative effects on south-west integration benefits thus, people living in south-west tends to embrace peaceful living.

However, demographic variables' records of the respondents did not influence their perception, each of them responded based on their respective perceptions about each item on the questionnaire and not by their sex, marital status, educational qualification, years of experience or present status.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

Demographic Variables

Table 1 shows that 229 of the respondents were male which represent 47.1 percent of the total respondents while the remaining 257 were female which represent 52.9 percent of the total respondents.

Table 1: Gender

<i>Sex</i>	<i>Frequency</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
Male	229	47.1
Female	257	52.9
Total	486	100.0

From Table 2 show that 105 of respondents were married which represent 21.6 percent of the total respondents while the remaining 381 are single which represent 78.4 percent.

Table 2: Marital status

<i>Marital status</i>	<i>Frequency</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
Married	105	21.6
Single	381	78.4
Total	486	100.0

From Table 3, 58 of the respondents were NCE (National Certificate in Education) holders which represents 11.9 percent, 52 have HND (Higher National Diploma) which represents 10.7 percent, 119 have B.Ed. (Bachelor of Education) which represents 24.5 percent of the total respondents while 72 respondents bagged B.Sc. (Bachelor of Science) or B.A which represents 14.8 percent. 86 respondents also have PGDE (Post Graduate Degree in Education) which represents 17.7 percent and 99 respondents are M.Sc. holders which represents 20.4 percent of the total respondents.

Table3: Educational qualification

<i>Educational qualification</i>	<i>Frequency</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
NCE	58	11.9
HND	52	10.7
B.Ed.	119	24.5
BS.C/ B.A	72	14.8
PGDE	86	17.7
M.Sc.	99	20.4
Total	486	100.0

From Table 4, 68 of the respondents had (0-5) years of experience which represents 14 percent, 119 have (6-10) years represents 24.5 percent, 139 had (11-15) years represents 28.6 percent of the total respondents while 101 respondents had 16-20 years of experience which represents 20.8 percent, while 59 respondents had 21 and above years of experience which represents 12.1 percent of the total respondents.

Table 4: Year of experience

<i>Year of experience</i>	<i>Frequency</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
0-5	68	14
6-10	119	24.5
11-15	139	28.6
16-20	101	20.8
21 and above	59	12.1
Total	486	100.0

From Table 5, 37 of the respondents were assistant teachers which represents 7.6 percent of the total respondents, 403 respondents were teachers which represents 82.9 percent, 25 were vice principals representing 5.1 percent while 21 respondents were principals representing 4.3 percent of the total respondents.

Table 5: The current status of the respondents

<i>Current status</i>	<i>Frequency</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
Deputy teacher	37	7.6
Teacher	403	82.9
Vice principal	25	5.1
Principal	21	4.3
Total	486	100.0

The Relationship between the Benefits of Social and Economic Integration and Social Studies Teachers' Perception in the South-west, Nigeria

From Table 6, item 1 shows that 24.5 percent and 56.8 percent strongly agree and agree that

south-west is the region to emulate because of its enormous integration benefits, 7.4 percent and 11.3percent strongly disagree and disagree. Table 6 further reveals the mean value of 2.06 which was ranked 10th and falls within acceptance region. Hence, the researcher concludes that south-west is the region to emulate because of its enormous integration benefits.

Item 3 shows that 70.2 percent and 29.8 percent strongly agree and agree that there are human resources for integration in the South-west that will enhance development and benefits, none strongly disagree and disagree. The table further reveals the mean value of 1.30 which was ranked 13th and falls within acceptance region. Hence, the researcher concludes that there are human resources for integration in the South-west that will enhance development and benefits.

Item 5 shows that 14.0 percent and 38.3 percent strongly agree and agree that there is an effective harmonisation of these resources which enhances integration benefits, 25.5 percent and 22.2 percent strongly disagree and disagree. The table further reveals the mean value of 2.56 which was ranked 5th and does not fall within acceptance region. Hence, the researchers conclude that there is not effective harmonisation of these resources which enhances integration benefits. The value of standard deviation of each discussed item has made the mean value applicable.

With the result findings given above, while considering the percentages and figures (results) of items in Table 6, it shows that optimistic and important association connecting the benefits of social and economic integration and the view of social studies teachers in the south-west Nigeria are critically observed.

The study revealed that a larger percentage of observable facts from the social studies teachers were relevant and important towards the benefits of social and economic integration in the south-west Nigeria due to their impacts in the region, people have been deriving benefits from integration though it may not be as expected.

Social integration enables persons, regardless of their attributes, to enjoy equal opportunities, rights and services that are available to the so-called mainstream group. Social integration also a means through which people interact, connect and validate each other within a community, people experience mental, emotional and physical benefits when they believe they

Table 6: Showing the relationship between the benefits of social and economic integration and social studies teachers' perception in the south -west, Nigeria

S. No.	Items / Statements	SA (%)	A (%)	SD (%)	D (%)	Mean S.D	SD	Rank Mean
1	South-west is the region to emulate because of its enormous integration benefits	119 (24.5)	276 (56.8)	36 (7.4)	55 (11.3)	2.06	0.88	10 th
2	Integration promotes freedom of people from social restrictions.	137 (28.2)	269 (55.3)	60 (12.3)	20 (4.1)	1.92	0.75	12 th
3	There are human resources for integration in the south-west that will enhance development and benefits	341 (70.2)	145 (29.8)	-	-	1.30	0.46	13 th
4	There are natural resources for integration in the south-west that will enhance development and benefits	338 (69.5)	148 (30.5)	-	-	1.30	0.46	13 th
5	There is an effective harmonisation of these resources which enhances integration benefits	68 (14.0)	186 (38.3)	124 (25.5)	108 (22.2)	2.56	0.99	5 th
6	There is a skilful harmonisation of these resources which enhances integration benefits	61 (12.6)	185 (38.1)	122 (25.1)	118 (24.2)	2.61	0.99	4 th
7	South-west governments are visionary about social and economic integration and its benefits	46 (9.5)	262 (53.9)	94 (19.3)	84 (17.3)	2.44	0.89	7 th
8	South-west governments are perceptive about social and economic integration and its benefits	40 (8.2)	304 (62.6)	88 (18.1)	54 (11.1)	2.32	0.78	9 th
9	Government policies in the south-west increase and support integration benefits.	40 (8.2)	245 (50.4)	98 (20.2)	103 (21.2)	2.54	0.92	6 th
10	Integration promotes freedom of people from political restrictions.	50 (10.3)	154 (31.7)	187 (38.5)	95 (19.5)	2.67	0.90	3 rd
11	Integration promotes freedom of people from economic restrictions.	45 (9.3)	392 (80.7)	33 (6.8)	16 (3.3)	2.04	0.54	11 th
12	People have not been deriving any benefit from social and economic integration in the south-west	22 (4.5)	66 (13.6)	293 (60.3)	105 (21.6)	2.99	0.73	1 st
13	Absence of social and economic integration will not have negative effects on south-west integration benefits	17 (3.5)	99 (20.4)	286 (58.8)	84 (17.3)	2.90	0.71	2 nd
14	Benefits of social and economic integration make socio-economic activities of the people in the south- west monotonous	87 (17.9)	186 (38.3)	180 (37.0)	33 (6.8)	2.33	0.85	8 th

are contributing and accepted as part of a society, it makes them have positive perception about integration.

Research question 3 shows that people living in south- west Nigeria are deriving benefits through social and economic integration which helps to stimulate investors' confidence through peaceful environment as well as bringing development to the south -west compared to other regions in Nigeria.

A favourable social and physical environment is an important element for any successful economic integration process in any nation or region, as taught by the successes of the promoters of the ASEAN (Association of South-East Asian Nations) or the European Union (EU).

The South-West zone, Nigeria is richly blessed with fertile land, enthusiastic and hard-working individuals (both indigenes and non-

indigenes). A visit to any Yoruba urban area will show the industrious expertise of the indigenes. Lagos, a cosmopolitan city is a good example of a city where people from different ethnic groups coexist contributing their quotas to the economic advancement of the state.

Findings of study also observed that there is a positive and significant relationship between the benefits of social and economic integration and the perception of social studies teachers in the South-west Nigeria because some percentages of social studies teachers perceived that there is an effective harmonisation of both human and natural resources in the south-west Nigeria which enhances integration benefits while some disagree.

The key factor of regional economic integration is that, the economic resources of a region or trading bloc agree to undertake a progressive

removal of barriers to free movement of goods, services, capital, and labour. Effective reduction or removal of tariffs and non-tariff barriers will obviously lead to economic integration within the region by facilitating easy flow of goods.

CONCLUSION

The possibility of an integrated socio-economic development lies fundamentally in having leaders seized with a long term strategic vision of the future. It is such leadership which Chief Obafemi Awolowo exemplified, the results of his long-term and forward thinking, meticulous planning and implementation remain evident and enhance socio-economic integration in the South-west till date.

He implemented a people-oriented development agenda that allowed the people of the then Western Nigeria not just to enjoy life more abundantly within the bounds of their available resources but also to leave something behind that would enable successive generations to enjoy the good life through general integration.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Economic integration offers tantalising prospects for rapid growth. If followed through, the plan by South-west states for regional rail, power distribution and water transportation networks as well as joint agricultural programmes could help re-enact the hectic pace of development achieved in the old Western Region from the mid-1950s to 1966.

Efforts should be stepped up by the six states that make up the zone to collaborate on road and rail networks, dams, agricultural training schemes, industries and trade. Priority should be given to commodity exchanges, land charges, taxation such that businesses will easily move capital, funds and labour within the geo-political zone. The zone should agree to jointly lease the federally-owned river basin development authorities that each covers these states to develop agriculture and hydroelectric power.

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