

SOCIO-CULTURAL FACTORS AS CORRELATES OF WOMEN'S PARTICIPATION IN POLITICS IN NIGERIA

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ABSTRACT

The study examined socio-cultural factors as correlates of women's participation in politics in Ekwusigo L.G.A of Anambra State. Two research questions were posed to guide the study. The population for the study was 2,236 card carrying women members of 5 dominant political parties in Ekwusigo L.G.A. However, 224 women participated in the study. A 22-item structured questionnaire was face-validated by three experts. The Cronbach Alpha method was used to determine the internal consistency of the questionnaire items and the co-efficient of 0.90 and 0.92 were obtained. The data obtained was analysed. The results revealed that socio-cultural factors that hinder women's participation in politics include: poverty, limited education and illiteracy, unemployment, prevalence of masculine model of political life and fear of slander and verbal abuse or physical violence against women during or after election among others. Also the result revealed that empowerment of women through formal education and vocational training, media advocacy on women's rights and elimination of all kinds of violence and intimidation during election among others will enhance the political participation of women. Recommendations were made based on the findings of the study.

KEYWORDS: Socio-Cultural Factors, Ekwusigo L.G.A, Cronbach Alpha, Analysed, Correlates