INFLUENCE OF CULTURAL INTOLERANCE DIMENSION OF ETHNOCENTRISM ON YOUTHS' POLITICAL ACTIVISM IN NIGERIA

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ABSTRACT: The study examined influence of cultural intolerance dimension of ethnocentrism on youths' political activism in Nigeria. Four hundred and thirty-six (436) youths from Eastern (Enugu & Port Harcourt), Western (Lagos and Ibadan), Middle-Belt (Abuja and Makurdi), and Northern (Kano and Kaduna) sociocultural regions of Nigeria served as participants in the study. They comprised 221 (50.7%) males, and 215 (49.2%) females. Participants' age ranged from 21 to 39 years with mean age of 30.84 and 5.78. Cluster and incidental sampling techniques were used. Two instruments were used for the study: Cultural Intolerance Ethnocentrism Scale and The Activism Orientation Scale. The study adopted cross-sectional design and Univariate Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) as appropriate design and statistics. The study showed that ccultural intolerance ethnocentrism had significant influence on Nigerian youths' political activism at $(F_{1,427}) = 13.54$, p<.05. The finding implies that the belief in one's own ethnic group or culture can have profound implications on political activism. Based on the following, the study recommends that there is need to encourage youth's activists to learn about and appreciate diverse cultures to help reduce ethnocentric attitudes. This encouragement should provide valuable insights into different perspectives and foster a more inclusive mindset for youth's impactful political activism in Nigeria.

KEYWORDS: Cultural Intolerance, Ethnocentrism, Youths', Political Activism, Nigeria

INTRODUCTION

In Nigeria, youth have been at the forefront of political action and transformation. Political activism is a lifestyle and for young people, it gives them a sense of meaning rather than only generating results. "Political activism" refers to the range of nonprofessional and voluntary activities performed by citizens that are primarily aimed at influencing decisions and outcomes at any level of the political system (Nygård et al. 2015).

Cultural intolerance of ethnocentrism is often seen as "the main source of regional, interstate and inter-ethnic conflicts in Africa. It promotes struggles over resources through social exclusion and ethnic violence" (Fayemi, 2021, p.177). It is also at the heart of, stereotyping, discrimination, or xenophobia in the world. Ethnocentrism is a mental and psychological state (concept), which revolves around the belief that one's ethnic group is much more important than the ethnic groups of others (Osolase, 2014).

Cultural intolerance dimension of ethnocentrism in its broadest context includes

racism, ethnicity, regionalism, segregation, tribalism, cultural diversity and other areas that involve surreptitious (secret) deals among people.

Most Nigerians (especially from Southern Nigeria), believe that the Hausa-Fulani of Nigeria are power-drunk, who believe that they own Nigeria, as far as political power is concerned, and that due to their religion (Islam), they are violent and terrorists. On their part, the Northerners view Southern Nigerians as less godly and not fit to rule Nigeria (Joe-Akunne et al., 2018). These stereotypes have over the years, led to the breakdown of communication and noncultivation of necessary friendships across the regions. It has also acted as a blockade to meaningful national discourse and collective identity.

Statement of the Problem

Nigerian youths face a host of daunting challenges. Perhaps due to corruption that permeates many facets of public life, hindering economic growth and development. Unemployment rates are high, particularly among young people, leading to frustration and

disillusionment (Ifedayo, 2023). Additionally, inequality and political unrest continue to affect Nigerian society, exacerbating these problems.

In the face of these challenges, some youth and young-at-heart activists including Aisha Yesufu, Very Darkman and Omoyele Sowore have continued to put the government on its toes. They are motivated by a desire to create a better Nigeria for themselves and future generations. Drawing from a range of backgrounds, these activists employ diverse strategies, from peaceful protests and advocacy to grassroots organizing and social media campaigns. In recent years, Nigerian youths have been at the forefront of demanding social and political change, with the #EndSARS movement serving as a powerful example which sparked dialogue, garnered international attention, and pushed for much-needed changes in the country (Ifedayo, 2023).

Sadly, despite their remarkable achievements, Nigerian youth activists face many challenges. The political elite often resist change with ethnic and tribe sentiments, and the activists themselves encounter threats to their safety and freedom. The bureaucratic and sometimes corrupt systems within Nigeria make it difficult to enact systemic change.

It becomes important to study the influence of cultural intolerance dimension of ethnocentrism on political activism in Nigeria. Consequently, the following purpose and objectives were explored.

Purpose of the Study

The objective of the study was:

1. To examine the significant influence of cultural intolerance dimension of ethnocentrism Nigerian youths' political activism.

Research Question

The study shall be guided by the followings research question:

1. Would cultural intolerance dimension of ethnocentrism significantly influence Nigerian youths' political activism?

Significance of the Study

The theoretical insights gained from studying ethnocentrism and political activism can inform interdisciplinary approaches. By drawing from sociology, psychology, political science, and cultural studies, researchers can create a holistic understanding of how ethnocentrism shapes political landscapes. This interdisciplinary perspective can lead to innovative methodologies and frameworks that enhance our comprehension of societal issues.

Practically, by studying cultural intolerance of ethnocentrism alongside political activism, politicians can gain insights into how these attitudes affect social unity. Understanding the dynamics of cultural intolerance of ethnocentrism can help foster dialogue and collaboration among different ethnic groups, promoting inclusivity and reducing tensions.

Operational Definition of Study Terms

Cultural Intolerance Dimension of Ethnocentrism: This entails not tolerating other people's way of living because it is not in consonance with one's own culture or ethnicity as a frame of reference, as measured by the Cultural Intolerance Dimension of Ethnocentrism Scale by Neuliep, and McCroskey (2013).

Political Activism: This refers to citizen propensity to participate in social action behaviours, ideological positions, and movement issues, as measured by the Activism Orientation Scale (AOS) by Corning and Myers (2002).

LITERATURE REVIEW

Cultural intolerance dimension of ethnocentrism in a multicultural society like Nigeria include genocide, obnoxious policy of segregation (apartheid), slaver, promotion of violent conflict/war, false assumptions, hindrance to learning other culture, promoting discrimination in employment, development, appointments, allocation of projects, and many more.

Political Activism and Policy Change

Political activism plays a crucial role in shaping policy change by influencing **Raising Awareness and Shaping Public Opinion** public opinion, pressuring policymakers, and creating a sense of urgency for legislative or regulatory action. It involves a range of activities—such as protests, demonstrations, advocacy campaigns, lobbying, and community organizing—that aim to bring attention to specific issues and demand action from those in power. Here are several ways in which political activism contributes to policy

change (Bennett, & Segerberg, 2013; Cohen & Arato, 2020; Della-Porta, & Diani, 2020; Prasad, 2022).

Shifting the Policy Agenda: Political activism can shift the policy agenda by making certain issues more prominent and pressing. Activists work to elevate specific problems to the forefront of political discussions, influencing which issues receive attention and resources.

Building Coalitions and Networks: By bringing together diverse groups with shared interests, activists can amplify their voices and increase their influence.

Institutionalizing Change: Sustained activism can lead to the institutionalization of policy changes, creating new norms, laws, or institutions that ensure the continuation of reforms. Activists often work to establish regulatory bodies, oversight committees, or enforcement mechanisms that support and uphold new policies.

Influencing the Political Process: Activists can influence the political process by running for office or supporting candidates who align with their causes. By gaining positions of power, activists can directly shape policy decisions and ensure that their issues are represented in government.

Using Digital Platforms and Technology: The rise of digital platforms and technology has revolutionized political activism, making it easier to mobilize supporters, coordinate actions, and spread information. Social media, in particular, has become a powerful tool for activists to reach a global audience and drive their messages. Digital platforms enable activists to organize and mobilize quickly, reaching supporters across geographical boundaries.

Engaging in Grassroots Mobilization: Grassroots mobilization is a foundational aspect of political activism that involves organizing and empowering local communities to advocate for change. This approach emphasizes the involvement of ordinary people in the political process, fostering a bottom-up movement that can drive significant policy reforms. Grassroots campaigns often focus on building local networks, educating community members, and mobilizing them to participate in advocacy efforts.

Leveraging Art and Culture: Art and culture play a significant role in political activism by using creative expressions to convey messages, inspire action, and provoke thought. Activists often use various forms of art—such as visual arts, music, theater, and literature—to raise awareness and engage the public on important issues. Artistic expressions can capture the emotional essence of social and political issues, making them more relatable and compelling.

Utilizing Legal Strategies: Legal strategies are another important aspect of political activism, involving the use of the legal system to challenge injustices and promote policy change. Activists often engage in litigation, legal advocacy, and strategic lawsuits to address systemic issues and push for reforms. Litigation can be a powerful tool for addressing legal and constitutional violations.

Building International **Solidarity**: Building international solidarity involves connecting with global movements organizations to address transnational issues and promote policy changes across borders. Activists often collaborate with international allies to strengthen their efforts and amplify their impact. Global issues such as climate change, human rights abuses, and economic inequality require coordinated international responses. Activists can build solidarity by forming alliances with organizations and movements in other countries, participating in international campaigns, and sharing strategies and resources.

Theoretical Review Cultural Intolerance Dimension of Ethnocentrism

Realistic Group Conflict Theory: Realistic Group Conflict Theory (RGCT), also known as Realistic Conflict Theory, was developed by social psychologists Muzafer Sherif and his colleagues in the 1966. RGCT posits that intergroup conflict arises from competition over scarce resources, whether those resources are tangible (like jobs, housing, or land) or intangible (like power, status, or recognition). This competition can lead to prejudice, discrimination, and ethnocentrism as groups vie for control and advantage.

This theory is functionalist and argues that ethnocentrism is useful for reaching a group

goal. If intergroup competition is essential for reaching the goal, then ethnocentrism and outgroup hostility would emerge in the groups that compete. On the other hand, if intergroup cooperation is essential for reaching the goal, then intergroup harmony would emerge.

Research generally confirms the basic tenets of this theory. Field experiments (Sherif, 1966) showed that when groups compete for a goal that can be achieved by only one group, certain aspects of ethnocentrism, such as group cohesion, preference, and overestimation of ingroup performance, and increase rapidly. Reviewing experimental studies, Turner (1981) argued that intergroup competition increases both intragroup and intergroup centredness. Thus, people tend to give more importance to their groups when it is under threat.

Political Activism

Political Process theory: Political process theory is an approach of activism that is heavily influenced by political psychology derivative of social psychology. It argues that success or failure of social movements is affected primarily by political opportunities. Social theorists Eisinger (1973), Tarrow (1998), Meyer (2004) and McAdam, Tarrow and Tilly (2001) are considered among the most prominent supporters of the theory. Three vital components for movement formation are the following:

Insurgent Consciousness: Certain members of society feel deprived, mistreated, and have grievances directed at a system that they perceive as unjust. When a collective sense of injustice develops, it motivates people to become movement members (Cragun & Cragun, 2006). Movement activists do not choose their goals at random, but the political context stresses certain grievances around which movements organize (Meyer, 2004).

Organizational Strength: Similar to the main argument of the resource mobilization theory, the argument here is that the social movement must have strong and efficient leadership and sufficient resources (Cragun & Cragun, 2006). The political opportunity theory has much in common with the related resource mobilization theory, particularly when it is seen as focusing on mobilization of resources external to the movement (Tarrow, 1998).

Political Opportunities: if the existing political system is vulnerable to a challenge, it creates an opportunity for others, like the movement members, to issue such a challenge and try to use this opportune time to push through a social change (Cragun & Cragun, 2006). The vulnerability can be the result of: Increasing political pluralism, Decline in repression, Division within elites, particularly when it grows to a point where some support organized opposition and Increased political enfranchisement (Cragun & Cragun, 2006).

Political process theory argues that the actions of the activists are dependent on the existence or the lack of a specific political opportunity (Meyer, 2004). There are various definitions of political process, but Meyer (2004) stresses that of Tarrow (1998): "consistent – but not necessarily formal or permanent – dimensions of the political struggle that encourage people to engage in contentious politics".

Empirical Review Cultural Intolerance Dimension of Ethnocentrism

Anyaegbunam et al. (2024) investigated predictive of role religiosity ethnocentrism on cyber-aggressive behaviour among undergraduates of three randomly selected Federal Universities in Southeast Nigeria. A total number of 1,011 undergraduates were randomly selected from the student population. They comprised 397 male (39.3%) and 614 female students (60.7%), with ages ranging from 16 to 40 years, a mean age of 22.7 vears and a standard deviation of 2.89. Three selfreport survey instruments, namely the Religious Affiliation Scale (RAS), the Ethnocentrism Scale (E.S.) and the Cyber-aggression Typology Questionnaire (CATQ) were utilized to collect data for the study.

Multiple regression statistics was employed for data analysis using SPSS Statistics v25. The result showed that religiosity did not predict cyber-aggression among undergraduates (β =.27, P >.05). However, ethnocentrism predicted cyber-aggression among undergraduates (β =.28, P<.01). Thus, this study is related with the present study in the aspect of topic and statistics but differs in population, and design because Anyaegbunam et al. (2024)

investigated the predictive role of religiosity and ethnocentrism on cyber-aggressive behaviour using undergraduates' sample as subjects, while the present study investigated the predict influence of ethnocentrism on political activism with Nigeria sample.

Milić et al. (2023) determined the tendencies of final-year medical students from Osijek, Croatia, towards emigration after graduation and after specialization, as well as their specialty preferences and to investigate whether introversion and ethnocentrism have an impact on attitudes toward leaving the country in search of employment elsewhere. A crosssectional study was conducted among final-year (6th year) medical students from Osijek, Croatia, in two consecutive academic years - 2014/2015 2015/2016. Students completed questionnaire sociodemographic about characteristics, academic and scientific performance, preferences about their future medical career, the medical specialty of choice, emigration tendencies after graduation and specialization, ethnocentrism and introversion.

Results showed that there were 124 students who participated in the study (response rate: 96%). A quarter of participants agreed that they are likely or very likely to emigrate after graduation (25.0%) or after specialization (23.39%). Variables associated with the intention to emigrate were specialty preferences (students that prefer endocrinology and psychiatry had the highest emigration tendencies), academic year in which the participants were included (students included in 2014/2015 were more prone to emigrate after specialization, p = 0.060), prior involvement in scientific projects (students with experience in scientific projects expressed higher tendencies to emigrate after graduation, p = 0.023), and ethnocentrism (higher ethnocentrism was associated with a lower tendency towards emigration after specialization, Spearman's rho = -0.191).

Therefore, this study is related with the present study in the aspect of topic, and statistics but differs in population, design, location and country because Milić et al. (2023) determined whether introversion and ethnocentrism have an impact on attitudes toward leaving the country in search of employment elsewhere using final year students, while the present study investigated the

predict influence of ethnocentrism on political activism with Nigeria sample.

Political Activism

Eckstein et al. (2024) examined the activating effect of the national elections in Germany (2009), Czech Republic (2010), and Sweden (2014) on young voters' political engagement. Young voters (Germany: N = 388: Czech Republic: N = 196, and Sweden: N = 246) were surveyed several months before (T1), shortly after (T2), and several months after (T3) the respective national elections. For all three countries, the results revealed significant increases in political engagement during the election period, followed by significant declines after the election. The post-election declines were smaller compared to the election increases, suggesting a persistence of elections' activating effects.

With the exception of German young adults who were less engaged or first-time voters and showed higher increases in engagement during the election period, there were few interindividual differences. Therefore, this study is related with the present study in the aspect of population and statistics but differs in topic, design, location and country because Eckstein et al. (2024) examined the activating effect of the national elections in Germany, Czech Republic, and Sweden on young voters' political engagement, while the present study investigated the predict influence of ethnocentrism on political activism with Nigeria sample.

Obiagu, Machie and Ndubuisi (2023) investigated the attitudes of university students toward political participation, as well as four other selected democratic values – freedom and liberty, human rights/human rights protest, corruption resistance, and separation of powers in Nigeria. A descriptive survey design, with a tool entitled 'Attitude towards Democratic Values Questionnaire (ADVQ)', was used to collect data from randomly selected 250 undergraduate students (male = 120; female = 130) from a university in Nigeria. Six research questions were answered using descriptive statistics in guiding the study.

The results showed that university students reported an unwillingness to protest human rights violations as well as the tendency to

accept bribes and campaign for a wrong political candidate for financial gains, despite general findings that indicated positive attitudes towards all selected democratic values among university students. The result of the variance analysis conducted to ascertain the influence of gender on attitudes towards democratic values showed that female students scored significantly higher than their male counterparts in all measured democratic principles, excepting human rights and separation of powers.

Shola (2021) examined the relationship between youth political participation, good governance, and social inclusion in Nigeria. Using a quantitative approach, 1,208 youth aged 18-35, selected from Nairaland, participated in the study. Data gathered was analyzed with Spearman Correlation Coefficient and the result indicates that there is significant positive relationship between youth political participation and good governance in Nigeria (r s, (1206) = .615, p < .001) and that there is significant positive association between youth political participation and social inclusion in Nigeria (r s, (1206) = .875, p < .001).

Thus, this study is related with the present study in the aspect of population and statistics but differs in topic, design, location and country because Shola (2021) examined the relationship between youth political participation, good governance, and social inclusion in Nigeria, while the present study investigated the predict influence ethnocentrism on political activism with Nigeria sample.

Omotayo and Folorunso (2020)investigated use of social media for political participation among youths in Oyo state, Nigeria; specifically, the types of social media used for political participation, the types of political activities social media are used for, as well as factors influencing use of the media for political participation. Survey research design was adopted for the study. Data was collected through questionnaire from 322 youths in three Nigerian universities. Findings revealed that social media was highly used by the youths for political participation. Facebook (98.8%) was found to be the most used, followed by Whatsapp (93.8%), Instagram (60.2%), Twitter (55.3%), and Yahoo Messenger (50.9%) respectively.

Majorly, the youths used social media to participate in political advocacy (95.3%), political campaigns (91.9%), communicating with politicians (90.7%), political discussions (87.3%), monitoring and reporting electoral malpractices (85.1%), public consultations (80.4%), joining interest groups that engage in lobbying (64.9%), blogging about political issues (64.9%), and writing letters to public officials (51.2%). Perceived usefulness, perceived ease of use, subjective norms, and computer self-efficacy significantly influence use of social media for political participation, which suggests that these factors could be considered when promoting use of social media for political participation among youths.

HYPOTHESES

The following hypotheses formulated guided the study:

1. Cultural intolerance dimension of ethnocentrism will not significantly influence Nigeria youths' political activism.

METHOD

Participants: Four hundred and thirtysix (436) youths from Eastern (Enugu & Port Harcourt), Western (Lagos and Ibadan), Middle-Belt (Abuja and Makurdi), and Northern (Kano and Kaduna) sociocultural regions of Nigeria served as participants in the study. They comprised 221 (50.7%) males, and 215 (49.2%) females. Participants' age ranged from 21 to 39 years with mean age of 30.84 and 5.78. Cluster and incidental sampling techniques were used. Educational level indicated that 181(41.5%) had B.Sc. and above, 106(24.3%) had HND, 37(8.5%) had NCE/OND, and 112(25.7%) had SSCE. Marital status indicated that 41(9.4%) were married, 319(73.2%) were single, 38(8.7%) were separated, and 38(8.7%) were divorced.

Occupational status showed that 260(59.6%) were employed and 176(40.4) were unemployed. Religion data showed that 325(74.5%) were Christians, 37(8.5%) were Traditionists, 37(8.5%) were Islam, and 37(8.5%) had no religion affiliation. Ethnicity data showed that 78(17.9%) were Yorubas, 38(8.7%) were Hausas, 186(4.7%) were Igbos, 32(7.3%) were Igalas, 32(7.3%) were Ijaws, 35(8.0%) were Urhobos, and 35(8.0%) were Itshekiris. Further

data showed that 51(11.1%) were from Abuja, 42(9.6%) from Lagos, 36(8.9%) from Asaba, 80(18.3%) from Enugu, 137 (31.4%) from Awka, and 87(20.0%) from Ontisha. Cluster and incidental sampling techniques were adopted for the study. Cluster sampling was adopted for the regions, while incidental sampling technique was used to sample the participants for the study because the technique was based on participant's availability, accessibility, and willingness.

Instruments: Two instruments were used for the study: Cultural Intolerance Dimension of Ethnocentrism Scale by Neuliep, and McCroskey (2013) and The Activism Orientation Scale (AOS) by Corning and Myers (2002). Cultural Intolerance Dimension of Ethnocentrism Scale was a 22-item scale developed by Neuliep, and McCroskey (2013) and designed to assess people's perception and interpretation of another culture's features according to their own culture. It was designed as a 5-point Likert-type scale (5 = Strongly Agree, 4 = Agree, 3 = Neither Agree nor Disagree, 2 = Disagree, and 1 = Strongly Disagree). The subscales have Cronbach alphas of 0.86. The researcher conducted a pilot test with 56 adults in Awka city and reported Cronbach alphas of 0.84 (Mean: 20.41 and SD of 3.95. The instrument had divergent validity coefficient of 0.42 with Cultural Tolerance Scale.

Activism Orientation Scale (AOS) was developed by Corning and Myers (2002) and is a 35-item scale that assessed activist propensity across social action behaviours, ideological positions, and movement issues. 28 items capture Conventional Activism and 7 items capture High-Risk Activism which includes actions such as putting one's own safety at risk or committing an illegal action as a form of protest. Total scores summed across items can range from 0 to 105; higher scores indicate a greater willingness to engage in activist behaviours. To get high-risk activism score, sum your answers to items 5, 14, 16, 17, 21, 28, 35.

This should give a number between 0 and 21. To get conventional activism score, subtract high-risk activism score from answer to Question 1. This should give a number between 0 and 84.

Please indicate how likely you are to participate in the following behaviors." Response options ranged from extremely unlikely -0, unlikely -1, likely -2, and extremely likely -3. The scale has internally consistent with Cronbach's alphas ranging from 0.81 (M = 2.68, SD = 1.15) for Conventional Activism and 0.94 (M = 2.96 SD =1.2) for High-Risk Activism. The researcher conducted a pilot test with 56 adults in Awka city and reported Cronbach alphas of 0.87 (Mean: 86.89 and SD: 5.27) for the overall scale. The researcher also conducted validity test for the scale, and discriminant validity of .39 was confirmed while correlating Activism Orientation Scale with Ethnocentrism Scale by Neuliep, and McCroskey (2013).

Procedure: The researcher conducted a pilot study to enable her enhance the reliability and validity of the instruments. The participants for the test were drawn from Awka city. However, before the study, the researcher recruited six research assistants that were residing in different cities and trained them on the sensitivity of the study, and how to administer the instruments. The training was conducted online via Whatsapp Video call. After the training, the researcher and the assistants proceeded to collect data for the study.

To get the attention of the participants, the researcher and the trained assistants engaged with a self-introductory letter that explained the objectives of the study and how to respond to the questionnaire. On the whole 450 copies of questionnaire were administered for the study, 445 were retrieved and 436 were answered appropriately. Ethically, the researcher and assistants secured informed consent of the participants before copies of the questionnaire were administered to them. More so, the participants were assured of confidentiality and anonymity of their identity and responses.

Design and Statistics: The study adopted cross-sectional design for the study. Univariate Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) to determine whether the independent variable on their own or in combination of its dimensions have an effect on dependent variable.

RESULT

Table 1: Descriptive Statistics of Ethnocentrism (Cultural Intolerance, Cultural Superiority, and Cultural Tolerance) on Political Activism

Independent Variables	Levels	Value System: Mean	SD	N
Cultural Intolerance	High	87.89	5.53	193
	Low	86.12	4.93	243
	Total	86.90	5.27	436

Table 2: Uni-variate Analysis of Ethnocentrism (Cultural Intolerance, Cultural Superiority, and Cultural Tolerance) on Political Activism

Source	Dependent Var.	T111. SS	df	MSq	F	Sig.	ES
Cultural Intolerance	Political Activism	351.31	1	351.31	13.54	.000	.231
Error	11080.08	427	25.95				
Total	3304506.00	436					

P< 0.001

From Table 1 and 2 above, the result indicated that the cultural intolerance dimension of ethnocentrism will not significantly influence Nigeria youths' political activism was rejected at $(F_{1,427}) = 13.54$, p<0.001, with mean differences and standard deviation within the cultural Intolerance: M= 87.89, SD= 5.53 (high) and M= 86.12, SD= 4.93 (low), N=436. This means that there is a significant difference between those with high cultural Intolerance ethnocentrism and those with low cultural intolerance ethnocentrism on political activism at 23.1%.

Summary of Findings

1. Cultural intolerance of ethnocentrism had significant influence on Nigerian youths' political activism.

DISCUSSION

Cultural intolerance ethnocentrism creates increase in understanding engagement in political activism. Hence, it could be these youths prioritize their own cultural norms and values over others. This leads to exclusionary practices and increase in their collective efforts for action (activism). Intolerance in culture means lack of acceptance or respect for cultural differences, leading to prejudice and discrimination against people from different cultural backgrounds.

This can manifest in various forms, such as stereotyping, xenophobia, and exclusionary practices. Ironically, this mindset often results in effective participation in political movements and activism. Cultural intolerance can provoke conflict and division, diverting attention from shared goals and strengthened the overall youth's pursuit of political activism.

The finding agrees with Anyaegbunam et al. (2024) study showed that ethnocentrism predicted aggressive activism. This makes Milić et al. (2023) to states that the intention to engage in political activism could have cultural intolerance ethnocentrism undertone. Since, manifestation intolerance ethnocentrism has varying degrees (West et al., 2021). Perhaps, this validate why individuals higher in ethnocentrism tend to be more engaged in political activism such as voting education to electorate, attending public meetings, and volunteering for campaigns against bad governance. This suggests that cultural intolerance ethnocentrism enhances critical thinking skills, political knowledge, awareness of civic responsibilities, motivates individuals to actively participate in political processes and activism (Santiago, 2023).

Theoretically, this supports authoritarian personality theory by Adorno et al. (1950) that assumes that youths who feared parents and other authority figures tends to be prone to cultural intolerance ethnocentrism perhaps due to their traits, such as submissiveness to authority, rigid conventionalism, cynicism, superstition, and preoccupation with power which is usually triggered by punitive and rigid upbringings.

Implications of the Study

The study revealed that the belief in one's own ethnic group or culture can have profound implications on political activism. It often leads to a narrow worldview where other cultures are judged from the perspective of one's own cultural norms. This mindset can fuel exclusionary or nationalist political activism, as individuals may become more inclined to support policies that favour their own ethnic group while

marginalizing others. Such activism can result in social division, discrimination, and conflict, as it often opposes multiculturalism and diversity.

Conclusion

This study which x-lay influence of cultural intolerance dimension of ethnocentrism on political activism among Nigerian youths. From the findings, individuals view their own culture or ethnic group as superior to others. Cultural intolerance ethnocentrism leads to a strong sense of identity and community, motivating youths to become more active in political activism. With the findings, addressing ethnocentrism (intolerance) increases youths' political activism.

Recommendations

- 1. There is need to encourage youths' activists to learn and appreciate diverse cultures to help reduce ethnocentric intolerance.
- The youths should be thought to embark on shared objectives. This will help unite youths that are activists from various cultural backgrounds to focus on common goals that will minimize ethnocentric divides.

Limitations of the Study

Furthermore, the study might not account for all possible variables influencing ethnocentrism and political activism, such as socio-economic factors, education levels, or media influence. Finally, the cross-sectional nature of the study could limit understanding of causality or changes over time in youths' attitudes and behaviors.

Suggestions for Further Studies

There is also need to determine the role of social media plays in shaping ethnocentric views and mobilizing political activism among Nigerian youths. It will analyze how online communities and echo chambers contribute towards reinforcing or challenging ethnocentric beliefs.

Contributions of the Study

1. The study provides insights into how ethnocentric attitudes among Nigerian youths influence their political behaviors and activism. By this influence, the study sheds light on the underlying motivations

- that drive youths to participate in political activities.
- 2. The study highlights the role of cultural intolerance in shaping political perspectives and actions. Understanding the extent to which cultural intolerance dimension of ethnocentrism affects political activism can help policymakers and educators develop strategies to foster more inclusive and open-minded political environments among young populations.
- 3. The study contributes to the broader discourse on multiculturalism and diversity within political contexts, encouraging further research and dialogue on how different cultural backgrounds impact political dynamics and societal change.

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Ethnocentrism Scale

Instruction: Please read the following statements carefully and mark your agreement in the answer sheet provided. There are the Five (5) possible answers provided for each question viz: 1) Strongly Agree, 2) Agree, 3) Sometimes, 4) Disagree and 5) Strongly Disagree.

S/N	Item Statement	1	2	3	4	5
	Cultural Intolerance					
1	I respect the values and customs of other cultures.					
2	My culture should be the role model for other cultures.					
3	I see people who are similar to me as virtuous.					
4	Lifestyles in other cultures are just as valid as those in my culture.					
5	Most people would be happier if they lived like people in my culture.					
6	I have many friends from different cultures.					
7	People in my culture could learn a lot from people in other cultures.					
8	Most people from other cultures just don't know what's good for them.					
9	Most other cultures are backward compared to my culture.					
	Cultural Superiority					
10	Other cultures are smart to look up to our culture.					
11	Other cultures should try to be more like my culture.					
12	I am not interested in the values and customs of other cultures.					
13	People in my culture have just about the best lifestyles of anywhere.					
14	Lifestyles in other cultures are not as valid as those in my culture.					
15	I am very interested in the values and customs of other cultures.					
16	I apply my values when judging people who are different.					
17	People from other cultures act strange when they come to my culture.					
	Cultural Tolerance					
18	I do not cooperate with people who are different.					
19	Most people in my culture just don't know what is good for them.					
20	I do not trust people who are different.					
21	I dislike interacting with people from different cultures.					
22	I have little respect for the values and customs of other culture					

Developed by Neuliep, J. W., & McCroskey, J. C. (2013).

Activism Orientation Scale

Instruction: Please read the following statements carefully and mark your agreement in the answer sheet provided. There are the FOUR (4) possible answers provided for each question viz: Extremely unlikely – 0. Unlikely – 1. Likely – 2. Extremely likely - 3.

S/N	Items	0	1	2	3
1	Engage in a political activity in which you knew you would be arrested?				
2	Engage in a physical confrontation at a political rally?				
3	Engage in a political activity in which you feared that some of your possessions would be damaged?				
4	Engage in an illegal act as part of a political protest?				
5	Engage in a political activity in which you suspect there would be a confrontation with the police or possible arrest?				
6	Block access to a building or public area with your body?				
7	Engage in a political activity in which you feared for your personal safety?				
8	Display a poster or bumper sticker with a political message?				
9	Invite a friend to attend a meeting of a political organization or event?				
10	Purchase a poster, t-shirt, etc. that endorses a political point of view?				
11	Serve as an officer in a political organization?				
12	Attend an informational meeting of a political group?				
13	Organize a political event (e.g., talk, support group, march)?				
14	Give a lecture or talk about a social or political issue?				
15	Go out of your way to collect information on a social or political issue?				
16	Campaign door-to-door for a political candidate?				
17	Present facts to contest another person's social or political statement?				
18	Donate money to a political candidate?				
19	Vote in a non-presidential federal, state, or local election?				
20	Send a letter or e-mail expressing a political opinion to the editor of a periodical or television show?				
21	Confront jokes, statements, or innuendoes that opposed a particular group's cause?				
22	Boycott a product for political reasons?				

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23	Distribute information representing a particular social or political group's cause?		
24	Send a letter or e-mail about a political issue to a public official?		
25	Attend a talk on a particular group's social or political concerns?		
26	Attend a political organization's regular planning meeting?		
27	Sign a petition for a political cause?		
28	Encourage a friend to join a political organization?		
29	Try to change a friend's or acquaintance's mind about a social or political issue?		
30	Donate money to a political organization?		
31	Try to change a relative's mind about a social or political issue?		
32	Wear a t-shirt or button with a political message?		
33	Keep track of the views of members of Congress regarding an issue important to you?		
34	Participate in discussion groups designed to discuss issues or solutions of a particular social or		
	political group?		
35	Campaign by phone for a political candidate?		

Developed by Corning, A. F., & Myers, D. J. (2002)