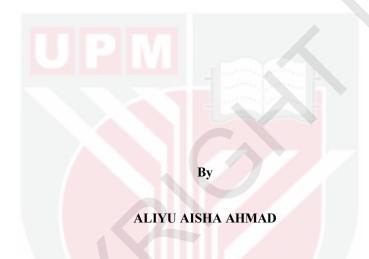


INFLUENCE OF POLITICAL KNOWLEDGE ON THE PERCEPTIONS OF BAUCHI STATE CIVIL SERVANTS TOWARDS NIGERIAN FEDERALISM



Thesis Submitted to the School of Graduate Studies, Universiti Putra Malaysia, in Fulfilment of the Requirements for the Degree of Master of Science

September 2022

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DEDICATION

This work is dedicated to Almighty Allah, the beneficial and the most merciful for giving me the blessings, strengths, endurance and perseverance to complete this study.



Abstract of thesis presented to the Senate of Universiti Putra Malaysia in fulfilment of the requirement for the degree of Master of Science

INFLUENCE OF POLITICAL KNOWLEDGE ON THE PERCEPTIONS OF BAUCHI STATE CIVIL SERVANTS TOWARDS NIGERIAN FEDERALISM

By

ALIYU AISHA AHMAD

September 2022

Chairman : Mohd Mahadee bin Ismail, PhD

Faculty : Human Ecology

Federalism is a political structure that allows states to unite under a central government to maintain a measure of independence and interdependence. However, in Nigeria, the renewed calls and agitations from diverse sectors for the restructuring of Nigerian federalism has over the years been characterized by numerous inconsistencies and tensions. This further aggravates the fragile unity, peace and political stability of the country. This study was designed to determine the influence of political knowledge on the perceptions of Bauchi state civil servants towards Nigerian federalism. Specifically, the study was conducted to determine the level of political knowledge amongst Bauchi state civil servants and identify the civil servant's perception on Nigerian federalism, as well as examine the relationship between political knowledge and civil servant's perception on Nigerian federalism among Bauchi state civil servants. The study further examines most influence of political knowledge factors on the civil servant's perceptions on Nigerian federalism amongst Bauchi state civil servants. The political theory of federalism was used to guide the research process of this current study. In order to achieve the research objectives, the study employed quantitative approach based on survey design. A total of 396 respondents were selected through stratified sampling technique from the accessible civil servant's population of 96,728 from Bauchi State of Nigeria. Data was collected using a questionnaire. Descriptive statistics such as frequency range and percentages while inferential statistics such as correlation, factor analysis and multiple regressions was used to analyse the data. The study results from the descriptive analysis revealed that the respondents have indicated a high level of political structural knowledge, high level of political factual knowledge and high level of overall political knowledge. Furthermore, the result shows that civil servants in Bauchi state have high level of perception on federalism. The result also shows that there is a significant correlation (p<.000) between political structural knowledge, political factual knowledge as well as overall political knowledge with civil servant's perception of federalism. The research unveils that, political structural knowledge has a positive and significant influence (p<.000) on respondents' perception of federalism in Nigeria, with coefficient, weight value of 0.130 and statistically significant at 1% confidence level

while political factual knowledge has significant and positive influence (p<.000) on civil servant'sssss perception of Nigerian federalism, with coefficient weight value of 0.500 and statistically significant at 1% confidence level. The findings implies that the higher the political factual knowledge and political structural knowledge, the higher the likelihood of respondent to exhibit good perception about Nigerian federalism. The results of the hypothesis were all supported. However, this study has expanded the body of knowledge in the area of federalism by using political knowledge construct to examine the level of perception of the civil servants regarding Nigerian federalism which can be used in theory development and further debates, as many researches pertaining to political knowledge were basically related to democracy and not federalism. Therefore, the research unveils the importance and most influential political knowledge factors related to Nigerian federalism among the civil servants. Hence, it is recommended that government to design an enlightenment program targeting other civil servants and other population in Bauchi state in order to educate them and enhance their understanding and perception about Nigerian federalism.



PENGARUH PENGETAHUAN POLITIK TERHADAP PERSEPSI PENJAWAT AWAM DI NEGERI BAUCHI MENGENAI FEDERALISME NIGERIA

Oleh

ALIYU AISHA AHMAD

September 2022

Pengerusi : Mohd Mahadee bin Ismail, PhD

Fakulti : Ekologi Manusia

Federalisme adalah struktur politik yang membolehkan negeri-negeri bersatu di bawah kerajaan pusat untuk mengekalkan sesebuah kemerdekaan dan kesalingbergantungan. Walau bagaimanapun, di Nigeria, desakan dan pergolakkan daripada pelbagai sektor untuk penstrukturan semula federalisms Nigeria selama ini dipengaruhi oleh pelbagai ketaktekalan dan ketegangan. Ini memburukkan lagi perpaduan yang sedia rapuh, keamanan dan kestabilan politik negara. Kajian ini dibentuk untuk menentukan pengaruh pengetahuan politik terhadap persepsi penjawat awam di negeri Bauchi terhadap federalisme Nigeria. Secara khususnya, kajian ini dijalankan untuk menentukan tahap pengetahuan politik dalam kalangan penjawat awam di Negeri Bauchi dan mengenal pasti persepsi mereka terhadap federalism Nigeria, serta mengkaji hubungan antara pengetahuan politik dan persepsi penjawat awam terhadap federalisme Nigeria. Selanjutnya, kajian ini mengkaji faktor utama pengaruh pengetahuan politik terhadap persepsi penjawat awam mengenai federalisme Nigeria. Teori politik federalisme digunakan sebagai panduan proses kajian ini. Dalam mencapai objektif kajian, kajian ini menggunakan pendekatan kuantitatif berdasarkan kepada reka bentuk tinjauan. Sebanyak 396 responden daripada 96, 728 orang populasi penjawat awam di Negeri Bauchi, Nigeria telah dipilih melalui teknik persempelan berstrata. Data dikumpul menggunakan soal selidik. Seterusnya, data dianalisis menggunakan statistik diskriptif seperti julat kekerapan dan peratusan manakala statistik inferensi pula adalah seperti korelasi, analisis faktor dan regresi berganda. Dapatan daripada analisis diskriptif menunjukkan responden mempunyai tahap pengetahuan tinggi dalam pengetahuan struktur politik, pengetahuan fakta politik dan pengetahuan secara menyeluruh. Selain itu, dapatan menunjukkan penjawat awam mempunyai persepsi tinggi terhadap federalisme. Dapatan turut menunjukkan terdapat korelasi signifikan (p<.000) di antara pengetahuan struktur politik, pengetahuan fakta politik serta keseluruhan pengetahuan politik dengan persepsi penjawat awam terhadap federalisme. Dapatan kajian menunjukkan pengetahuan struktur politik mempunyai pengaruh positif dan signifikan (p<.000) terhadap persepsi federalisme responden di Nigeria dengan nilai berat pekali 0.130 dan statistik yang signifikan pada tahap keyakinan 1%. Manakala, pengetahuan fakta politik mempunyai pengaruh positif dan signifikan (p<.000) terhadap persepsi

masyarakat mengenai federalisme Nigeria dengan nilai berat pekali of 0.500 dan signifikan secara statistik pada tahap keyakinan 1%. Selain itu, dapatan menunjukkan bahawa semakin tinggi pengetahuan fakta politik dan pengetahuan struktur politik, semakin tinggi kemungkinan responden untuk menunjukkan persepsi yang baik tentang federalisme Nigeria. Kesemua dapatan hipotesis disokong. Namun, kajian ini memperluaskan bidang federalisme dengan menggunakan struktur konstruk pengetahuan politik untuk mengkaji tahap persepi penjawat awam terhadap federalisme Nigeria yang boleh digunakan dalam membentuk teori dan perbahasan lanjut. Ini kerana, kebanyakkan kajian yang berkaitan dengan pengetahuan politik pada asasnya berkaitan dengan demokrasi dan bukannya federalisme. Kajian ini mendedahkan kepentingan dan faktor pengetahuan politik yang paling berpengaruh yang berkait dengan federalisme Nigeria dalam kalangan penjawat awam. Oleh itu, dicadangkan agar kerajaan mereka bentuk program kesedaran yang menyasarkan penduduk lain di negeri Bauchi untuk mendidik mereka dan meningkatkan pemahaman dan persepsi mereka tentang federalisme Nigeria.

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Mohd Mahadee bin Ismail, PhD

Associate Professor Faculty of Human Ecology Universiti Putra Malaysia (Chairman)

Mohd Sabri bin Md Nor, PhD

Senior Lecturer Faculty of Human Ecology Universiti Putra Malaysia (Member)

ZALILAH MOHD SHARIFF, PhD

Professor and Dean School of Graduate Studies Universiti Putra Malaysia

Date: 12 January 2023

Declaration by Members of Supervisory Committee

This is to confirm that:

- the research conducted and the writing of this thesis was under our supervisions;
- supervision responsibilities as stated in the Universiti Putra Malaysia (Graduate Studies) Rules 2003 (Revision 2012-2013) are adhered to.

Signature:	
Name of	
Chairman of	
Supervisory	
Committee:	Associatae Professor Dr. Mohd Mahadee bin Ismail
Signature:	
Name of	
Member of	
Supervisory	
Committee:	Dr Mohd Sabri bin Md Nor

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CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

This current chapter represent the introductory aspect of the research. The chapter discusses the concept of federalism, political knowledge, the civil servant's perception at the background of the study. The problem statement, research questions and objectives were also discussed in the chapter. Other aspects that were explained in the chapter include the significance of the study, hypothesis of the study, scope of the study and definition of terms.

1.1 Background of the Study

Federalism is a mixed or compound type of government in which a central or "federal" administration coexists alongside regional governments (provincial, state, cantonal, territorial, or other sub-unit governments) in a single political system, with powers shared between them (Broschek, 2016). Federalism is a political framework that allows states to unify under a single government while still maintaining some autonomy and dependency (Tella, Doho & Bapeto, 2014). The goal is to centralize supreme authority while retaining a significant amount of semi-autonomy for the component states (Tella et al., 2014). Power is shared and apportioned between the national and state governments in this system. Both levels have their own agencies and officials who have direct impact over the general public (Daniel, 2007; Tella et al., 2014). The current state of American federalism is characterized by polarization and punitiveness. Political disagreement continues to shape intergovernmental contacts, as it has in previous years. Vertical decentralization, on the other hand, is increasingly characterized by punitiveness. Punitive federalism refers to the federal government's employment of threats and punishment to deter state and local actions that contradict its policy choices (Goelzhauser & Konisky, 2020).

As a result, we'll examine at federalism in the context of Africa. Nigeria's federal experience is exceptional in Africa, noteworthy in the developing world, and significant globally. Although federal initiatives in Ethiopia, South Africa, and Sudan are in the early stages of development, they have the potential to be successful. Nigeria, on the other hand, is perhaps the only African country where "federalism is strongly entrenched," with its constituent sub-federal governments ranking among the continent's most powerful subnational units (Adamolekum & Kincaid, 199; Clapham, 2006; Smith, 2005).

Nigeria is unique in that it has a long history of using federal institutions to manage relations among its estimated 200 million people, who are divided into three major ethnic groups (Hausa-Fulani, Yoruba, and Igbo), as well as hundreds of minor ethnic groups (National Population Ccomission, 2019). Nigeria currently has a federal government (seated in Abuja, the nation's capital), 36 states organized into six quasi-official geopolitical zones, and 774 constitutionally entrenched local government areas (National

Bureau of Statistics, 2021). The allocation of authorities in a few federal countries is shown in the table below.

Table 1.1: Distribuion of powers in selected federal countries

Power	Australia	Canada	Malaysia	Nigeria	Pakistan	South Africa		
General administration								
Foreign Affairs	Federal	Federal	Federal	Federal	Federal	Central		
Defence	Federal	Federal	Federal	Federal	Federal	Central		
Police	Shared	Shared	Federal	Federal	Units	Central		
Civil justice	Shared	Shared	Federal	Units	Units	Central		
Elections	Shared	Shared	Federal	Shared	Federal	Central		
Education								
Primary	Units	Units	Federal	Units	Units	Shared		
Secondary	Units	Units	Federal	Shared	Units	Shared		
Universities	Shared	Units	Fedral	Shared	Units	Central		
Health and welfare								
Primary care	Shared	Units	Federal	Units	Units	Shared		
Hospitals	Units	Shared	Federal	Shared	Units	Shared		
Public health	Shared	Shared	Federal	Units	Shared	Shared		
Transport, infrastru	cture and faci	lities						
High ways	Shared	Shared	Shared	Shared	Units	Shared		
Ports	Units	Federal	Federal	Federal	Federal	Central		
Airports	Federal	Federal	Federal	Federal	Federal	Central		
Electricity	Units	Units	Units	Federal	Shared	Units		
Economic powers								
Agriculture	Shared	Shared	Shared	Federal	Units	Central		
Trade and industry	Shared	Shared	Shared	Shared	Shared	Central		
Tourism	Shared	Shared	Shared	Shared	Shared	Central		

[Adapted from Commonwealth Local Government Forum (2014)]

Defense, foreign policy, citizenship and immigration, and macroeconomics are virtually always the primary responsibility of the federal government (such as currency and foreign trade). Aside from that, the amount to which powers are allocated across different levels of government varies a lot (see Table 1.1). Additional recent federal constitutions have tended to provide more powers to the federal level, in line with the growing role of government in modern societies (Irving, 2008).

Empirical studies has linked citizen's knowledge, perception with federalism. As noted by Delli Carpini and Keeter (1996) & Dalton (2000) that, knowledge can be considered Citizens' knowledge and perceptions of federalism have been related in empirical studies. Knowledge can be considered a crucial prerequisite for meaningful political engagement, as mentioned by Delli Carpini and Keeter (1996) & Dalton (2000). Political knowledge, according to Ondercin & Jones-White (2011), has a substantial role in people' willingness to engage in various forms of political behavior. Political awareness is an important component of "political sophistication," an attitude that has been linked to high turnout, low prejudice, and a readiness to participate in political activity (Choma & Hafer, 2009). In general, it may be considered that persons with a high level of political intelligence are better equipped to engage in political life and effectively make their voices known in the political decision-making process.

Citizen perceptions, on the other hand, suggest that any service organization's understanding of how perceptions are formed is critical since it enables for the development of strategies to manage customer perceptions of service performance. The physical setting of service sites (Wakefield & Blodgett, 1999), cultural background (Limaye, 2000), and gender disparities all influence perceptions (Lin et al., 2001; Ndhlovu & Senguder, 2002).

However, it is clear that the incessant over-centralization of the system, the growing view of unfairness in income distribution and marginalization of some segments of Nigeria, and the deficiency of fiscal autonomy for the Nigerian states remains alarming challenges for the Nigerian federalism. Hence, there is the need to expand the notion of the influences of political knowledge beyond the conventionally focus on democratic principles to give consideration to the conduct of a conceptually and theoretically comprehensive examination of the influences of political knowledge on the perceptions of the Nigerian citizens particularly civil servants in Bauchi state towards Nigerian Federalism.

Bauchi State is a state in the North-East geopolitical zone of Nigeria,. It takes its name from the historic town of Bauchi, which also serves as its capital city. The state was formed in 1976 when the former North-Eastern State was broken up. It originally included the area that is now Gombe State, which became a distinct state in 1996. Of the 36 states, Bauchi is the fifth largest in area and seventh most populous with an estimated population of 8,308,800 Population (NBS, 2022).

What is now Bauchi State has been inhabited for years by various ethnic groups, including the Bolewa, Butawa, and Warji in the central region; the Fulani, Kanuri, and Karai-Karai in the north; the fulani and Gerawa in and around the city of Bauchi; the Zaar (Sayawa) in the south; the Tangale in the southeast; and the Jarawa in the southwest. Religiously, the vast majority of the state's population (~85%) are Muslim with smaller Christian and traditionalist minorities at about 6% and 9%, respectively (AgyemanG-Duah, et al., 2018). As a major agriculture-based state, the Bauchi State economy partially relies on livestock and as cotton, groundnuts, millet, tomatoes, and yams with advanced irrigation schemes increasing agricultural production since statehood. Other industries include food processing and canning facilities, tin and columbite mining, and tourism in Yankari National Park and its Wikki Warm Springs (Ahmed and Shehu, 2014).

Looking at the above-mentioned discussion on issues and critism surrounding the concept of federalism in general and the Nigerian federal structure in particular, the researcher argues that there is need to examine the influence of citizen perception and knowledge on Nigerian federalism. This will create an avenue for the researcher to investigate in more in-depth what Nigerian people perceive and know about the federal system and inform the policy on the way forward.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

Federalism is a system of government which implement power sharing between federal state and local governments. However, there is evidence in Nigeria that poor intergovernmental relations between the federal and state governments have affected the level of political knowledge of the civil servant's level of perception regarding Nigerian federalism (Dolan, 2011). Inadequate political knowledge or lack of clear understanding of federal system in the country and dominating factor of the centre at the expense of the federating units resulted to poor intergovernmental relations between the federal and state governments which affects the level of perception of its citizens towards Nigerian federalism (Adagbabiri & Okolie, 2018), leading to different challenges such as renewed clamour for restructuring by public affairs analysts, civil servants, politicians, scholars, legal professionals among others (Anazodo, Tina & Uche(2012).Thereby, deterring its potentiality of becoming an emerging economy(Nkwede et al.,2018).

Though, in a plural society like Nigeria, the federal system of government was established to promote national unity while also preserving the distinct social identities treasured by its constituent parts. Furthermore, the federal system's implementation in Nigeria, as well as the country's political structure, has continued to work with a minimum of unity and variety.

Political knowledge is seen as a crucial idea for comprehending citizens' political views and behaviors (Dolan, 2011). Even though the philosophical foundation upon which federalism is founded in Nigeria has the tendency and serves as a viable option for national unity and integration, as well as a platform for good governance, structural and factual political knowledge has influenced information processes, political opinion, and behavior. However, Nigerian federalism is bedeviled by multi-dimensioned problems which have to do with resources, ethnicity, regionalism, religion, marginalization, mistrust, rivalry and overall threat to the corporate existence of the entity (Shehu, *et al.*, 2017).

Currently, there are agitations manifested in calls for overhaul of the federal arrangement, disaffections, and insubordination and secession threats against the Nigerian state (Ezinwa, 2018; Aka, 2017; Lanre, 2017; Adagbabiri & Okolie, 2018; Zacchacus, 2013).

Appropriate degrees of political knowledge are regarded to be critical for individuals and organizations to effectively participate in politics, represent their own demands before the system, and establish attitudes that are more than emotion-based (Delli Carpini & Keeter, 1996). Political knowledge and public participation in politics, according to De Vreese and Boomgaarden (2006), are at the heart of democratic processes. Similarly, Delli Carpini and Keeter (1996) asserted that political knowledge influences the quality of citizenship and the collective's health, and that there is a positive association between knowledge and political conduct. As a result, one of the most significant challenges to federalism in Nigeria is how residents view the system. Many people are unaware of how the federal government works, therefore they place a greater emphasis on the center

while ignoring the federating units (Shehu et al., 2017). The functions of the tiers of government are frequently misunderstood by civil servants, causing them to direct their complaints to the wrong entities.

Previous studies on federalism has focused on problems and prospects of power distribution (Uhunmwuangho&Ekpu, 2011); fiscal federalism and challenges of development in Nigeria (Nwede, Nwali& Orga 2013); impact on revenue generation for economic development (Okolie& Ochei, 2014); democratization and linguistic complexity (Spirlin, 2016); the impact of fiscal decentralization on economic development (Mykola, Tetiana, Maksym& Anton, 2019). With regards to this, the research argued that despite the challenges identified in the previous studies on federalism in Nigeria as reported in the above-mentioned studies, there is no study that set an investigation on the influence of political knowledge on federalism as a system of government in Bauchi State, Nigeria. This study will fill in this gap to examine the influence of political knowledge on the perceptions of the respondents and to see either there is going to be intervening role of citizen's perception in the relationship between political knowledge and federalism among Bauchi state civil servants in Nigeria.

1.3 Research Questions

Based on the issues raised in the above problem statement, the researcher proposed the following research question:

- 1. What is the level of political knowledge of Bauchi state civil servants?
- 2. What is the level of perception of Bauchi state civil servants on Nigerian federalism?
- 3. What is the relationship between political knowledge and civil servant's perception on Nigerian federalism among Bauchi state civil servants?
- 4. Which political knowledge factors have influence on Bauchi state civil servant's perception towards Nigerian federalism?

1.4 Objectives of the Study

1.4.1 Main Objectives Study

The objective of the study is to examine the influence of political knowledge on civil servant's perception on Nigerian federalism among Bauchi state civil servant.

1.4.2 SpecificObjective

- 1. To determine the level of political knowledge among Bauchi state civil servants.
- 2. To Identify the civil servant's level of perception on Nigerian federalism
- To examine the relationship between political knowledge and civil servant's perception on Nigerian federalism among Bauchi state civil servants
- 4. To examine most influence of political knowledge factors on the civil servant's perceptions on Nigerian federalism among Bauchi state civil servants.

1.5 Research Hypotheses

Hoi: There is no significant difference between the level of political knowledge of Bauchi state civil servants and Nigerian federalism

Ho2: There is no significant difference between the level of perception of Bauchi state civil servants and Nigerian federalism

Ho3: There is no significant relationship between respondent's political structural knowledge and their perception of Nigerian federalism.

Ho4: There is no significant influence of respondent's political factual knowledge on their perception of Nigerian federalism.

1.6 Significance of the Study

The information generated from the study would be of immense valueto the body of knowledge, the government in the area of planning to the society and country at large, to the civil servants and it would provide a baseline reference point for future studies.

The result of this research has many contributions to the body of knowledge. The study enhances the body of knowledge particularlythe field of political science in the area of federalism and public administration as the study show-cased the level of political knowledge and its probable influence on citizen's perceptions regarding federalism. Theoretically, have demonstrated that the theory of political theory of federalism can be applied to understand political knowledge among civil servant.

The study will exhibit the perceptions of the Bauchi state civil servants on the Nigerian federalism. The study will further support the theories relevant to influence the continuos unity and cohesion of Nigerian federalism. This study is significant because it will bridge the gap that exists in the previous literature due to the fact that, the data that will be

collected will be used to establish a relationship between citizen's knowledge and perception with Nigerian federalism among Bauchi state civil servant which is generally scarce in the existing literature.

The proposed study will aid policy makers in Bauchi state and other federating units to identify their powers vise-vice the central and local governments. It will also enlighten Nigerians on the uniqueness of the system operating with three tiers of government. This information will specifically be useful in designing modalities for public enlightenment programmes. Similarly, the outcome of the proposed study will guide civil servants, particularly towards enhancing citizens' views and perceptions about governance.

1.7 Scope of the study

The study will involve only Bauchi state civil servants due to their policy relevancy, particularly with emerging speculation and agitation about restructuring of governments that has become an issue of discussion among the general public in all the nooks and crannies of the country. The proposed study will focus on the influence of citizen's political knowledge on perceptions towards federalism. Therefore, the findings of this study will be generalized on the entire Bauchi state civil servants.

In addition, the study using survey cross – sectional research design which will use primary data that will be collected within short period of time on citizen's knowledge and perception towards federalism in Nigeria. Therefore, the findings of this study may not suite the characteristics of other citizen's opinion of political behaviour, political attitude, political awareness etc. due to variation in nature of respondents.

1.8 Limitations of the Study

Due to financial and time constraints, this study is limited to Bauchi state. Secondly, the study covers only two independent variables namely; citizen's knowledge and perception which were derived from Marr's model of perception and one dependent variable i.e. federalism derived from political theory of federalism. Finally, the study only covers civil servants in Bauchi, that is, those are working under federal, state and local government areas without considering civil servants from other sectors of Nigeria.

One of the limitations for this research study has been the time factor. The study is cross-sectional in nature, by making the study longitudinal the level of detail obtained would have been greater if more time had been available for the research work. This work has only been able scratch the surface of the issue, but even at that, the cross-sectional approach of the work indicates huge possibilities and promise for citizens' perception on Federalism. Due to the nature of the study (cross sectional), causativeness cannot be inferred. Longitudinal study designs are required to stress fundamental relationships among the variables.

Furthermore, because the study was cross-sectional, the results of the survey are geographically and culturally limited to the context of Bauchi state, one of Nigeria's 36 states, which is located in the north eastern region of the country. The study's generalizability may be limited as a result of this. However, when evaluating the notion in other states inside or beyond the geopolitical region, such as those in the country's southeast and southwest, this may not be the case.

In terms of the methods adopted, similarly there are some limitations. For example, the use of self-developed as well as self-reported scales to measure the variables in the study might provide avenue for bias for some of the results. Another perceived drawback in this study is owing to the study population, sample size, the number of variables used and the combination techniques used in this study. Apply the same approach to other class of citizens such as households provide difference in the result arrived at. Nevertheless, the findings of this research are consistent with the perspective of other studies and hence indicates the representativeness and validity of the work.

Furthermore, while accessing the results of the current study, another possible limitation that should not be overlooked is that of sample characteristics. All respondents were employees of state government, employees of local government were not considered. Moreover, the sample is narrow to only three main ministries, staffs of some agencies under these ministries were not considered. This manner in which samples were drawn calls into the query the issue of generalizability. Future study should gather data from all the employees of the ministries including those in agencies and also local governments in the state that were not involved in this study.

In addition, respondents were asked to rate themselves on political knowledge as well as perception on federalism. The choice of data collection using self-reported methods may lead to "the common method variance" and therefore increase the reported relationships between dependent and independent variables. Though, there some reasons that cause escalation of the results due to "the common method variance". The respondents may change the outcomes to sustain consistency in their answers to the questions or to show themselves in a positive light, irrespective of their actual feelings. Thus, in order to avert these, the information on dependent and independent variables should be obtained from diverse sources. Furthermore, time-based separation may be made by introducing a time lag among the measurement of the criterion and predictor variable.

1.9 Conceptual and Operational Definitions

1.9.1 Political Perception

Conceptual Definition: Merriam-Webster (2003, p. 918) define perception as a result of "a) perceiving: observation, b) a mental image: concept. Schiffman *et al.*, (2007) defined perception as the process by which an individual receives, selects and interprets stimuli to form a meaningful and coherent picture of the world.

Operation Definition: The level of perception towards federalism in this study will be determine based on certain opinions that people often have regarding federal system of government.

1.9.2 Political Knowledge

Conceptual Definition: Political knowledge, according to Boudreau and Lupia (2011), is a measure of a citizen's ability to deliver correct responses to a series of fact-based questions. Political knowledge, according to Clark (2013), is data about a political system that a person can retrieve from memory in order to analyze and understand events and changes within that system.

Operational Definition: Political knowledge in this study comprises Bauchi state civil servant' ability of understanding realities about political system of the country, what they can understand and recall.

1.9.3 Federalism

Conceptual Definition: Federalism is a political framework that allows states to unify under a single government while still maintaining some autonomy and dependency (Tella et al., 2014). According to Daniel (2007), federalism in Nigeria refers to a variety of political arrangements to which the term federalism has been legitimately used.

Operational Definition: Federalism in this study is a political structure that allows all the Nigerian states and local government areas to unite under a government (federal government) as a republic to maintain a measure of independence and interdependence.

1.10 Civil Servant

Conceptual Definition: A civil servant, is a person employed in the public sector by a government department or agency for public sector undertakings (Ferris and Judge 1991).

Operational Definition: A civil servant, also known as a public servant, is a person employed in the public sector by a government department or agency for public sector undertakings. Civil servants work for central and state governments, and answer to the government, not a political party.

1.11 Chapter Summary

This chapter mainly discusses the introductory parts of the research. As the first chapter of this thesis opens with the background of the study which established the need for this study based critical literature support and further describes federalism, political knowledge, the civil servant's perception and their relationships. However, the chapter discusses the underpinning problems, the research question, and objective of the study. Also, the chapter also covered the significance of the study and conceptual definition of terms.



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