



**Assessing the enrolment into political science education at Ekiti State University
affiliated with Emmanuel Alayande College of Education, Oyo – Nigeria**

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Abstract

The rate at which students are hustling and struggling to study Political Science Education at Ekiti State University (EKSU) in affiliation with Emmanuel Alayande College of Education (EACOED), Oyo is highly overwhelming and unprecedented in the annals of the institution. Premised on the above, this study examined factors responsible for the increase in the choice of Political Science Education at EKSU affiliated with EACOED, Oyo. All students in the Department of Political Science of the institution were the target population of the study. The sample of the study comprised twenty-five (25) students drawn from each level (from 100 – 400) during 2020/2021 academic session making a total of one-hundred (100) students. A self-designed questionnaire was adopted for data collection while data analysis was by rank order, percentages and mean. Findings from the study revealed among others; that the knowledge of politics which helps in solving day to day issues and challenges of life motivated students' choice of Political Science education. It was also discovered that lack of serious academic commitment and dedication to study has been a peculiar challenge to the study of Political Science Education. Based on the findings, it was therefore recommended that students should show high level of commitment and dedication to their study and that the State Government and other major stakeholders in Education should ensure a very conducive environment to facilitate teaching and learning of Political Science education in the institution.

Keywords: Education, Enrolment, Political Science Education.

1. Introduction

Nowadays the rate at which students are struggling and hustling to seek admission and to study educational courses seems overwhelming and unprecedented when compared with those days when people nurture distaste for studying education courses. However, in the contemporary days, it is observed that many students, regardless of cost, distance, institution and rigorousness are willingly anxious to study education-related courses.

Teacher Education is as important as the air we breathe. It is the most important possession a person must have. It is beneficial in many aspects of life (personal and social). Once possessed, it cannot be

taken away from an individual for it opens up the windows of opportunities. In this competitive world, possession of good and qualitative education will enable individuals to have better understanding on how to solve different challenges (Odim, Annastasia, & Solomon, 2018). Education is generally regarded as a veritable tool for development. Emunemu (2017) describes education as indispensable in the lives of individuals and nations conceiving it benefits as indeed pervasive and ubiquitous. Even, nowadays different professionals are continuously being directed to go for postgraduate Diploma in education, their status and professional qualifications notwithstanding. This further

attests to the relevance and indispensability of education courses.

In the same vein, perhaps as a result of stable democratic rule in Nigeria since 1999 till date, Politics has become a popular industry that has attracted and called the attention of the young ones. Politics, in spite of unending debates among scholars over the adequacy of specific definition, there is consensus around the fact that state power is the central issue in politics. In other words, politics is anything and everything that has to do with the acquisition and use of state power and authority (Ehwarieme, 2020). David Eason (1960:113) defined politics as “The authoritative allocation of value for a society” or the waking of authoritatively binding decisions on behalf of society. In spite of several criticisms, this definition has become evergreen, and reflects that reality of politics in many places. Also, is Harrold Lasswell’s phrase, politics is “Who gets what, when and how?”

Meanwhile, Political science invariably becomes a focus on the subject matter, or what is studied on the one hand, and on the methodology or how it is studied on the other hand. Thus, Political science is understood as the scientific study of politics. Consequently, Political Science education is a discipline concerned with teaching and learning as well as critical analysis of political theories, political institutions, political organizations and activities of the state. There is now alarming enrolment for political science education at EKSU affiliated with EACOED, Oyo. It is on this note that this study seeks to probe into and consequently interrogate such factors responsible for the unprecedented increase in the enrolment figure of candidates / students.

Nowadays, the enrolment in Political Science Education has increased greatly, unlike the early stage of the Full-time degree programme at EKSU affiliated with EACOED, Oyo when the enrolment figures of candidates for Political Science

education was lessen to the background. The continuous increase in the enrolment figure in Teacher Education especially in Political science education in this institution of higher learning has in no small measure contributed to high turnout of graduates. The reason for this development underscores the focus of this study; i.e. to examine factors responsible for the increase in the enrolment figure of students of political science education at EKSU affiliated with EACOED, Oyo.

Objectives of the Study

The general objective of the study was to examine the factors responsible for the increase in the enrolment figure of students of political science education at EKSU affiliated with EACOED, Oyo while the specific objectives of the study include the following among others;

- i. To identify the future prospects of political science education as a course of study
- ii. To identify factors that motivate student’s choice of political science education as a course of study
- iii. To examine the challenges being faced in the study of political science education at EKSU affiliated with EACOED, Oyo.

Research Questions

Premised on the above stated specific objectives of the study, the following research questions were raised:

- i. What are the future prospects of political science education as a course of study?
- ii. What motivated students’ choice of Political science education as a course of study at Ekiti State University (EKSU) in affiliation with Emmanuel Alayande College of Education, (EACOED) Oyo?
- iii. Are there challenges being faced in the study of political science education?

2. Literature Review

2.1 Conceptual Clarification

According to National Council for Teacher Education (1998) “The teacher is the most important element in any educational programme. It is the teacher who is mainly responsible for implementation of the educational process at any stage”. It is therefore imperative to invest in the preparation of teachers, so that the future of a nation is secure. The importance of competent teachers to the nation’s school system can in no way be overemphasized. For emphasis, the National Curriculum Framework 2005 places demands and expectations on the teacher, which need to be addressed by both initial and continuing teacher education. Therefore, there is no gain saying that the quality and extent of learner's achievement are determined primarily by teacher's competence, sensibility and motivation. The NCTE has defined Teacher Education as – A programme of Education, research and training of persons to teach from pre-primary to higher education level.

Teacher Education is a programme that is related to the development of teacher's proficiency and competence that would enable and consequently empower the teacher to meet the requirements of the teaching profession and face the challenges therein. According to the International Encyclopedia of teaching and Teacher Education (1989), “Teacher Education can be considered in three phases: Pre-service, Induction and In-service. The three phases are considered as parts of a continuous process”. It is based on the theory that “Teachers are made, not born” in contrary to the view or assumption that “Teachers are born, not made”, since teaching is considered an art and a science, the teacher has to acquire not only knowledge, but also skills that are called “Tracks of the trade”. It is ever-evolving and dynamic. In order to prepare teachers who are competent to face

the challenges of a dynamic society, it has to be abreast of recent development trends.

Teachers education is concerned with the aspects such as, who (Teacher Educator), whom (Student teacher), what (content) and how (Teaching strategy). Teacher education is dependent upon the quality of teacher educators. The quality of pedagogical inputs in teacher education programmes and their effective utilization for the purpose of preparing perspective teachers depends largely on the professional competence of educators and the ways in which it is utilized for strengthening the teacher education programme. Teacher education first deals with the preparation of effective teacher educators.

Teacher education is imperative to the emerging demands from the educational system and as such, must prepare teachers for a dual role in teaching-learning situation as this will enable learners to discover their talents, realize their physical and intellectual potentialities to the fullest, develop character and desirable social and human values to function as responsible citizens; and an active member of the group of persons who make conscious effort to contribute towards the process of renewal of school curriculum to maintain its relevance to the changing societal needs and personal needs of learners, keeping in view the experiences gained and the concerns and imperatives that have emerged in the light of changing national development goals and educational priorities.

Understanding Political Science Education

Education betokens a conscious process leading to the development of knowledge, skills and ability in the learners for personal and societal enhancement. Political Science Education on the other hand, is a discipline concerned with teaching and learning as

well as critical analysis of political theories, institutions, organizations and activities of the State. It examines political dynamics, adjustment of the individual to the state, international laws, international relations, the concept of power and power relationship among members of a given society (Alkasim, Adamu, Sufi & Adamu, 2021).

Political science, as a field of study, examines the structures of government and their historical antecedent overtime and the question of how governmental authority is established and maintained in different societies. The study equips students with different methodological approaches and resources in order to widen the horizon of the students, aid better understanding with respect to formulation and implementation of policies and how to effectively teach the same as Government in senior secondary schools or higher institution of learning.

Political science education is a discipline that concerns itself with the study and critical analysis of political theories, institution, organizations and activities of the state. It teaches political dynamics, adjustment of the individual to the state order, international laws, international relations, the concept of power and power relations among members of a given society.

The study of political science education is of great value to sustainable development as it helps people to appreciate how and why the state was organized in the past and why its continuation is justified. It makes people conscious of their right and obligations. People who are knowledgeable of political science are indeed assets to the state. Suffice it that the knowledge of political science has become infallible and indispensable in contemporary society (Alkasim, Adamu, Sufi & Adamu, 2021).

It is a truism that education remains the best legacy and as such, a potent weapon for attaining the overall development in any nation. It is this acknowledgement that makes students enrolment for university education particularly enrolment into political science education to be on the increase in the recent time. Student enrolment is the process of arranging to attend an institution and specific classes. This term may also describe the number of students that currently attend a school or offer a course. It refers to the act of signing up for school and/or specific classes or co-curricular activities at that particular school.

However, the enrolment process is completed after a student is granted admission to a particular school. Many scholars have delved into the examination of the factors influencing students' enrolment in institutions of higher learning in Nigerian colleges and universities. For instance, Abang (2019) reported that such factors include; career/guidance counselling, societal value of the school, admission criteria or standard, peer interactions/relationships students' choice, interest or ambition for professionalism. Similarly, Ademola, Ogundipe and Babatunde (2014) have found out that the personality of school owners is another factor determining student enrolment. This is particularly true of private colleges and universities.

Theoretical Underpinning

This paper considers Rational Choice Theory to explain the continuous increase in students' enrolment in political science education with particular reference to the institution under investigation. Green (2002) reported that Rational Choice Theory is a tool that has dominated investigation of social phenomena especially in the academic field of economics but has subsequently been deployed and perhaps continues to be used

for investigating social events and issues particularly by other scientists in such fields as Political Science, Sociology, Anthropology, among others. The subsequent spread of this theory beyond the shore of economics has been discussed by Becker (1976), Radnitzky and Bernholz (1987), Hogarth and Reder (1987) Swedborg (1990), and Green and Shapiro (1996).

The kernel of this theory is that individuals and groups are constantly willing to maximise utility and this informs their making of rational choices among several available alternatives. This theory is apt in this study as there are many courses or disciplines available in the affiliate institution of EKSU affiliated with EACOED, Oyo but as rational thinkers, many students are perpetually interested in studying political science education to be well-equipped with knowledge, contents and methodologies needed to teach government in secondary schools or at best, to be well-grounded in making informed decisions on national issues, among others.

3. Methodology

For analytical purposes, this study adopted both qualitative and quantitative research methods. The choice of qualitative method as used in this study was due to its

reliability for it ensures that respondents remain unbiased as possible. The data gathered for this study were from both primary and secondary sources. The latter were sourced from published academic papers, journal articles, newspapers and official policy documents while the former were gotten via structured questionnaire administered on 100 students of Political science education at EKSU affiliated with EACOED, Oyo, cutting across levels in 2020/2021 academic session. The questionnaire was named “Questionnaire on the Factors Influencing the Students’ Enrolment Decision in the Selection of Political Science Education (QFISEDSPSE). Copies of the questionnaire were personally administered to the respondents and the researchers were available for necessary clarification and explanation on request. All administered copies of the questionnaire were duly attended to and returned within the specified period of time. The data collected were collated, analysed and discussed based on the findings using rank order techniques, percentages and mean statistics.

4. Results and Discussion

Answering Research Questions

Research Question 1: What are the future prospects of political science education as a course of study?

Table1: showing the future prospects of political science education as a course of study

S/N	Statement	SA	A	D	SD	Mean	Rank
1.	Political science is a discipline that guarantees full employment for students upon graduation.	79 (10)	16 (16)	5 (5)	-	2.95	2nd
2.	Graduates of political science are needed to develop a country’s civil service.	80 (80)	10 (10)	10 (10)	-	3.01	1st
3.	Academic field of political science gives adequate training needed to teach Government as a school subject in secondary schools.	73 (73)	27 (27)	-	-	2.90	3rd
4.	Knowledge of political science is critical to developing and inculcating patriotism in the students.	60 (60)	24 (24)	10 (10)	6 (6)	2.56	6th



5.	Knowledge of political science can make one to be self-reliant	20 (20)	7 (7)	63 (63)	10 (10)	1.01	8th
6.	Political science education prepares students to be full-time politicians	50 (50)	13 (13)	37 (37)	-	2.40	7th
7.	Political science education nurtures citizens who are fully aware of their political rights.	71 (71)	25 (25)	2 (2)	2 (2)	2.75	4th
8.	Political science education prepares the students for the challenges of later life.	69 (69)	23 (23)	-	8 (8)	2.70	5th

Table 1 revealed that majority of the respondents agreed that the future prospect of political science education as a course of study is positive. The detailed explanation is as follows; the respondents agreed that Graduates of political science are needed to develop a country’s civil service (mean=3.01), also, that Political science is a discipline that guarantees full employment for students upon graduation (mean=2.95), Academic field of political science gives adequate training needed to teach Government as a school subject in secondary schools (mean=2.90), Political science education nurtures citizens who are fully aware of their political rights (mean=2.75), Political science education

nurtures citizens who are fully aware of their political rights (mean=2.70), Knowledge of political science is critical to developing and inculcating patriotism in the students (mean=2.56), Political science education prepares students to be full-time politicians (mean=2.40). However, majority of the respondents disagreed that Knowledge of political science can make one to be self-reliant (mean=1.01)

Research question 2: What motivated student’s choice of political science education as field of study at Ekiti State University (EKSU) in affiliation with Emmanuel Alayande College of Education, (EACOED) Oyo?

Table 2: showing the factors that motivated student’s choice of political science education as field of study

S/N	Statement	SA	A	D	SD	Mean	Rank
1.	The theoretical, conceptual and methodological rigorous knowledge about politics for effectiveness in Teaching of Government in Senior Secondary School.	20 (20)	60 (60)	10 (10)	10 (10)	2.90	7 th
2.	The dominant role politics plays in the daily activities of all living	70 (70)	20 (20)	-	10 (10)	3.5	2 nd
3.	The knowledge of politics which helps in solving today issues and challenges of life.	75 (75)	25 (25)	-	-	3.75	1 st
4.	The ego and respects associated with being a political analyst	45 (45)	55 (55)	-	-	3.45	3 rd
5.	The in-depth passion for politics which was borne out of the	40	40	15	05	3.15	5 th



S/N	Statement	SA	A	D	SD	Mean	Rank
6.	articulacy of studying Political science Need to drive and effect a change in formation and implementation of public policy.	60 (60)	30 (30)	-	10 (10)	3.40	4 th
7.	To be influential in public debate	40 (40)	40 (40)	10 (10)	10 (10)	3.10	6 th

The table gives the detailed explanation of the respondents to the questionnaire items to answer research question 2. Many of the respondents agreed that the theoretical, conceptual and methodological rigorous knowledge about politics for effectiveness in teaching of Government in Senior Secondary School motivated them to study political science education (mean=**2.90**), the dominant role politics plays in the daily activities of all living (mean=**3.5**), the knowledge of politics which helps in solving today issues and challenges of life (mean=**3.75**) is motivating another. The ego and respects associated with being a

political analyst (mean=**3.45**), the in-depth passion for politics which was borne out of the articulacy of studying Political science (mean=**3.15**), need to drive and effect a change in formation and implementation of public policy (mean=**3.40**) and finally, to be influential in public debates (mean=**3.10**) motivated the students' choice to study political science education.

Research question 3: Are there challenges being faced in the study of political science education at Ekiti State University (EKSU) in affiliation with Emmanuel Alayande College of Education, (EACOED) Oyo?

Table showing the challenges being faced in the study of political science education

S/N	Statement	SA	A	D	SD	Mean	Rank
1.	Lack of conducive atmosphere for the teaching and learning due to overcrowding	60 (60)	20 (20)	5 (5)	15 (15)	3.35	2 nd
2.	Poor funding of Teacher education leading to dearth of relevant instructional materials	40 (40)	22 (22)	20 (20)	18 (18)	2.84	4 th
3.	Lack of serious academic commitment and devotion of student to study	60 (60)	20 (20)	10 (10)	10 (10)	3.30	1 st
4.	Conflicting lecture time-table and venue with other departments	10 (10)	50 (50)	20 (20)	20 (20)	2.50	5 th
5.	Lack of enough textbooks in departmental and college libraries.	40 (40)	20 (20)	25 (25)	15 (15)	2.85	3 rd

The table gives the detailed explanation of the respondents to the questionnaire items to answer research question 3. Lack of conducive atmosphere for the teaching and learning (Mean=**3.35**), poor funding of Teacher education leading to dearth of

relevant instructional materials (Mean=**2.84**), lack of serious academic commitment and devotion of student to study (Mean=**3.30**), conflicting lecture time-table and venue with other departments (Mean=**2.50**), and lack of enough textbooks in departmental and

college libraries (Mean=**2.85**) are some of the challenges being faced by the students in their quest to study of political science education at Ekiti State University in affiliation with Emmanuel Alayande College of Education, Oyo.

Discussion of Findings

The findings for research question one showed that the respondents agreed that Graduates of political science are needed to develop a country's civil service, the need to drive and effect a change in formation and implementation of public policy and that Political science is a discipline that guarantees full employment for students upon graduation thus having a greater influence on students' enrolment in political science education. This is in agreement with findings of Ezirim, Nnamani, Onah, Agbo and Ike (2016) who suggested the inclusion of more political scientists especially in policy formulation and implementation.

Academic field of political science gives adequate training needed to teach Government as a school subject in secondary schools and political science education nurtures citizens who are fully aware of their political rights. Political science education nurtures citizens who are fully aware of their political rights. Knowledge of political science is critical to developing and inculcating patriotism in the students. The foregoing tallies with the submission of (Okoli cited in Kwasau, 2013 and Ezirim, Nnamani, Onah, Agbo & Ike, 2016) that citizenship training is one of the goals of political science. That many citizens are eager to study political science education so as to be conscious of their rights, duties and obligations to their government.

The findings for research question 2 depicted that many of the respondents agreed that the theoretical, conceptual and methodological rigorous knowledge about

politics for effectiveness in teaching of Government in Senior Secondary School motivated them to study political science education and again, the dominant role politics plays in the daily activities of all living and similarly, the knowledge of politics which helps in solving today issues and challenges of life and finally, to be influential in public debates motivated the students' choice to study political science education. This is in agreement with the observation of Alkasim, Adamu, Sufi, and Adamu (2021) which found that the knowledge of political science education received either at NCE or University level prepares the recipient to become proficient teachers of government just as the authors added that, political science education train the students in step-by-step-logical analysis.

Findings on research question 3 revealed that lack of conducive atmosphere for the teaching and learning, poor funding of Teacher education leading to dearth of relevant instructional materials, lack of serious academic commitment and devotion of student to study, conflicting lecture time-table and venue with other departments, and lack of enough textbooks in departmental and college libraries are some of the challenges being faced by the students in their quest to study of political science education at Ekiti State University in affiliation with Emmanuel Alayande College of Education, Oyo. These findings are similar to the observation of Gilbert (2014) when he interrogated the fundamental challenges militating against the teaching and learning of Government in Nigerian senior secondary schools. Part of the challenges he reported included; lack of functional libraries, lack of standard textbooks, non-availability of resource centres and instructional materials, among others.

5. Conclusion and Recommendations

Conclusion

The study interrogated factors responsible for the continuous increase in the choice of Political Science Education at Ekiti State University in affiliation with Emmanuel Alayande College of Education, Oyo. The study, on one hand, concluded that students' choice of Political Science Education was motivated by the knowledge of politics which helps in solving day to day issues and challenges of life. This could be attributed to the fact that students are willing to acquire knowledge through the learning of Political science so as to be able to contribute meaningfully to the development of their society. Again, that the dominant role that politics plays in the daily activities of all living influences the students' choice of Political science education. This simply implies that the students are willing to get involved in politics upon graduation. Moreover, it was discovered that the theoretical, conceptual and methodological rigorous knowledge about politics for effectiveness in teaching of government in Senior Secondary School was ranked very low as a motivating factor for the choice of Political Science Education. On the other hand, the study confirmed that lack of serious academic commitment and devotion to study has been a peculiar challenge to the study of Political Science Education. Similarly, lack of an atmosphere suitable for the teaching and learning of Political Science due to overcrowding militates against the study of Political Science Education. The study further revealed that, clashes in the lecture time-table and venue also constitute another challenge howbeit, at low ebb

Recommendations

Based on the findings of the study, the following recommendations are made: First, students should show high level of commitment and dedication to their study

by attending classes promptly/punctually and regularly. They should give priority attention to their studies.

Secondly, the State Government, college management and other major stakeholders in education should ensure conducive atmospheric condition as this will facilitate effective teaching and learning of Political Science Education and other courses so as to be able to avoid overcrowding, clashes in time-tables and venues. To this end, building of more lecture halls is advanced.

In addition, both Departmental and College libraries should be fully equipped with seasoned textbooks on Political Science and regular supply of instructional materials to make teacher education particularly, Political Science Education pragmatic, attractive and enticing to the students.

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