

**DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS AND NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT IN
NIGERIA: EDO STATE IN FOCUS**

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SSC2105701

DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE

FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES

UNIVERSITY OF BENIN

BENIN CITY, NIGERIA

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CERTIFICATION

This is to certify that this project was carried out by IBRAHIM OSHOKE AHMED in the Department of Political Science in partial fulfilment of the requirements for the award of Bachelor Degree (B.SC.) in Political Science, University of Benin, Benin City.

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Date: _____

DEDICATION

This work is dedicated to the Almighty Allah, the Alpha and Omega. The work is also dedicated to all of my loving family, my parents Mr. and Mrs. Ibrahim, my Lovely sisters and brother and my wonderful brother in-law Mr. Fuhad Ojomu.

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ABSTRACT

The study investigated democratic institutions and national development in Nigeria with Edo State as the focal point. The persistent challenge of weak institutional frameworks, corruption, and governance deficits continues to undermine Nigeria's democratic consolidation and developmental progress. As a result, key institutions such as the legislature, judiciary, and electoral bodies often struggle to fulfil their mandates effectively, thereby limiting their ability to drive socio-economic and political development in the country. Pertinent questions were raised such as, how have democratic institutions contributed to the socio-economic and political development of Nigeria since the return to democratic rule? to give the research a focus. The study adopted descriptive research survey design to address issue in the subject matter. The sample size was made up of 100 respondents. The data collected was analyzed using frequency count and simple percentage. The study was anchored on the Modernization Theory, which emphasises the role of stable, transparent, and accountable institutions in sustaining democracy and national development.

The study revealed that democratic institutions have contributed to Nigeria's socio-economic and political development since the return to democratic governance, particularly through law-making, electoral reforms, and the promotion of civic participation. However, the findings equally showed that the influence of these institutions on good governance, transparency, and accountability remains limited due to political interference, corruption, inadequate funding, and poor institutional capacity.

The study concluded that strengthening democratic institutions is essential for enhancing national development in Nigeria. Reforms such as improved institutional autonomy, stronger anti-corruption mechanisms, adequate funding, capacity building, and the enforcement of constitutional provisions were identified as necessary for revitalising democratic institutions. The study recommended, among others, that government at all levels should prioritise institutional reforms, promote transparency, and ensure strict adherence to democratic principles to achieve sustainable national development in Edo State and Nigeria at large.

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background to the Study

Democratic institutions form the backbone of any democratic society, playing a crucial role in governance, policy implementation, and national development. Democratic institutions such as political parties, legislature, judiciary, electoral bodies, and anti-corruption agencies serve as checks on governmental power and ensure accountability, transparency, and respect for the rule of law (Nuhu, 2023). Since Nigeria's return to democracy in 1999, the effectiveness of these institutions has been a central concern, particularly as they influence socio-economic and political outcomes. The ability of democratic institutions to foster development lies in their capacity to deliver good governance, protect citizens' rights, and create an enabling environment for economic growth. When democratic institutions such as political parties, legislature, judiciary, electoral bodies, and anti-corruption agencies are weak, corruption, abuse of power, and political instability thrive, impeding national development efforts and democratic consolidation (Salau, 2022).

Democracy flourishes when institutions act independently and remain committed to upholding constitutional principles. Critical institutions like the National Assembly and the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) play vital roles in shaping policies and ensuring free and fair elections (Abubakar, 2021). However, Nigeria's

democratic institutions have often faced threats such as political interference, lack of autonomy, and underfunding, which hinder their effectiveness. Weak institutional frameworks allow corruption and impunity to persist, affecting both governance and socio-economic growth. When democratic institutions cannot adequately regulate political competition or check the abuse of power, the overall democratic process is weakened. For sustainable development, these institutions must operate effectively, ensuring accountability, the rule of law, and inclusiveness (Ibrahim, 2023).

National development is directly influenced by the efficiency of democratic institutions in managing public resources and implementing socio-economic policies. Democratic institutions ensure economic planning and execution of developmental projects that meet citizens' needs, such as infrastructure, education, and healthcare. Unfortunately, in Nigeria, weak institutional capacity, policy inconsistency, and mismanagement of resources have slowed economic growth (Lawal, 2022). The inability of these institutions to enforce anti-corruption measures or ensure transparency in public spending has further exacerbated poverty and unemployment. Strengthening these structures is necessary for equitable distribution of resources and improved service delivery. Effective democratic institutions promote economic stability by fostering a favourable environment for investment, innovation, and entrepreneurship, all of which are crucial to national development (Okeke, 2020).

The judiciary, a key democratic institution, is indispensable in promoting justice, equality, and the rule of law. An independent judiciary fosters public trust and ensures that government actions remain within the bounds of legality. In Nigeria, however, the judiciary has struggled with systemic corruption, political interference, and prolonged court cases that undermine its credibility and efficiency (Eze, 2021). Such deficiencies weaken the protection of citizens' rights and discourage both domestic and foreign investments, ultimately hampering development. Judicial reforms aimed at strengthening independence, efficiency, and accountability are therefore crucial for national growth. By upholding justice and fairness, the judiciary can help to build stronger democratic structures that contribute to peace and socio-economic progress (Ahmed, 2022).

The legislature also plays a critical role in sustaining democracy and driving national development through law-making, policy oversight, and representation of the people. Musa (2020) stated that a strong and independent legislature acts as a watchdog over the executive, ensuring that government policies are people-centred. In Nigeria, the legislature has often been criticised for inadequate oversight functions, corruption scandals, and political compromises that weaken its role. Strengthening legislative capacity and independence would enhance policy implementation and ensure that development projects are effectively monitored. A legislature that reflects the will of the people contributes to political stability, accountability, and national growth by ensuring checks and balances in governance (Onah, 2022).

The electoral system, which determines political leadership, is another vital democratic institution influencing development outcomes. Credible elections produce legitimate leaders who prioritise good governance and socio-economic advancement. However, in Nigeria, elections are frequently marred by irregularities, violence, and voter apathy, which weaken public confidence in democratic processes (Balogun, 2022). Electoral malpractice often results in poor leadership and policies that do not reflect the people's aspirations, thereby slowing national progress. Reforming electoral processes, enhancing the autonomy of electoral bodies, and adopting technology-driven solutions are necessary to ensure free, fair, and transparent elections that strengthen democracy and development (Umar, 2023).

The media and civil society organisations, often referred to as the “fourth estate,” complement other democratic institutions by promoting accountability and public participation. A free press and vibrant civil society expose corruption, influence policy changes, and empower citizens to demand better governance (Yakubu, 2023). In Nigeria, these bodies have made significant contributions to democratic consolidation but continue to face challenges like censorship, limited freedom of information, and harassment of journalists. Strengthening press freedom and enabling civil society to operate independently are critical to ensuring transparent governance and socio-economic progress. A robust media landscape can significantly contribute to national development by keeping leaders accountable (Olawale, 2021).

1.2 Statement of the Problem

In contemporary Nigeria, the relationship between democratic institutions and national development appears to be weak and inconsistent, raising concerns about the effectiveness of these institutions in driving socio-economic progress. Democratic institutions such as the legislature, judiciary, and electoral bodies are expected to ensure accountability, uphold the rule of law, and facilitate the implementation of people-oriented policies. However, preliminary observations suggest that these institutions often struggle with political interference, corruption, and lack of autonomy, which undermine their ability to promote sustainable national development. Nigeria, despite over two decades of uninterrupted democracy, continues to grapple with widespread poverty, infrastructural deficits, insecurity, and unemployment, all of which point to the inability of democratic institutions to function as true catalysts of development (Adewale, 2022). The persistent failure of these institutions has eroded public trust in governance, creating a gap between democratic ideals and the realities of Nigerian society.

The problem is further compounded by the lack of institutional capacity and the prevalence of weak enforcement mechanisms that limit the effective execution of government policies. Democratic institutions in Nigeria often lack the resources, independence, and integrity required to address socio-economic challenges such as corruption, electoral malpractices, and unequal resource distribution. This has resulted in poor policy implementation, frequent political crises, and weak democratic consolidation. For instance, despite numerous anti-corruption campaigns, embezzlement of public funds

and lack of accountability remain prevalent due to institutional weaknesses. Furthermore, the electoral system is often characterised by irregularities, leading to the emergence of leaders who do not reflect the true will of the people, thereby hindering national growth and stability (Ekanem, 2021). Consequently, there is a need to critically examine how the functionality of democratic institutions influences national development in Nigeria, with a view to identifying and addressing the structural and operational challenges that impede their performance. In light of the above, the researcher aim to fill the gap in literature as the study seeks to investigate democratic institutions and national development in Nigeria.

1.3 Research Questions

The following questions will guide the study:

1. How have democratic institutions contributed to the socio-economic and political development of Nigeria since the return to democratic rule?
2. To what extent do democratic institutions influence good governance, transparency, and accountability in Nigeria?
3. What challenges hinder the effective functioning of democratic institutions in promoting national development in Nigeria?
4. What reforms are necessary to strengthen democratic institutions for enhanced national development in Nigeria?

1.4 Objectives of the Study

The broad objective of the study is to investigate on democratic institutions and national development in Nigeria. However, the specific objectives of the study are to:

1. To find out how democratic institutions have contributed to the socio-economic and political development of Nigeria since the return to democratic rule;
2. To ascertain the extent democratic institutions influence good governance, transparency, and accountability in Nigeria;
3. To examine the challenges hindering the effective functioning of democratic institutions in promoting national development in Nigeria;
4. To highlight some reforms which are necessary to strengthen democratic institutions for enhanced national development in Nigeria.

1.5 Scope of the Study

This study focuses on examining the role of democratic institutions in promoting national development in Nigeria, with a specific emphasis on Edo State. The research is limited to assessing the contributions of democratic institutions to socio-economic and political development since the return to democratic governance in 1999. It also explores the challenges affecting their effectiveness in fostering good governance, transparency, and accountability, as well as possible reforms needed to strengthen these institutions.

1.6 Significance of the Study

This study is significant as it provides a deeper understanding of how democratic institutions influence national development in Nigeria. By focusing on the role and impact of these institutions in socio-economic and political advancement, the research will offer valuable insights into the strengths, weaknesses, and opportunities within Nigeria's democratic framework since the return to democratic governance in 1999, helping to assess its effectiveness and sustainability.

The study is also important to policymakers and government officials, as it highlights the key challenges hindering the effective functioning of democratic institutions and governance. The findings will provide practical recommendations and actionable strategies on necessary reforms aimed at enhancing good governance, transparency, and accountability for sustainable national development, while strengthening democratic principles and ensuring equitable socio-economic growth across Nigeria's diverse population.

For scholars, researchers, and students of political science, this work will serve as a highly relevant academic and reference resource. It will enrich existing literature on democratic governance, institutional reforms, and development in Nigeria, particularly with its case study approach focusing on Egor Local Government Area of Edo State, thereby offering a useful framework for future academic discussions, analysis, and research endeavours.

The study will equally be beneficial to civil society organisations and advocacy groups, as it underscores the critical roles they play in strengthening democratic institutions and holding public officials accountable. The recommendations from the study can guide them in designing more effective advocacy strategies, campaigns, and programmes that foster citizen engagement, participation, and the advancement of democratic ideals in local communities and the nation at large.

This research will help the general public, particularly residents of Egor LGA, to better understand how democratic institutions impact their daily lives and national progress. It will also encourage greater civic participation, awareness, and responsibility, thereby promoting a stronger democratic culture, active citizenship, and the realisation of socio-political and economic development goals across Nigeria's democratic landscape.

1.7 Definition of Key Terms

Democratic Institutions: These refer to the formal structures and systems that uphold democracy within a state, including the legislature, judiciary, executive, electoral bodies, and other organisations that ensure governance is based on the rule of law, transparency, accountability, and citizens' participation in decision-making.

National Development: This is the overall improvement in the economic, political, and social well-being of a nation. It involves advancements in infrastructure, education,

healthcare, governance, and the protection of citizens' rights to ensure sustainable growth and a better quality of life for the population.

Good Governance: Good governance refers to the effective, transparent, accountable, and equitable management of a nation's resources and institutions to meet the needs of citizens. It includes principles such as the rule of law, responsiveness, inclusivity, and participation, which are essential for democratic sustainability and national development.

CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW AND THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

2.0 Introduction

This chapter provides a comprehensive exploration of democratic institutions and national development. It offers a critical examination of the concepts of democratic institutions and national development, as well as an in-depth discussion of the role of democratic institutions in shaping Nigeria's socio-economic and political progress since the return to democratic governance. Furthermore, the chapter analyses the influence of democratic institutions on good governance, transparency, and accountability in Nigeria. It also investigates the challenges impeding the effective functioning of democratic institutions in fostering national development and examines the reforms necessary to strengthen these institutions for improved national growth. The chapter concludes with a detailed discussion of the Modernisation Theory propounded by Walt Whitman Rostow in 1960.

2.1 Concept of Democratic Institutions

Democratic institutions refer to the formal and informal structures that regulate political processes, protect citizens' rights, and ensure accountability within a democracy. Kabieyi (2023) asserted that these institutions include the legislature, judiciary, electoral bodies, political parties, and civil society organisations that provide frameworks for participation and representation. They create opportunities for citizens to influence

political decisions, ensuring that power does not rest solely in the hands of a few elites. These institutions uphold laws, safeguard rights, and serve as checks on government authority, thereby strengthening public trust. In Nigeria, democratic institutions are particularly important in consolidating democracy and preventing authoritarianism. They enhance participation, protect freedom of expression, and encourage transparency in leadership. Their absence could lead to political instability and disempowerment of the citizenry. Thus, democratic institutions remain a vital pillar for building an inclusive, fair, and sustainable governance structure (Okoh, 2021).

Political parties are central democratic institutions responsible for mobilising citizens, shaping public opinion, and presenting candidates for elections. Damagun (2023) asserted that political parties serve as vital vehicles through which the electorate expresses their will and influences governance. In democratic systems, parties provide platforms for individuals with shared ideologies to organise, participate in elections, and form governments. They also ensure accountability by offering opposition parties that act as checks on ruling administrations, thereby deepening democratic culture. In Nigeria, parties like the All Progressives Congress (APC) and the People's Democratic Party (PDP) have played significant roles in structuring political competition and fostering national dialogue. Political parties further strengthen democracy by educating citizens about their rights and responsibilities, thus encouraging informed political participation. They are indispensable in nurturing political stability and legitimacy, especially in diverse societies like Nigeria (Olawale, 2021).

The legislature is a democratic institution tasked with lawmaking, representation, and oversight functions. Adebayo and Ikah (2021) emphasised that legislatures embody the sovereignty of the people, serving as a platform where citizens' interests are debated and transformed into laws. In Nigeria, the National Assembly, composed of the Senate and the House of Representatives, plays a pivotal role in enacting legislation that shapes governance and ensures societal order. Legislatures also monitor and scrutinise the executive branch to prevent abuse of power, thereby maintaining the balance of power essential to democracy. State Houses of Assembly further enhance representation by addressing local concerns, bridging the gap between communities and government. Through public hearings, legislative committees, and budget approvals, the legislature ensures transparency and accountability in government operations. This institution strengthens democracy by giving citizens a voice in policymaking and reinforcing constitutional principles (Ibrahim, 2023).

The judiciary, as a democratic institution, ensures justice, interprets laws, and upholds the constitution. Uche (2022) argued that an independent judiciary is the backbone of democracy, safeguarding citizens' rights and limiting the arbitrary use of power. In Nigeria, the judiciary plays a critical role in resolving disputes, reviewing laws for constitutionality, and protecting fundamental freedoms. Courts at all levels—from magistrate courts to the Supreme Court—serve as avenues where citizens seek justice and redress. A strong judiciary reinforces trust in governance and promotes political stability by ensuring leaders are subject to the rule of law. By interpreting electoral disputes and

political conflicts, the judiciary acts as an impartial arbiter, thereby preserving democratic norms. For democracy to thrive, judicial officers must remain impartial, free from corruption, and empowered to make decisions without political interference (Okonkwo & Ezeji, 2021).

Electoral bodies are crucial democratic institutions tasked with organising free, fair, and credible elections. Musa (2023) stated that electoral commissions are essential in safeguarding electoral integrity and enabling citizens to exercise their democratic rights. In Nigeria, the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) is responsible for voter registration, conducting elections, and announcing results, thereby ensuring a transparent electoral process. Electoral bodies are instrumental in promoting political participation by creating awareness campaigns, monitoring party activities, and ensuring compliance with electoral laws. Their neutrality and efficiency are key indicators of democratic health, as credible elections guarantee peaceful leadership transitions. Furthermore, electoral bodies often collaborate with civil society and international observers to strengthen election credibility and transparency. By holding political parties and candidates accountable, electoral commissions promote inclusiveness and sustain citizens' trust in democratic systems (Adeleke, 2022).

Anti-corruption agencies are democratic institutions dedicated to combating corruption and ensuring transparency in governance. Bello and Ajayi (2022) highlighted that corruption undermines democracy by eroding public trust and enabling abuse of

power, making anti-corruption agencies indispensable. In Nigeria, agencies such as the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) and the Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission (ICPC) work tirelessly to investigate financial crimes, prosecute offenders, and recover stolen assets. Their activities help deter corrupt practices and strengthen accountability across all sectors of government. These institutions are also key in educating citizens about ethics and promoting integrity in public service. The effectiveness of anti-corruption agencies is a measure of a country's democratic maturity, as their independence safeguards the rule of law and encourages responsible leadership. Strengthening these institutions is essential for fostering good governance and socio-economic development (Ogunyemi, 2023).

Democratic institutions collectively serve as the pillars of democracy by ensuring participation, accountability, and stability. Tamuno (2023) asserted that the effectiveness of democratic institutions directly influences the quality of governance and the extent to which citizens trust their leaders. Political parties, legislatures, judiciaries, electoral commissions, and anti-corruption agencies complement one another in promoting rule of law, electoral integrity, and good governance. By performing their roles effectively, they create an enabling environment for citizens to exercise their rights, contribute to policy formulation, and hold leaders accountable. These institutions also act as safeguards against authoritarianism, protecting civil liberties and strengthening democratic values. In Nigeria, their proper functioning is critical to consolidating democracy and achieving

sustainable development. Ultimately, strong democratic institutions are the foundation for political stability, justice, and prosperity (Abubakar, 2021).

2.2 Concept of National Development

National development refers to the comprehensive process through which a nation improves its citizens' quality of life in economic, social, political, and cultural dimensions. Lateef (2023) asserted that national development goes beyond economic growth to encompass infrastructure development, educational advancement, improved healthcare systems, and social welfare. It reflects a nation's ability to provide equitable opportunities and ensure justice for all citizens, regardless of status or background. National development is a collective effort involving government policies, citizen participation, and private sector investment to achieve sustainable growth. It also requires a focus on self-reliance, technological advancement, and effective utilisation of natural resources. By measuring progress not only in material wealth but also in human capital and social stability, nations can ensure inclusive growth. Thus, national development is a broad, dynamic, and long-term process aimed at ensuring the holistic well-being of the populace (Abang, 2021).

National development is a multifaceted process that involves both tangible and intangible aspects of a nation's progress. Ibrahim and Ibanga (2022) explained that while economic metrics like gross domestic product (GDP) growth and industrialisation are essential, true development also includes advancements in education, health, culture, and

innovation. A developed nation invests in human capital to enhance productivity and global competitiveness, empowering citizens to contribute effectively to societal growth. National development also means addressing social inequalities and providing access to essential services such as clean water, sanitation, and housing. Furthermore, environmental sustainability plays a vital role in ensuring that growth is long-lasting and does not compromise future generations. By integrating social inclusion and environmental conservation with economic policies, national development can create balanced, equitable societies. It is therefore an inclusive and strategic process designed to uplift all citizens and foster national unity (Adeyemi & Esiko, 2020).

Strong governance and institutional frameworks are fundamental to the achievement of national development. Kumuyi (2021) emphasised that transparent leadership, the rule of law, and democratic systems are essential for fostering trust and accountability in society. Institutions that function effectively ensure equitable distribution of resources, proper policy implementation, and social justice. National development thrives in environments free from corruption, political instability, and systemic inefficiencies, making governance reforms critical. Equally, citizen participation in decision-making is key, as inclusive governance fosters ownership of development initiatives. Building strong democratic systems also creates stability, which encourages foreign investments and economic growth. Furthermore, effective governance protects human rights, promotes security, and nurtures innovation. A robust institutional framework thus acts as the backbone of progress, ensuring that developmental policies

are impactful and sustainable, creating a favourable environment for long-term national growth and transformation (Aina, 2023).

Social development is another core component of national development, as it emphasises improving the welfare and social conditions of citizens. Bashir (2022) observed that social development focuses on reducing inequalities, promoting inclusivity, and strengthening unity among diverse groups. It involves providing access to quality education, affordable healthcare, housing, and social welfare programmes to uplift vulnerable populations. Gender equality and youth empowerment are crucial to achieving social growth, as they ensure equal opportunities for all citizens to contribute to national prosperity. Social development also aims to foster national identity, cultural preservation, and civic responsibility, which are essential for societal cohesion. Programmes that encourage skills acquisition, community participation, and poverty alleviation further drive social stability and economic empowerment. Ultimately, national development cannot be achieved without social transformation that ensures citizens' well-being, dignity, and involvement in shaping their nation's future direction and growth (Dokunbor, 2021).

Economic growth and diversification play a pivotal role in the meaning and attainment of national development. Tajudeen (2020) stated that economic development involves building strong industries, creating jobs, and fostering entrepreneurship to ensure self-reliance. A developed nation relies on innovation, industrialisation, and

efficient utilisation of resources rather than a single-sector economy. National development policies should therefore prioritise supporting small and medium-scale enterprises, reducing unemployment, and encouraging foreign and local investments. Furthermore, equitable wealth distribution is vital to prevent poverty gaps and social unrest. A robust economy provides the financial foundation for investments in education, infrastructure, and healthcare, all of which contribute to sustained progress. Countries with diversified economies are better equipped to withstand global shocks and maintain steady growth. Thus, economic transformation is a critical element of national development, linking prosperity with equitable opportunities for every citizen (Chukwu, 2023).

National development represents a holistic and continuous process aimed at transforming every aspect of a nation's existence to ensure progress and stability. Mustapha (2023) noted that it involves economic reforms, social inclusion, strong governance, infrastructure growth, and environmental sustainability, making it a shared responsibility among government, citizens, and private sectors. Development is not static but evolves with societal needs, technological advancement, and global changes, requiring innovative policies and effective leadership. A truly developed nation provides its citizens with security, opportunities, and a high standard of living while fostering unity and justice. Moreover, national development signifies a long-term vision that prioritises capacity building, cultural preservation, and global competitiveness. It is an

ongoing journey that reflects the collective efforts of a nation to secure prosperity, dignity, and equity for present and future generations (Echebiri, 2022).

2.3 Role of Democratic Institutions in Shaping Nigeria's Socio-Economic and Political Progress since the Return to Democratic Governance

Democratic institutions are fundamental pillars that ensure transparency, accountability, and stability in a nation's governance structure. Essien (2023) asserted that democratic institutions play a crucial role in shaping Nigeria's political and economic systems by promoting checks and balances, safeguarding civil liberties, and enabling citizen participation. Since the return to democracy in 1999, these institutions have provided a framework for the separation of powers, ensuring that the executive, legislature, and judiciary operate independently. They have helped strengthen Nigeria's democratic culture, allowing citizens to demand better governance and development. The entrenchment of democratic norms has created a platform for reforms and dialogue, ultimately contributing to socio-political stability. By fostering trust between citizens and government, democratic institutions have laid the groundwork for sustainable development and inclusive growth (Maduku, 2022).

Political parties, as democratic institutions, have contributed significantly to Nigeria's democratic development by fostering political participation and competition. Erhivona (2021) emphasised that political parties serve as the main channels through which Nigerians engage with the electoral process, express their interests, and hold

leaders accountable. The multiparty system introduced after 1999 has enhanced representation and diversity, giving citizens choices and promoting inclusivity in governance. Political parties have also played a vital role in shaping public discourse, influencing policymaking, and mobilising voters during elections. Despite internal crises within some parties, their role in sustaining democracy cannot be overlooked, as they remain central to political education and leadership recruitment. The consolidation of party systems over the years reflects Nigeria's progress in democratic maturity and political pluralism (Dotun, 2020).

The legislature, being a critical democratic institution, has played a vital role in shaping Nigeria's socio-economic growth through law-making and oversight functions. Yobo (2022) observed that since the Fourth Republic, the legislature has acted as a watchdog over the executive, ensuring accountability in governance and prudent use of resources. Through the passage of laws and the ratification of budgets, the legislature has influenced Nigeria's development trajectory by prioritising sectors such as education, health, and infrastructure. Legislative committees and public hearings have strengthened citizen participation in governance, bridging the gap between leaders and the electorate. By checking executive excesses and promoting transparency, the legislature has reinforced democratic principles and contributed to political stability and economic reforms (Obire, 2023).

The judiciary has also been instrumental in Nigeria's democratic consolidation by safeguarding the rule of law and protecting citizens' rights. Tanko and Ibrahim (2023) stated that judicial independence is crucial in fostering confidence in democracy, as courts serve as arbiters in electoral disputes and governance conflicts. The judiciary has played a pivotal role in interpreting the constitution, resolving electoral disputes, and ensuring justice delivery, thereby promoting political stability. High-profile cases involving electoral fraud, corruption, and abuse of power have demonstrated its relevance in strengthening democratic accountability. Judicial reforms over the years have enhanced access to justice and reduced impunity, reinforcing Nigeria's democratic culture. By upholding the rule of law, the judiciary has created a fair environment for political and economic activities to thrive (Oladipo & Edigbe, 2020).

Electoral bodies, particularly the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC), have been central to the success of Nigeria's democratic process since 1999. Adebayo (2022) argued that INEC's reforms, including the introduction of biometric voter registration and electronic transmission of results, have increased electoral transparency. These innovations have boosted public confidence in elections and enhanced citizen participation in governance. Despite challenges of electoral violence and vote buying, INEC continues to strengthen Nigeria's electoral framework, ensuring credibility and fairness in polls. Free and fair elections facilitated by electoral institutions have created an enabling environment for democratic governance and socio-economic

reforms, further entrenching Nigeria's democracy. INEC's progress is a testament to the resilience of Nigeria's democratic institutions (Babalakin, 2021).

Anti-corruption agencies, such as the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) and Independent Corrupt Practices Commission (ICPC), have been vital in promoting accountability and transparency. Umeh (2020) highlighted that these institutions have fought corruption by prosecuting offenders, recovering looted funds, and deterring financial crimes. Since the return to democracy, their activities have strengthened Nigeria's economic development by creating a more favourable investment climate and reducing corruption's negative impact on growth. Through partnerships with civil society and international organisations, anti-corruption agencies have improved Nigeria's image and credibility on the global stage. Although challenges such as political interference persist, their contributions to democratic consolidation and socio-economic reforms are undeniable (Nwachukwu, 2023).

2.4 Influence of Democratic Institutions on Good Governance, Transparency, and Accountability in Nigeria

The influence of democratic institutions on good governance in Nigeria cannot be overstated. Nakpodia (2023) asserted that democratic institutions provide a framework for citizens to engage in decision-making processes, fostering inclusivity and fairness in governance. Political parties, legislatures, and electoral bodies form the pillars of a democracy, ensuring leadership reflects popular choice, a key element of good

governance. Nigeria's democratic progress since 1999 has been closely tied to these institutions, which shape development priorities and respond to public needs. Through checks and balances, they limit power concentration, thereby safeguarding democratic ideals. While progress has been recorded, institutional weakness and corruption often undermine their impact. Reforms aimed at strengthening capacity, ensuring independence, and promoting civic engagement remain crucial. Stronger democratic institutions would deepen citizens' trust in governance and accelerate Nigeria's socio-political stability, laying a foundation for sustainable development and prosperity (Tankasi, 2021).

Transparency is a vital outcome of well-functioning democratic institutions in Nigeria. Ubdeji (2022) observed that legislative bodies and anti-corruption agencies enhance transparency by scrutinising public policies and expenditures. Parliamentary oversight, investigative hearings, and legislative debates ensure that citizens remain informed about government actions. Transparency also strengthens citizen participation, fostering trust between leaders and the governed. Institutions like the EFCC and ICPC are central in exposing financial misconduct, deterring corrupt practices, and strengthening democratic accountability. By promoting openness, these agencies help reduce abuse of power. However, the implementation of transparency measures remains inconsistent, with political interference limiting institutional effectiveness. Strengthening laws, improving leadership ethics, and enhancing public access to information are essential to improving transparency. Effective democratic institutions therefore provide a platform

where openness thrives, empowering citizens to demand better governance and participate actively in decision-making (Udoma, 2020).

Democratic institutions strengthen accountability, a cornerstone of Nigeria's democratic consolidation. Bamigboye (2021) stated that institutions enforce accountability by compelling leaders to justify their actions and policies. Elections empower citizens to hold leaders responsible, providing a peaceful avenue for leadership change. Additionally, judicial oversight and legislative scrutiny act as checks on executive power, ensuring transparency in resource allocation and policy implementation. This system discourages abuse of office, improves governance outcomes, and builds public confidence in democratic processes. However, institutional weaknesses such as corruption, politicisation, and lack of enforcement undermine accountability measures. Strengthening these mechanisms through reforms and enhanced institutional independence is essential. Civic education is equally vital to encourage active public participation in demanding accountability from leaders. Nigeria's democratic sustainability largely depends on effective accountability frameworks that foster trust, discourage impunity, and promote inclusive national development (Salau, 2022).

Electoral institutions play a critical role in Nigeria's democratic governance. Yari (2022) explained that credible elections, conducted by the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC), are central to ensuring that leadership reflects the electorate's will. INEC's duties in voter registration, election monitoring, and collation of results

significantly enhance electoral credibility and peace. Regular elections encourage democratic stability, while reforms like the Electoral Act 2022 have strengthened the electoral process, curbing irregularities. Civic education initiatives also promote voter participation, reinforcing electoral integrity. However, systemic challenges such as vote buying, voter intimidation, and logistical inefficiencies undermine credibility. Strengthening INEC's independence and addressing electoral malpractices are therefore crucial. Nigeria's democratic progress depends on effective electoral management that guarantees free, fair, and transparent elections, building trust in democratic institutions and deepening citizen involvement in shaping governance outcomes and policy direction (Fatukum, 2021).

The judiciary as a democratic institution is essential in promoting transparency and justice. Babatunde (2021) argued that it functions as a safeguard against executive or legislative excesses, ensuring fairness and adherence to the rule of law. Judicial reviews, constitutional interpretation, and dispute resolution protect citizens' rights, reinforcing democratic stability. The judiciary's ability to hear electoral and corruption cases demonstrates its role in upholding accountability and justice. Its independence remains central to building trust and strengthening governance systems. However, allegations of judicial corruption, political interference, and delays in delivering justice hinder its effectiveness. Reforms aimed at enhancing judicial independence, capacity-building, and ethical conduct are urgently needed. A strong, impartial judiciary remains indispensable

for sustaining democracy, promoting good governance, and protecting citizens' rights, making it one of Nigeria's most critical democratic institutions (Gambo, 2022).

Anti-corruption institutions further strengthen democratic governance by safeguarding public resources. Mayanie (2023) pointed out that agencies such as the EFCC and ICPC are key in investigating financial crimes, prosecuting corrupt officials, and reinforcing public trust. Their operations signal a commitment to integrity, accountability, and ethical governance, which are vital for democratic growth. These institutions create deterrence by exposing corruption scandals and prosecuting offenders, thus reinforcing transparency in public service. However, political influence, limited resources, and weak legal frameworks often hinder their performance. Strengthening their autonomy, enhancing funding, and adopting technology-driven strategies would improve their effectiveness. Effective anti-corruption institutions serve as pillars of democracy, ensuring that resources are used responsibly for national development, and reinforcing citizens' trust in governance structures. A robust anti-corruption system is therefore critical to Nigeria's democratic consolidation and sustainable socio-economic transformation (Udoh, 2021).

2.5 Challenges Hindering the Effective Functioning of Democratic Institutions in Promoting National Development in Nigeria

Democratic institutions in Nigeria face numerous challenges that weaken their ability to promote national development. Yetunde (2023) asserted that corruption is one

of the most significant obstacles undermining democratic governance, as it erodes trust in political institutions and diverts resources meant for development. Corruption within electoral bodies, the legislature, and anti-corruption agencies hampers their independence and effectiveness, making it difficult to enforce accountability. This practice leads to mismanagement of funds and projects, stifling socio-economic progress and weakening public confidence in democratic processes. In addition, corruption encourages impunity, as corrupt politicians manipulate these institutions to evade justice. For democracy to thrive and development to be realised, democratic structures must be insulated from corrupt practices and undue political interference. However, the persistent culture of corruption continues to weaken these institutions, limiting their developmental potential (Asari & Ogunlade, 2021).

Another major challenge affecting democratic institutions in Nigeria is electoral malpractice. Ukpom (2022) noted that electoral irregularities, including vote-buying, ballot-box snatching, and manipulation of results, compromise the credibility of elections and weaken democratic governance. When elections lack transparency, citizens lose faith in the process, resulting in political apathy and instability. Electoral malpractice often entrenches incompetent leaders in power, leading to policies that fail to address developmental needs. Furthermore, electoral violence during campaigns and voting further undermines public trust and discourages participation. Strengthening the electoral process through technological innovations like electronic voting and biometric verification has been suggested, but implementation challenges persist. Unless electoral

institutions are strengthened and political actors commit to credible elections, democratic institutions will struggle to drive meaningful development in Nigeria (Ukobi, 2023).

Weak judicial systems also hinder the effective functioning of democratic institutions in Nigeria. Diodemise (2021) argued that judicial corruption and political interference erode the judiciary's independence, making it difficult for courts to act as impartial arbiters of justice. Many cases of electoral disputes, human rights violations, and corruption charges are either delayed or manipulated, which undermines citizens' confidence in the rule of law. The judiciary is expected to act as a check on the excesses of other arms of government, but when compromised, it becomes a tool for oppression. Delays in the judicial process also frustrate citizens seeking justice and embolden corrupt officials. This dysfunction in the judiciary contributes to a cycle of impunity that weakens democracy and discourages investment, further slowing national development (Umoh, 2022).

Inadequate political will is another barrier that prevents democratic institutions from performing effectively. Edeki (2023) emphasised that political elites often prioritise personal interests over institutional reforms, leaving democratic structures weak and underfunded. Many leaders fail to respect the autonomy of key institutions like electoral commissions, anti-graft agencies, and legislatures, reducing their capacity to act independently. This lack of political commitment creates an environment where these institutions are easily manipulated for partisan gains. Without strong political will,

policies meant to strengthen democracy, such as constitutional reforms, decentralisation, and anti-corruption strategies, remain ineffective. Consequently, Nigeria's democratic institutions often serve political elites rather than the general public, hindering inclusive governance and sustainable development (Weyinmi, 2021).

Poor civic education is another factor that undermines the effectiveness of democratic institutions in promoting development. Faisasi (2022) explained that low levels of political awareness and understanding among citizens result in limited engagement in democratic processes. Many Nigerians lack knowledge of their rights and responsibilities, which makes them vulnerable to manipulation by politicians. Without proper civic education, democratic participation remains shallow, with elections being reduced to mere formalities rather than opportunities for meaningful change. Strengthening civic education can empower citizens to demand accountability and transparency, which would, in turn, strengthen democratic institutions. However, poor investment in civic awareness campaigns continues to hinder public engagement and weaken Nigeria's democratic culture (Garba & Eriyo, 2020).

Insecurity remains a major challenge to the proper functioning of democratic institutions. Zawadi (2023) observed that the widespread insecurity caused by terrorism, banditry, and communal conflicts disrupts governance, limits voter participation, and weakens state institutions. Electoral processes are often affected in conflict-prone regions, with citizens unable to vote freely due to fear of violence. Insecurity also diverts

resources away from development projects towards military spending, further limiting progress. Moreover, weak security institutions make it difficult to enforce the rule of law, leading to a climate of fear and instability. Until Nigeria addresses insecurity through institutional reforms, democratic structures will struggle to function effectively and promote national development (Madueke, 2021).

2.6 Reforms Necessary to Strengthen Democratic Institutions for Enhanced National Development in Nigeria

Electoral reforms are critical for strengthening democratic institutions in Nigeria, as credible elections remain the bedrock of democracy. Zubair (2023) asserted that strengthening the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) through financial autonomy, improved training, and adoption of advanced technology will ensure free and fair elections, reducing electoral malpractice and voter apathy. Introducing electronic voting and real-time transmission of results would enhance transparency and rebuild citizens' trust in the electoral process. Additionally, reforms should focus on prosecuting electoral offenders swiftly, thereby deterring violence and vote-buying. Civic education campaigns can also be intensified to empower citizens to actively participate in elections. By ensuring credible leadership selection, electoral reforms will lay the foundation for stability and sustainable national development (Nnamani, 2021).

Judicial reforms are essential to strengthen the rule of law and promote accountability in Nigeria's democratic framework. Tegbe (2022) emphasised that

ensuring the judiciary is truly independent through adequate funding, transparent appointment processes, and protection from political interference will enhance its effectiveness. Judicial reforms should include the digitisation of court proceedings, fast-tracking case resolution, and establishing more anti-corruption courts to deal with political and financial crimes efficiently. Training judges on international best practices and ethical standards would further reinforce judicial integrity. When the judiciary functions without bias, democratic institutions are better safeguarded, and citizens' rights are protected. A strong judicial system is a necessary tool for fostering national development, as it enforces laws that ensure justice, equity, and social stability (Sowunmi, 2023).

Reforming Nigeria's legislature is crucial to enhancing its capacity to perform its lawmaking, oversight, and representative functions. Bwala (2021) highlighted that legislative reforms should prioritise transparency, citizen engagement, and internal accountability mechanisms to check corruption among lawmakers. Strengthening parliamentary committees and enhancing research capacities would lead to more informed policymaking and effective oversight of the executive. Furthermore, reforms should introduce strict codes of conduct and improve constituency engagement to make lawmakers more responsive to the needs of citizens. Investing in training and digital tools for lawmakers will also enable better policy evaluation and inclusive governance. A vibrant legislature can ensure that policies are people-centred and aligned with national development goals (Enekpe, 2022).

Anti-corruption reforms are indispensable for democratic growth and sustainable development in Nigeria. Chidalu and Eke (2023) argued that institutions like the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) and the Independent Corrupt Practices Commission (ICPC) need greater autonomy and resources to effectively investigate and prosecute corruption cases. Reforms should focus on institutionalising transparency measures, such as open budgeting, procurement monitoring, and whistleblower protection laws, to deter corrupt practices. Additionally, stronger collaboration between anti-corruption bodies, civil society organisations, and the media is vital for strengthening accountability. Public awareness campaigns and enforcement of asset declaration laws will further reduce impunity among public officials. Combating corruption is central to restoring public confidence in democratic institutions and promoting economic development (Bamidele & Itoko, 2021).

Political party reforms are necessary to build strong democratic institutions and enhance good governance. Adamu and Ogonoye (2022) stated that Nigeria's political parties often lack internal democracy, leading to imposition of candidates, factional crises, and voter disillusionment. Reforms should focus on enforcing transparent primary elections, strengthening party financing regulations, and mandating issue-based campaigns rather than ethnic or religious mobilisation. Political parties must also invest in training members on democratic values and governance principles, fostering a culture of accountability and inclusiveness. By institutionalising internal democracy, parties will produce credible candidates and promote stability in the political system. This reform is

fundamental to creating a vibrant democracy that contributes to sustainable national development (Nwosu, 2023).

Strengthening democratic institutions also requires civic education and institutional capacity development. Guobadia (2023) observed that many citizens remain politically apathetic due to a lack of awareness of their rights and responsibilities. Reforms should therefore promote comprehensive civic education programmes, starting from schools to grassroots communities, to encourage active political participation. Additionally, public institutions need adequate funding, modern infrastructure, and professional training to effectively deliver on their mandates. Strengthening collaboration between government agencies and civil society will create more responsive governance systems. Building citizens' trust in institutions is vital for consolidating democracy and driving national development (Dariye, 2022).

2.7 Theoretical Framework

The study is hinged on the Modernization Theory propounded by Walt Whitman Rostow in 1960. Modernisation Theory emerged in the mid-20th century as a framework for understanding how societies transition from traditional to modern states, particularly in political and economic systems. It argues that development occurs through a linear process driven by industrialisation, education, urbanisation, and technological advancement, all of which create conditions conducive to democracy. According to this theory, democratic institutions flourish as a country modernises because citizens become

more educated, economically empowered, and politically aware, demanding accountability and participation. In Nigeria, this theory provides a lens for evaluating the growth of democratic structures since independence, suggesting that strengthening economic and social systems can create the foundation for good governance and sustainable national development. It underscores that democracy thrives in environments where citizens enjoy improved living standards and access to opportunities.

A key element of Modernisation Theory is its emphasis on economic growth as a prerequisite for stable democratic institutions. The theory posits that as a society industrialises and becomes wealthier, it fosters a middle class that is more likely to support democratic values, transparency, and accountability. In Nigeria's case, rapid economic growth has been uneven, with wealth concentration and poverty limiting the effectiveness of democratic reforms. The theory suggests that national development is tied to the diversification of the economy, improved infrastructure, and policies that empower citizens economically. When economic opportunities are widespread, citizens are more capable of engaging in political processes, holding leaders accountable, and demanding efficient institutions. Thus, applying this theory highlights the importance of linking democratic consolidation with policies that drive inclusive economic development in Nigeria.

Modernisation Theory also stresses that education plays a central role in strengthening democratic institutions. Education increases political literacy, enables

citizens to understand their rights, and fosters a culture of participation in governance. In Nigeria, increased access to education has contributed to a growing political consciousness, but disparities in educational quality and regional inequality still pose challenges to national development. The theory implies that investment in education not only prepares citizens for economic opportunities but also equips them to demand transparency, fair elections, and stronger institutions. Furthermore, education encourages social change by reducing traditional barriers to participation, such as ethnic and religious biases, thereby fostering unity and stability. This demonstrates how a modernised and educated society provides a solid foundation for democratic consolidation and sustainable growth.

Another critical aspect of Modernisation Theory is urbanisation, as cities often serve as hubs for political engagement, innovation, and institutional growth. Urban centres in Nigeria have become spaces where democratic ideals, civil society organisations, and political activism thrive, contributing to stronger democratic institutions. However, rapid and unplanned urbanisation has also introduced challenges, such as poverty and insecurity, which can undermine governance. Modernisation Theory highlights that well-managed urbanisation fosters economic opportunities, political awareness, and access to government services, thereby promoting trust in democratic systems. For Nigeria, policies that encourage infrastructural development, efficient public service delivery, and inclusive urban planning are essential for achieving national

development goals. The theory, therefore, ties institutional efficiency and political participation to the broader processes of social and spatial modernisation.

The theory is relevant to the study as it help provides a comprehensive framework for analysing the relationship between democratic institutions and national development in Nigeria. By linking economic growth, education, and urbanisation with political transformation, the theory illustrates that democracy is more likely to thrive in societies that achieve modernisation milestones. Nigeria's democratic progress since independence reflects both the opportunities and challenges highlighted by the theory, as persistent poverty, inequality, and weak infrastructure have slowed institutional growth. Nonetheless, the theory emphasises that sustainable democracy is achievable through deliberate investment in human capital, economic diversification, and infrastructural expansion. Applying Modernisation Theory to Nigeria's context underscores that democratic institutions and national development are mutually reinforcing, and reforms aimed at modernising society are crucial for achieving political stability and long-term growth.

CHAPTER THREE

METHODOLOGY

3.1 Introduction

This chapter outlined the research procedures and methods adopted by the researcher in gathering data relevant to the study. It covered the research design, study population, sample size, sampling technique, research instrument, instrument validity, sources of data, and method of data analysis. The discussion began with an explanation of the research method, highlighting the use of a descriptive survey design to address the research questions formulated for the study. The population of the study was clearly defined, specifying the target group from which data was obtained. The determination of sample size was presented, with justification for the selection of a representative subset of the population, while the sampling technique used was described in detail to enhance the reliability and generalisation of the findings. The research instrument, which was the questionnaire, was carefully designed and its validity assessed to ensure it accurately measured the intended constructs. Furthermore, the chapter identified both primary and secondary sources of data, provided reasons for their use, and explained the method of data analysis, emphasising the application of the Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) to generate meaningful interpretations from the collected data.

3.2 Research Design

The research methodology deployed in the study was the descriptive survey research design. This design, widely used in social science research, served as a systematic approach for collecting data on the characteristics, behaviours, attitudes, and opinions of a given population. Its primary purpose was to describe and analyse existing conditions or phenomena without altering variables or attempting to establish causal relationships. The choice of this design was deemed appropriate for the study, as it enabled the researcher to examine in depth the dynamics of democratic institutions and their influence on national development in Nigeria.

3.3 Area of Study

The study was focused on Benin City, the capital of Edo State, located in the South-South geopolitical zone of Nigeria. Benin City served as the political, administrative, and economic hub of the state, hosting various democratic institutions such as government ministries, local government councils, political parties, and civil society organisations. The city's diverse population and active political environment made it a suitable area for examining how democratic institutions influenced national development. By situating the study in Benin City, the research aimed to capture the practical workings of democratic governance and its impact on socio-economic progress at both local and national levels.

3.4 Population of the Study

The population of the study comprised 100 individuals drawn from four key democratic institutions located in Benin City, Edo State, including political parties, the legislature, the judiciary, and electoral bodies.

3.5 Sample Size and Technique

The sample for the study consisted of 100 respondents who were selected from four key democratic institutions in Benin City, Edo State, namely: political parties, the legislature, the judiciary, and electoral bodies. To ensure fair representation, 20 respondents were selected from each of these institutions, resulting in a total sample size of 100 respondents. The simple random sampling technique was employed to select participants from each institution, giving every individual an equal chance of being included in the study.

3.6 Research Instrument

The research instrument for the study was a structured questionnaire. Copies of the questionnaire were administered to respondents to complete without disclosing their identities. The questionnaire was designed to obtain sufficient and relevant information from the respondents. The structured questionnaire was divided into sections A, B, C, and D. Section A ascertained how democratic institutions had contributed to the socio-economic and political development of Nigeria since the return to democratic rule;

Section B entailed the extent to which democratic institutions influenced good governance, transparency, and accountability in Nigeria; Section C focused on the challenges hindering the effective functioning of democratic institutions in promoting national development in Nigeria; while Section D contained reforms that were necessary to strengthen democratic institutions for enhanced national development in Nigeria.

3.7 Validity of the Instrument

The questionnaire that was used as the research instrument was subjected to face validation. The constructed questionnaire for the study was presented to the project supervisor to confirm content validity. Corrections made by the supervisor were incorporated into the final draft of the work before administration.

3.8 Sources of Data

The source of data for the study was the primary source of data collection. The researcher adopted the questionnaire as the primary method of data collection for the study. The questionnaire designed by the researcher was used to elicit information from the respondents on democratic institutions and national development in Nigeria.

3.9 Method of Data Analysis

For the research, the Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) was adopted as the primary data analysis tool. SPSS was widely recognised for its efficiency in managing and analysing large datasets, providing a robust platform for statistical analysis.

In the study, simple descriptive statistics, including frequency counts and simple percentages, were used to compute and present the findings. These methods helped summarise and describe the characteristics of the data in a clear and comprehensible manner.

CHAPTER FOUR

DATA ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

4.1 Preamble

This chapter presents and analyzes the responses obtained from the administered questionnaires. The data are organized and displayed using frequency distribution tables, simple percentages, and detailed interpretations. The main source of data was the questionnaire distributed to respondents. Out of the 100 questionnaires administered, all were duly completed and returned, resulting in a 100% response rate. Consequently, the analysis in this chapter is based on the 100 retrieved questionnaires.

4.2 Analysis of Respondents Demographic Data

This section shows the demographic data of respondents which include sex, age, religion and marital status which are all aimed to give a concise understanding on democratic institutions and national development in Nigeria: Edo State in Focus.

Table 4.1: Distribution of Respondents by Gender

Gender	Frequency	Percentage
Male	39	39%
Female	61	61%
Total	100	100%

Source: Field Work, 2025

Table 1 shows the distribution of respondents according to gender. As shown in the table above, male respondents constituted 39% while female respondents accounts for 61%. This indicates that majority of the respondents were females.

Table 4.2: Age Distribution of Respondents

Age range	Respondents	Percentages
18-20	11	11%
21-25	49	49%
26-30	31	31%
30 years and above	9	9%
Total	100	100%

Source: Field Work, 2025

From table 2, the data indicate that 11% of the respondents fell within the 18–20 years age group, 49% are aged 21–25 years, 31% are within the 26–30 years range, and 9% are aged 30 years and above. This implies that the majority of respondents belong to the 21–25 years age group.

Table 4.3: Distribution of Respondents by Religion

Religion	Respondents	Percentages
Christian	77	77%
Muslim	19	19%
African Traditional Religion	4	4%
Total	100	100%

Source: Field Work, 2025

Table 3 showed the distribution of respondents by religion. The data revealed that 77% of the respondents are Christians, 19% are Muslims, and 4% practice African Traditional Religion. This indicates that Christians constitute the majority of the respondents.

Table 4.4: Distribution of Respondents by Marital Status

Marital Status	Respondents	Percentages
Single	68	68%
Married	29	29%
Divorce	3	3%
Total	100	100%

Source: Field Work, 2025

Table 4 showed the distribution of respondents by marital status. The data revealed that 68% of the respondents are single, 29% are married, and 3% are divorced. This indicated that the majority of the respondents are single.

4.3 ANALYSIS OF FINDINGS

CONTRIBUTION OF DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS TO NIGERIA’S SOCIO-ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT

Table 4.5: Democratic Institutions in Nigeria Since 1999

Question 1	RESPONSES	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
Democratic institutions have enhanced Nigeria’s socio-economic stability since the return to democratic rule	Agree	63	63%
	Strongly Agree	29	29%
	Disagree	5	5%
	Strongly Disagree	2	2%
	Undecided	1	1%
	Total	100	100%

Source: Field Work, 2025

Table 4.5 showed that 63% of the sampled respondents agreed that democratic institutions have enhanced Nigeria’s socio-economic stability since the return to democratic rule, 29% strongly agreed, 5% disagreed, 2% strongly disagreed while 1% of the respondents were undecided. This therefore implies that democratic institutions have enhanced Nigeria’s socio-economic stability since the return to democratic rule in Nigeria since 1999.

Table 4.6: Political Institutions and Sustainable Economic Growth

Question 2	RESPONSES	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
political institutions in Nigeria promote sustainable economic growth and inclusive political participation	Agree	57	57%
	Strongly Agree	31	31%
	Disagree	6	6%
	Strongly Disagree	3	3%
	Undecided	3	3%
	Total	100	100%

Source: Field Work, 2025

Table 4.6 showed that 57% of the sampled respondents agreed that political institutions in Nigeria promote sustainable economic growth and inclusive political participation, 31% strongly agreed, 6% disagreed, 3% strongly disagreed while 3% of the respondents were undecided. This therefore implies that political institutions in Nigeria promote sustainable economic growth and inclusive political participation.

Table 4.7: The legislature and Democratic Values

Question 3	RESPONSES	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
The legislature has contributed to advancing democratic values and fostering political accountability	Agree	56	56%
	Strongly Agree	25	25%
	Disagree	9	9%
	Strongly Disagree	7	7%
	Undecided	3	3%
	Total	100	100%

Source: Field Work, 2025

Table 4.7 showed that 56% of the sampled respondents agreed that the legislature has contributed to advancing democratic values and fostering political accountability, 25% strongly agreed, 9% disagreed, 7% strongly disagreed while 3% of the respondents were undecided. This therefore implies that the legislature has contributed to advancing democratic values and fostering political accountability in Nigeria.

Table 4.8: Nigeria’s Democratic Institutions and Infrastructure Development

Question 4	RESPONSES	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
Nigeria’s democratic institutions significantly influence infrastructure development and social welfare programmes	Agree	66	66%
	Strongly Agree	21	21%
	Disagree	6	6%
	Strongly Disagree	4	4%
	Undecided	3	3%
	Total	100	100%

Source: Field Work, 2025

Table 4.8 showed that 66% of the sampled respondents agreed that Nigeria’s democratic institutions significantly influence infrastructure development and social welfare programmes, 21% strongly agreed, 6% disagreed, 4% strongly disagreed while 3% of the respondents were undecided. This therefore implies that Nigeria’s democratic institutions significantly influence infrastructure development and social welfare programmes.

Table 4.9: Democratic Institutions and Citizens’ Participation in Policy-Making

Question 5	RESPONSES	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
Democratic institutions have strengthened citizens’ participation in policy-making and national political development	Agree	59	59%
	Strongly Agree	26	26%
	Disagree	8	8%
	Strongly Disagree	5	5%
	Undecided	2	2%
	Total	100	100%

Source: Field Work, 2025

Table 4.9 showed that 59% of the sampled respondents agreed that democratic institutions have strengthened citizens’ participation in policy-making and national political development, 26% strongly agreed, 8% disagreed, 5% strongly disagreed while

2% of the respondents were undecided. This therefore implies that democratic institutions have strengthened citizens' participation in policy-making and national political development in Nigeria.

INFLUENCE OF DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS ON GOOD GOVERNANCE, TRANSPARENCY, AND ACCOUNTABILITY

Table 4.10: Democratic Institutions and Transparency in Governance Processes

Question 6	RESPONSES	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
Democratic institutions ensure accountability and transparency in Nigeria's governance processes	Agree	59	59%
	Strongly Agree	22	22%
	Disagree	11	11%
	Strongly Disagree	6	6%
	Undecided	2	2%
	Total	100	100%

Source: Field Work, 2025

Table 4.10 showed that 59% of the sampled respondents agreed that democratic institutions ensure accountability and transparency in Nigeria's governance processes, 22% strongly agreed, 11% disagreed, 6% strongly disagreed while 2% of the respondents were undecided. This therefore implies that democratic institutions ensure accountability and transparency in Nigeria's governance processes.

Table 4.11: Strong Institutions and Fair Resource Allocation

Question 7	RESPONSES	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
Fair and inclusive political Strong institutions promote fair resource allocation and discourage misuse of public funds	Agree	69	69%
	Strongly Agree	20	20%
	Disagree	9	9%
	Strongly Disagree	7	7%
	Undecided	3	3%
	Total	100	100%

Source: Field Work, 2025

Table 4.11 showed that 69% of the sampled respondents agreed that strong institutions promote fair resource allocation and discourage misuse of public funds, 20% strongly agreed, 9% disagreed, 7% strongly disagreed while 3% of the respondents were undecided. This therefore implies that strong institutions promote fair resource allocation and discourage misuse of public funds.

Table 4.12: Nigeria’s Democratic Framework and Citizens’ Trust in Governance

Question 8	RESPONSES	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
Nigeria’s democratic framework fosters citizens’ trust in governance and political leadership	Agree	58	58%
	Strongly Agree	33	33%
	Disagree	5	5%
	Strongly Disagree	3	3%
	Undecided	1	1%
	Total	100	100%

Source: Field Work, 2025

Table 4.12 showed that 58% of the sampled respondents agreed that Nigeria’s democratic framework fosters citizens’ trust in governance and political leadership, 33% strongly agreed, 5% disagreed, 3% strongly disagreed while 1% of the respondents were undecided. This therefore implies that Nigeria’s democratic framework fosters citizens’ trust in governance and political leadership.

Table 4.13: Transparency Within Democratic Institutions and Public Confidence

Question 9	RESPONSES	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
Transparency within democratic institutions enhances public confidence in government decision-making	Agree	69	69%
	Strongly Agree	18	18%
	Disagree	8	8%
	Strongly Disagree	3	3%
	Undecided	2	2%
	Total		100

Source: Field Work, 2025

Table 4.13 showed that 69% of the sampled respondents agreed that transparency within democratic institutions enhances public confidence in government decision-making, 18% strongly agreed, 8% disagreed, 3% strongly disagreed while 2% of the respondents were undecided. This therefore implies that transparency within democratic institutions enhances public confidence in government decision-making.

Table 4.14: Democratic Institutions and Checks and Balances

Question 10	RESPONSES	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
Democratic institutions provide checks and balances necessary for accountable and responsive governance	Agree	54	54%
	Strongly Agree	21	21%
	Disagree	13	13%
	Strongly Disagree	9	9%
	Undecided	3	3%
	Total		100

Source: Field Work, 2025

Table 4.14 showed that 54% of the sampled respondents agreed that the democratic institutions provide checks and balances necessary for accountable and responsive governance, 21% strongly agreed, 13% disagreed, 9% strongly disagreed while 3% of the

respondents were undecided. This therefore implies that democratic institutions provide checks and balances necessary for accountable and responsive governance in Nigeria.

CHALLENGES HINDERING DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS IN PROMOTING NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Table 4.15: Corruption and Effectiveness of Nigeria’s Democratic Institutions

Question 11	RESPONSES	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
Corruption significantly weakens the effectiveness of Nigeria’s democratic institutions	Agree	59	59%
	Strongly Agree	31	31%
	Disagree	5	5%
	Strongly Disagree	3	3%
	Undecided	2	2%
	Total	100	100%

Source: Field Work, 2025

Table 4.15 showed that 59% of the sampled respondents agreed that corruption significantly weakens the effectiveness of Nigeria’s democratic institutions, 31% strongly agreed, 5% disagreed, 3% strongly disagreed while 2% of the respondents were undecided. This therefore implies that corruption significantly weakens the effectiveness of Nigeria’s democratic institutions.

Table 4.16: Political Interference and Democratic Institutions

Question 12	RESPONSES	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
Political interference limits democratic institutions from functioning effectively in governance	Agree	66	66%
	Strongly Agree	21	21%
	Disagree	6	6%
	Strongly Disagree	4	4%
	Undecided	3	3%
	Total	100	100%

Source: Field Work, 2025

Table 4.16 showed that 66% of the sampled respondents agreed that political interference limits democratic institutions from functioning effectively in governance, 21% strongly agreed, 6% disagreed, 4% strongly disagreed while 3% of the respondents were undecided. This therefore implies that political interference limits democratic institutions from functioning effectively in governance.

Table 4.17: Weak Institutional Capacity and National Development Processes

Question 13	RESPONSES	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
Weak institutional capacity undermines democracy's role in national development processes	Agree	57	57%
	Strongly Agree	29	29%
	Disagree	4	4%
	Strongly Disagree	6	6%
	Undecided	4	4%
	Total	100	100%

Source: Field Work, 2025

Table 4.17 showed that 57% of the sampled respondents agreed that weak institutional capacity undermines democracy's role in national development processes, 29% strongly agreed, 4% disagreed, 6% strongly disagreed while 4% of the respondents were undecided. This therefore implies that weak institutional capacity undermines democracy's role in national development processes.

Table 4.18: Electoral Malpractice and Democratic Institutions

Question 14	RESPONSES	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
Electoral malpractice hinders democratic institutions from promoting fair representation and development	Agree	69	69%
	Strongly Agree	18	18%
	Disagree	2	2%
	Strongly Disagree	9	9%
	Undecided	2	2%
	Total	100	100%

Source: Field Work, 2025

Table 4.18 showed that 69% of the sampled respondents agreed that electoral malpractice hinders democratic institutions from promoting fair representation and development, 18% strongly agreed, 2% disagreed, 9% strongly disagreed while 2% of the respondents were undecided. This therefore implies that electoral malpractice hinders democratic institutions from promoting fair representation and development.

Table 4.19: Inadequate Funding and Effectiveness of Democratic Institutions in Nigeria

Question 15	RESPONSES	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
Inadequate funding reduces the effectiveness of democratic institutions in Nigeria	Agree	48	48%
	Strongly Agree	37	37%
	Disagree	6	6%
	Strongly Disagree	5	5%
	Undecided	4	4%
	Total	100	100%

Source: Field Work, 2025

Table 4.19 showed that 48% of the sampled respondents agreed that inadequate funding reduces the effectiveness of democratic institutions in Nigeria, 37% strongly agreed, 6%

disagreed, 5% strongly disagreed while 4% of the respondents were undecided. This therefore implies that inadequate funding reduces the effectiveness of democratic institutions in Nigeria.

REFORMS TO STRENGTHEN DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS FOR ENHANCED NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Table 4.20: Electoral Reforms and Democratic Institutions in Nigeria

Question 16	RESPONSES	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
Electoral reforms are essential for strengthening democratic institutions in Nigeria	Agree	53	53%
	Strongly Agree	34	34%
	Disagree	3	3%
	Strongly Disagree	7	7%
	Undecided	3	3%
	Total		100

Source: Field Work, 2025

Table 4.20 showed that 53% of the sampled respondents agreed that electoral reforms are essential for strengthening democratic institutions in Nigeria, 34% strongly agreed, 3% disagreed, 7% strongly disagreed while 3% of the respondents were undecided. This therefore implies that electoral reforms are essential for strengthening democratic institutions in Nigeria.

Table 4.21: Judicial Independence and Effective Governance

Question 17	RESPONSES	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
Judicial independence is crucial to strengthen democracy and promote effective governance	Agree	47	47%
	Strongly Agree	39	39%
	Disagree	6	6%
	Strongly Disagree	3	3%
	Undecided	5	5%
	Total	100	100%

Source: Field Work, 2025

Table 4.21 showed that 47% of the sampled respondents agreed that judicial independence is crucial to strengthen democracy and promote effective governance, 39% strongly agreed, 6% disagreed, 3% strongly disagreed while 5% of the respondents were undecided. This therefore implies that judicial independence is crucial to strengthen democracy and promote effective governance.

Table 4.22: Strengthening Anti-Corruption Agencies and National Development

Question 18	RESPONSES	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
Strengthening anti-corruption agencies will enhance democratic institutions' contribution to national development	Agree	57	57%
	Strongly Agree	29	29%
	Disagree	4	4%
	Strongly Disagree	6	6%
	Undecided	4	4%
	Total	100	100%

Source: Field Work, 2025

Table 4.22 showed that 57% of the sampled respondents agreed that strengthening anti-corruption agencies will enhance democratic institutions' contribution to national development, 29% strongly agreed, 4% disagreed, 6% strongly disagreed while 4% of the

respondents were undecided. This therefore implies that strengthening anti-corruption agencies will enhance democratic institutions' contribution to national development.

Table 4.23: Political Party Reforms and Internal Democracy and Accountability

Question 19	RESPONSES	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
Political party reforms are necessary to deepen internal democracy and accountability	Agree	61	61%
	Strongly Agree	32	32%
	Disagree	4	4%
	Strongly Disagree	2	2%
	Undecided	1	1%
	Total	100	100%

Source: Field Work, 2025

Table 4.23 showed that 61% of the sampled respondents agreed that political party reforms are necessary to deepen internal democracy and accountability, 32% strongly agreed, 4% disagreed, 2% strongly disagreed while 1% of the respondents were undecided. This therefore implies that political party reforms are necessary to deepen internal democracy and accountability in Nigeria.

Table 4.24: Civic Education Reforms and Democratic Institutions

Question 20	RESPONSES	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
Civic education reforms can strengthen democratic institutions and promote sustainable development	Agree	64	64%
	Strongly Agree	27	27%
	Disagree	3	3%
	Strongly Disagree	4	4%
	Undecided	2	2%
	Total	100	100%

Source: Field Work, 2025

Table 4.24 showed that 64% of the sampled respondents agreed that civic education reforms can strengthen democratic institutions and promote sustainable development, 27% strongly agreed, 3% disagreed, 4% strongly disagreed while 2% of the respondents were undecided. This therefore implies that civic education reforms can strengthen democratic institutions and promote sustainable development in Nigeria.

4.4 Discussion of Findings

Findings from the study revealed that democratic institutions have contributed to the socio-economic and political development of Nigeria since the return to democratic rule. This finding can be explained by the fact that democratic institutions provide the framework for accountability, citizen participation, and the rule of law, which are essential for socio-economic and political stability. Through mechanisms such as free elections, legislative oversight, and judicial independence, these institutions promote transparency, encourage civic engagement, and foster policies that enhance development. The consistent operation of democratic processes since 1999 has helped strengthen governance structures and stimulate economic reforms aimed at improving living standards. Moreover, democracy enables dialogue and inclusiveness, which reduce political tension and encourage sustainable growth. This view is supported by Udeoji (2024), who noted that democratic consolidation enhances national development, and Shafiu et al. (2024), who asserted that democracy and good governance serve as catalysts for socio-economic transformation in Nigeria.

Findings from the study also revealed that democratic institutions significantly influence good governance, transparency, and accountability in Nigeria. This finding can be explained by the fact that democratic institutions serve as essential conduits for governance transparency, accountability, and responsible leadership. Through mechanisms such as periodic elections, independent oversight bodies, and open civic participation, these institutions compel public officials to answer to citizens and make governance processes visible. As societal actors engage more through formalised democratic channels, the likelihood of arbitrary exercise of power diminishes, thereby reinforcing the rule of law and institutional integrity. The findings is in alignment with Akpan (2024) who found that reforms in political party financing under Nigeria's democratic regime had direct implications for transparency in governance. Likewise, Ibitoye (2021) emphasised that robust civil society and democratic governance are closely linked to the realisation of accountability and good governance in Nigeria

Findings from the study further revealed that the challenges hindering the effective functioning of democratic institutions in promoting national development in Nigeria include corruption, political interference, weak institutional capacity, electoral malpractice and inadequate funding. This finding can be explained by the fact that persistent corruption, political interference, and weak institutional capacity undermine the autonomy and effectiveness of democratic institutions, thereby impeding their role in promoting national development. When political elites manipulate institutions for personal or partisan gain, the principles of fairness, accountability, and transparency are

compromised. Similarly, electoral malpractice erodes public trust in governance, while inadequate funding limits institutional performance and policy implementation. These factors collectively weaken democratic consolidation and stall socio-economic progress. This view is supported by Ezeani (2022), who noted that corruption and poor governance structures distort democratic growth in Nigeria.

Findings from the study shows that some reforms which are necessary to strengthen democratic institutions for enhanced national development in Nigeria include electoral reforms, judicial independence, strengthening anti-corruption agencies, political party reforms and civic education reforms. This finding can be explained by the fact that reforms such as electoral restructuring, judicial independence, and the strengthening of anti-corruption bodies are essential for building resilient democratic institutions capable of driving national development. Electoral reforms ensure credible elections and enhance citizens' trust in governance, while judicial independence guarantees fairness and the rule of law. Similarly, empowering anti-corruption agencies curbs misuse of public funds, and political party reforms promote internal democracy and accountability. Civic education reforms further equip citizens with the knowledge to engage meaningfully in democratic processes. These views are supported by Adebayo and Olayinka (2023), who asserted that institutional reforms are vital for democratic consolidation in Nigeria

CHAPTER FIVE

SUMMARY, CONCLUSION, AND RECOMMENDATIONS

This chapter dealt with the summary of the study, the conclusions drawn, results obtained and recommendations offered.

5.1 Summary

This study investigated democratic institutions and national development in Nigeria: Edo State in Focus. To achieve the purpose of the study, four research questions were raised and answered. The research design that was used in this study is the descriptive survey research design. The sample size was made up of 100 respondents. Primary source of data was used in the study. As regard the primary data, questionnaire was used to elicit information from the respondents. The analysis of data was done using frequency count and percentages.

Findings from the study revealed that democratic institutions have contributed to the socio-economic and political development of Nigeria since the return to democratic rule. This finding can be explained by the fact that democratic institutions provide the framework for accountability, citizen participation, and the rule of law, which are essential for socio-economic and political stability. Through mechanisms such as free elections, legislative oversight, and judicial independence, these institutions promote transparency, encourage civic engagement, and foster policies that enhance development.

The consistent operation of democratic processes since 1999 has helped strengthen governance structures and stimulate economic reforms aimed at improving living standards. Moreover, democracy enables dialogue and inclusiveness, which reduce political tension and encourage sustainable growth.

Findings from the study revealed that democratic institutions significantly influence good governance, transparency, and accountability in Nigeria. This finding can be explained by the fact that democratic institutions serve as essential conduits for governance transparency, accountability, and responsible leadership. Through mechanisms such as periodic elections, independent oversight bodies, and open civic participation, these institutions compel public officials to answer to citizens and make governance processes visible. As societal actors engage more through formalised democratic channels, the likelihood of arbitrary exercise of power diminishes, thereby reinforcing the rule of law and institutional integrity.

Findings from the study revealed that the challenges hindering the effective functioning of democratic institutions in promoting national development in Nigeria include corruption, political interference, weak institutional capacity, electoral malpractice and inadequate funding. This finding can be explained by the fact that persistent corruption, political interference, and weak institutional capacity undermine the autonomy and effectiveness of democratic institutions, thereby impeding their role in promoting national development. When political elites manipulate institutions for

personal or partisan gain, the principles of fairness, accountability, and transparency are compromised. Similarly, electoral malpractice erodes public trust in governance, while inadequate funding limits institutional performance and policy implementation. These factors collectively weaken democratic consolidation and stall socio-economic progress.

Findings from the study also revealed that some reforms which are necessary to strengthen democratic institutions for enhanced national development in Nigeria include electoral reforms, judicial independence, strengthening anti-corruption agencies, political party reforms and civic education reforms. This finding can be explained by the fact that reforms such as electoral restructuring, judicial independence, and the strengthening of anti-corruption bodies are essential for building resilient democratic institutions capable of driving national development. Electoral reforms ensure credible elections and enhance citizens' trust in governance, while judicial independence guarantees fairness and the rule of law. Similarly, empowering anti-corruption agencies curbs misuse of public funds, and political party reforms promote internal democracy and accountability. Civic education reforms further equip citizens with the knowledge to engage meaningfully in democratic processes.

5.2 Conclusion

The study investigated democratic institutions and their impact on national development in Nigeria, with a focus on Edo State. Based on the findings, it was concluded that democratic institutions play a fundamental role in fostering socio-

economic and political progress in the country since the return to democratic rule. These institutions contribute to the establishment of structured governance systems, the promotion of citizen participation, and the facilitation of policy frameworks that drive development. Furthermore, democratic institutions have been instrumental in shaping political stability, encouraging transparency, and promoting accountability, which are essential components for sustainable national development. The study confirms that the effective functioning of democratic institutions is central to building an inclusive and responsive governance environment that supports economic growth and social advancement.

Moreover, the research highlights that the challenges hindering the optimal performance of democratic institutions, such as corruption, weak institutional capacity, and political interference, continue to constrain their effectiveness in promoting national development. Despite these obstacles, democratic institutions remain vital for creating mechanisms that uphold the rule of law, enhance good governance, and foster public trust in government processes. The study underscores that with strengthened institutional frameworks, democratic systems can serve as robust instruments for national development by ensuring that political, economic, and social objectives are pursued in a transparent and accountable manner. Overall, the research concludes that democratic institutions are indispensable for the realization of Nigeria's development aspirations and the consolidation of democratic governance in the country.

5.3 Recommendations

Based on the findings and conclusion drawn, the following recommendations were put forward:

1. The government should invest in capacity-building programs for democratic institutions to enhance their efficiency, decision-making capabilities, and ability to implement policies effectively.
2. Mechanisms such as independent audits, public reporting, and the use of digital platforms for governance should be strengthened to ensure transparency and accountability within democratic institutions.
3. Citizens should be educated on their rights and responsibilities in a democracy, encouraging active participation in governance processes to support inclusive development.
4. Anti-corruption frameworks should be enforced rigorously, and institutional autonomy must be protected to minimize undue political influence that can hinder the performance of democratic institutions.
5. Continuous evaluation and reform of existing democratic institutions should be undertaken to modernize structures, streamline operations, and align them with national development goals.

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QUESTIONNAIRE

I am a final year student of the Department of Political Science, Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Benin, Benin City carrying out a research on “**Democratic Institutions and National Development in Nigeria**”. The research is purely for academic purposes, any information received from you would be treated with utmost confidentiality.

DEMOGRAPHIC DATA

Please tick the option you consider appropriate and fill in blank spaces

Sex: Male () Female ()

Age: 18-20 () 21-25 () 26-30 () 30 years and above ()

Religious Affiliation: Christian () Muslim () African Traditional Religion ()

Marital Status: Single () Married () Separated () Divorced ()

**SECTION A: CONTRIBUTION OF DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS TO
NIGERIA’S SOCIO-ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL
DEVELOPMENT**

Indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with the following statements.

Key: Strongly Agree (SA), Agree (A), Neutral (N), Disagree (D), Strongly Disagree (SD)

S/N	ITEMS	SA	A	N	D	SD
1.	Democratic institutions have enhanced Nigeria’s socio-economic stability					

	since the return to democratic rule					
2.	Political institutions in Nigeria promote sustainable economic growth and inclusive political participation					
3.	The legislature has contributed to advancing democratic values and fostering political accountability					
4.	Nigeria's democratic institutions significantly influence infrastructure development and social welfare programmes					
5.	Democratic institutions have strengthened citizens' participation in policy-making and national political development					

SECTION B: INFLUENCE OF DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS ON GOOD GOVERNANCE, TRANSPARENCY, AND ACCOUNTABILITY

S/N	ITEMS	SA	A	N	D	SD
	Influence of Democratic Institutions on Good Governance, Transparency, and Accountability					
6.	Democratic institutions ensure accountability and transparency in Nigeria's governance processes					
7.	Strong institutions promote fair resource allocation and discourage misuse of public funds					
8.	Nigeria's democratic framework fosters citizens' trust in governance and political leadership					
9.	Transparency within democratic institutions enhances public confidence in government decision-making					
10.	Democratic institutions provide checks and balances necessary for accountable and responsive governance					

SECTION C: CHALLENGES HINDERING DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS IN PROMOTING NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

S/N	ITEMS	SA	A	N	D	SD
	Challenges Hindering Democratic Institutions in Promoting National Development					
11.	Corruption significantly weakens the effectiveness of Nigeria's democratic institutions					
12.	Political interference limits democratic institutions from functioning effectively in governance					
13.	Weak institutional capacity undermines democracy's role in national development processes					
14.	Electoral malpractice hinders democratic institutions from promoting fair representation and development					
15.	Inadequate funding reduces the effectiveness of democratic institutions in Nigeria					

SECTION D: REFORMS TO STRENGTHEN DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS FOR ENHANCED NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

S/N	ITEMS	SA	A	N	D	SD
	Reforms to Strengthen Democratic Institutions for Enhanced National Development					
16.	Electoral reforms are essential for strengthening democratic institutions in Nigeria					
17.	Judicial independence is crucial to strengthen democracy and promote effective governance					
18.	Strengthening anti-corruption agencies will enhance democratic institutions' contribution to national development					
19.	Political party reforms are necessary to deepen internal democracy and accountability					
20.	Civic education reforms can strengthen democratic institutions and promote sustainable development					