

Research Paper



Pyscho-civic orientation of market women's political culture indicators in akinyele local government areas of oyo state

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ABSTRACT

Political Culture (PC), is basically the set of shared beliefs, values and attitudes that people in a society have about their government and how it works. However, reports have shown that there is marginalization of women in politics which resulted in low political culture. Previous studies focused largely on women's participation in politics, voting behaviour and interest in politics with little attention paid to assessment of market women's political culture. The study, therefore, investigated, pyscho-civic orientation of market women's political culture (Political Socialization-PS; Civic efficacy-CE and Political Participation-PP) indicators in Akinyele Local Government Areas of Oyo State. The study adopted descriptive research design. A total of 210 market women randomly selected from 4participated in the study. The instrument used were Political Socialisation (PS, $r= 0.94$), Civic Efficacy (CSS, $r= 0.75$), and Political Participation (PP, $r= 0.92$) scales. Quantitative data were analysed using descriptive statistics of frequency counts percentagem means and standard deviation. Participants' age was 52 ± 1.05 years, and 21.1% were between 50-54 years of age. CE ($\bar{x}=3.23$), PS ($\bar{x} = 2.79$), PP ($\bar{x} =2.84$) was high against the threshold of 2.5. Political Culture of market woman (political socialization, level of market women civic efficacy, market women political participation, level of market women pollical beliefs and level of market women trusts in government) was high in Akinyele Local Government. Government should focus on improving these factors to improve women's political culture and participation in politics among the market women.

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1. INTRODUCTION

The bustling hum of Nigeria's open-air markets is more than an exchange of goods and services. It is a complex theatre where livelihoods, identities, and silent political undercurrents intersect [1]. Yet, beneath the vibrant colours of stacked tomatoes, the bargaining voices over piles of fish, and the animated hand gestures around bolts of Ankara fabric, lies a subdued reality, one where the civic consciousness of market women, who constitute a vital economic force, remains under-researched for national democratic growth. These women, despite being daily negotiators of price, trust, and competition, often find themselves on the margins of political structures, their roles reduced to economic actors while their psychological engagement with civic life is overlooked. The problem emerges not from a lack of interest in societal affairs, but from a historically embedded cycle of exclusion [2]. That is, political systems that rarely speak their language, civic structures that fail to accommodate their realities, and an internalised belief that political participation is a distant terrain reserved for others.

Scholars have affirmed that this creates a dissonance as they are deeply woven into the socio-economic fabric of the nation, yet remain at the periphery of its political decision-making [3]. The challenge, then, is to understand the psychocivic orientation of market work. In this study, psychocivic orientation intertwined disposition to psychology and civic efficacy thereby designing ways by which market women interpret and take democratic decision in the society. In the same vein, it goes beyond casting their votes to marking attendance in community for a depicts theoretical and empirical modes which guides socialisation, civic engagement as well as involvement in actions that helps in providing solutions to personal and societal problems.

For Nigerian market women, the market is not just a space for commerce but also a social environment where political talk occurs, alliances are formed, and informal networks disseminate civic information [4]. Since these psychological filters implicitly influence how civic messages are received and implemented, it is crucial to examine the ways in which identity, self-efficacy, and collective orientation interact to shape their political culture [5]. The knowledge of its variation drives political institutions' meaningful commitment in relating with the public. It also explains the benefit of rural dwellers movement to trigger change. Thus, people starts to find their feet within the social space, they are likely to come up new horizon which is likely to promote political perspectives in the environment.

In Nigerian markets, work and civic life do not exist in isolation. For instance, a woman selling pepper in Lagos may know the local government chairman by name, listen to socio-economic and political discourse as well as analyse and synthesize ideas and activities within the Nigeria space. By implication, these gestures are more than those who claimed to be experts. Thus, market women's political worldview are always practical than theoretical. It is daily reality of what they encounter in the market space. Unfortunately, this reality of theirs are hardly translated into meaningful and organised civic involvement. It is also discovered that their understanding and participation in politics is based on how it affects them directly, in terms of the ability to eke meaningful living. To clarify, several market women's view of involvement in politics is based on, the provision of platform for them to thrive and survive rather than the utopian ideology and structural governance. It is to be noted that this mindset is not a sign of weakness but perceived logical perspective to the fact that several promises made by the elite in the corridor of power are never always fulfilled.

However, it also means that civic engagement, for her, is episodic and contingent, emerging strongly during election seasons or crisis moments, then receding into the background when market routines dominate. Political socialisation in market spaces follows a pattern that is both formal and informal. Formally, civic education messages may filter into the market through radio broadcasts playing from a trader's stall or through the occasional NGO sensitisation visit [6]. Informally, however, political norms are transmitted in conversations, such as two women discussing the recent local council taxes, a group lamenting the rising cost of transportation, or a seasoned trader advising a younger colleague on the futility of attending certain community meetings. These exchanges function as a living political culture curriculum, with experiential, pragmatic, and narratively grounded lessons. It is said that not being efficacious or the

absence of the conviction that an individual's steps may not necessarily determine their result for involving in politics of a fact, this is usually triggered by low interest.

2. RELATED WORK

Market women go through complex political learning which drives both formal and non-school based education. Formally, they are sometimes opened to information via text messages, radio programmes, civic orientation as well as from NGOs. Informally, however, their interactions within their communities and the day-to-day challenges they face often provide more impactful lessons. These interactions not only drive their political knowledge or civic awareness but also negate information that promotes apathy. Thus, as market women involve in political discourse and community efforts, they are likely to develop more awareness of their rights, duties and responsibilities within the political circle. Hence, this involvement and experience they go through shapes the variations in politics, sense of belonging that can promote positive involvement in political sphere.

Informally, their exposure to political ideas happens in the most ordinary moments. That is, a conversation while arranging pepper baskets, a debate sparked by a sudden increase in market levies, or gossip about the local councillor's performance. These seemingly casual exchanges are in fact critical points of transmission for political norms, values, and attitudes [7]. Several psychological theories of learning suggest that repeated exposure to shared narratives solidifies attitudes over time. The panorama in markets in Nigeria often stems from mistrust and the epistemic belief that politics is a dirty game and non-rewarding. This internalised worldview influences not only how market women vote but also how they perceive their roles as citizens beyond election periods.

The influence of early-life political socialisation is equally important. Many market women grew up in households where political engagement was minimal or filtered through the lens of survival [8]. Parents or elders may have expressed distrust of politicians, discouraged attendance at rallies, or prioritised economic stability over civic action. In adulthood, these early cues serve as mental benchmarks that subtly influence how these women behave in political settings. It is discovered that the marketplace is seen as a platform for civic orientation for young people who joined early. Hence, elders market women serve as drivers of political activities and engagement. They engage in seamless education of past histories, contest with local council, protest, models of political engagement as well as meaningful compliance [9]. Thus, political socialisation in marketplaces entails deeper experience, street knowledge of governance, core traditional approach to acquiring powers rather than theoretical democratic values accrued to historical continuity. Thus, the growth of efficacious civic activities is believed to stem from raw socialisation experiences and processes several of the market women have gone through.

Market women's civic efficacy varies; it is influenced by individual experiences, social dynamics, and the perceived responsiveness of political institutions [10]. A woman who successfully rallied other traders to overturn an unfair levy may continue to feel more empowered and capable of bringing about change. However, several rebuffs from protests, fake promises, non-democratic atmosphere among others, drive several people to include market women from meaningful participation in politics. It is to be noted that reinforcement, herein, played out. This is because, acceptance in politics, words of encouragement as well as perceived results for their request, drive several people to become active in the political sphere. Due to this analogy, several market women in Nigeria have adopted this approach by not showing meaningful and sincere commitment to civic-related activities. To be specific, the moment, it does not align with their collective interest, they are not likely to show willingness to learn and participate in politics. Several of them are there to benefit from dole outs, prepared by politicians to sway the mind of people, which is usually during elections.

Self-efficacy theory in psychology emphasises that people are more likely to engage in behaviours they believe they can perform effectively. For market women, the "effectiveness" of civic engagement is often evaluated through the lens of everyday realities. Attending a council meeting loses its civic value in their eyes if they believe it will not directly improve market conditions. The idea in this experience can be linked

to practical approach to result rather than abstract conceptual of political engagement. This is because when there is wide gap between involvement and associated benefits, people especially, market women, tend not be committed to political activities. Thus, this is why there is need for issue-based grassroom mobilisation as well as result-based approach to bring people onboard in joining and participating in political activities

Political participation, therefore, is both a product and a test of political socialisation and civic efficacy [11]. In Nigerian markets, participation takes multiple forms beyond the ballot box: attending community meetings, joining traders' associations, engaging in collective bargaining with local authorities, or even informal acts like spreading political information within the market network. The attitude are not proactive which usually triggers massive exploitation and indirectly political punishment. The reactive nature of this participation reveals a psychology of urgency: action is mobilised when the stakes are clear, personal and immediate [11]. While this form of participation can be powerful, its episodic nature means that market women's influence on broader political processes remains limited.

Psychocivic orientation, therefore, is not a static trait but a living, adaptive response to a complex environment. For Nigerian market women, it is the sum of their lived experiences, cognitive interpretations, emotional investments, and socio-economic realities. To add, the psychological weight of gender expectations intersects heavily with civic behaviour in market situations [13]. In several communities in Nigeria, women are societally driven to be inclined with house chores and petty trading over roles in public political space. This conditioning often operates at a subconscious level, shaping the internal dialogues market women have about their place in governance [14]. Even when opportunities for civic participation arise such as invitations to community budget discussions or voter education programmes there is a latent belief that such spaces are "men's territory." This belief does not necessarily stem from a lack of interest or ability but from years of internalising societal cues that equate political leadership and decision-making with masculinity. It is to be noted that the orientation of market women discussing private knowledge of politics, identity politics. Overcoming this barrier is not merely about providing access but about reshaping deep-seated psychological associations between gender and governance [15].

The psychology of idea acquired through experience also has a major impact on market women's civic orientation. It is to be noted that a measure of disappointment can arise from avalanche of fake or unfulfilled promises. This repository of information serves a platform to drive or debar subsequent political involvement. The woman may approach the upcoming campaign season cautiously, reserving her enthusiasm or participation, if she can clearly recall a politician promising to upgrade market infrastructure during the previous election, only to witness the stalls remaining in poor condition. Social reinforcement for this cautious approach comes from peers who relate similar experiences, which collectively validate the choice to disengage. Due to this, the marketplace becomes a platform where political lies and abandonment are documented and retrieved. By implication, this drives the narrative that there is no long term benefit in politicis, except of immmmediate benefit if provided.

In summary, market women's lives are intricately entwined with civic efficacy, political participation, and political socialisation. Civic efficacy establishes the perceived ability to act, socialisation establishes the tone by transferring norms and attitudes, and participation becomes the behavioural manifestation of both. As a result, the Nigerian market serves as a place for trade as well as a testing ground for political identity. Hence, it is very essential to strudy the marketplace as an arena of knowledge where political ideology and psychology are exchanged, discussed and invariably contributed to the wider determination of meaningful involvcmnt or otherwise. Thus, this helps to understand and develop market women democratic roles. In general, this study evaluated the market women's political culture indicator assessment. Particularly, this study examined: to ascertain market women's political socialisation, to investigate market women's civic efficacy, and to assess market women's political participation.

3. METHODOLOGY

This study adopted a descriptive survey research design to investigate the psychocivic profile of market women in Akinyele Local Government Area of Oyo State, with specific attention to their levels of

political socialisation, civic efficacy, and political participation. Adult market women who were at least eighteen years old and regularly participated in local government trading made up the population of interest. A multi-stage, stratified purposive sampling procedure was employed to ensure representativeness. At the first stage, four clusters were delineated based on geographic spread and trading concentration. Subsequently, eight major markets were purposively selected, taking into account trading volume, ease of accessibility, and the presence of organised traders' associations. Similar to this, Ayetoro Market serves as a trading hub for both rural and semi-urban areas, offering a mix of manufactured household goods and agricultural products, while Elekuru Market is a significant rural outlet for fresh produce from nearby farming villages. Collectively, these marketplaces demonstrate the commercial dynamism of Akinyele LGA and offer valuable insights into the political and civic involvement of female traders. From these markets, a total of 210 respondents were drawn proportionately.

Data were gathered using standardised instruments consisting of three validated scales: Political Socialisation Scale ($r = 0.94$), Civic Efficacy Scale ($r = 0.75$), and Political Participation Scale ($r = 0.92$). These instruments were subjected to expert review for content validity and pretested among a small sample of market women in a neighbouring community, yielding acceptable internal consistency coefficients (Cronbach's $\alpha \geq 0.71$). The administration of questionnaires was facilitated by trained research assistants familiar with the local language to enhance comprehension. The quantitative data generated were analysed using descriptive statistical techniques (frequency counts, percentages, means, and standard deviations), which provided a systematic profile of the psychocivic attributes of market women in the study area.

4. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

4.1 Demographic Characteristics of Participants Based on Age

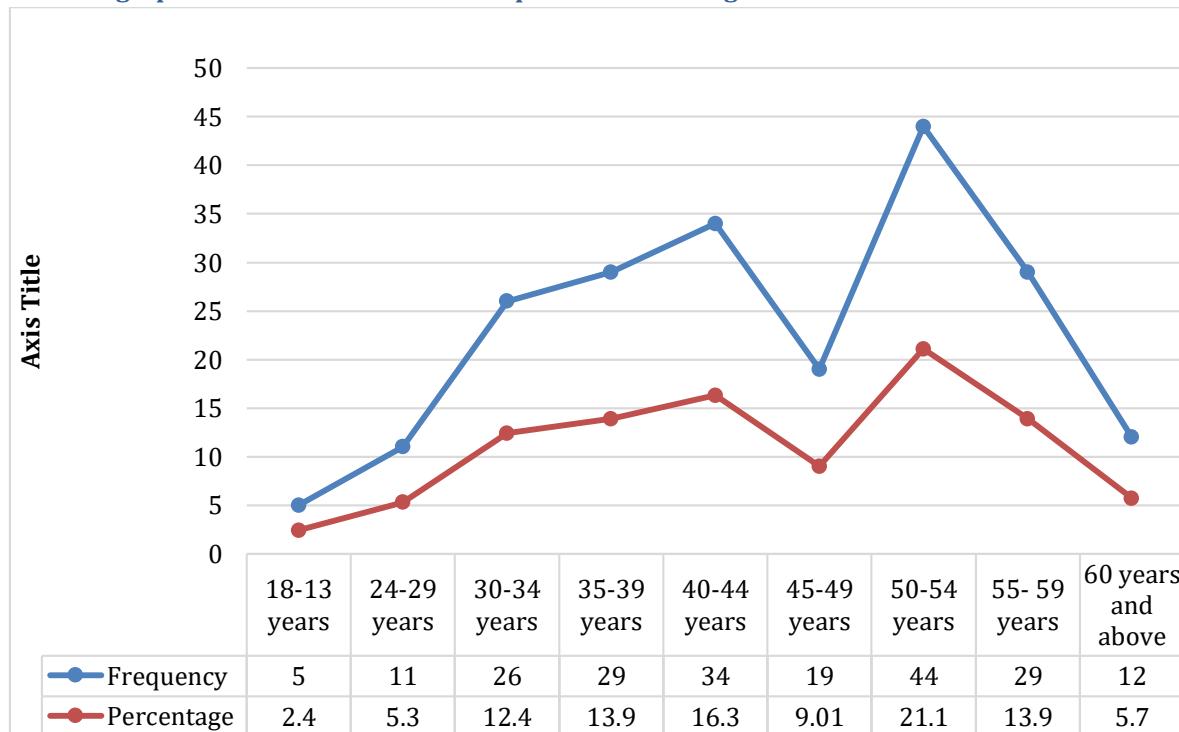


Figure 1. Age of Participants

As shown in Figure 1, the age of the participants that were involved in this study. This shows that 2.4% of the respondents fall within the age bracket of 18-23 years, while 21% constituted highest, which falls within 50-54 years. By implication, several market women were aged and mature for this study.

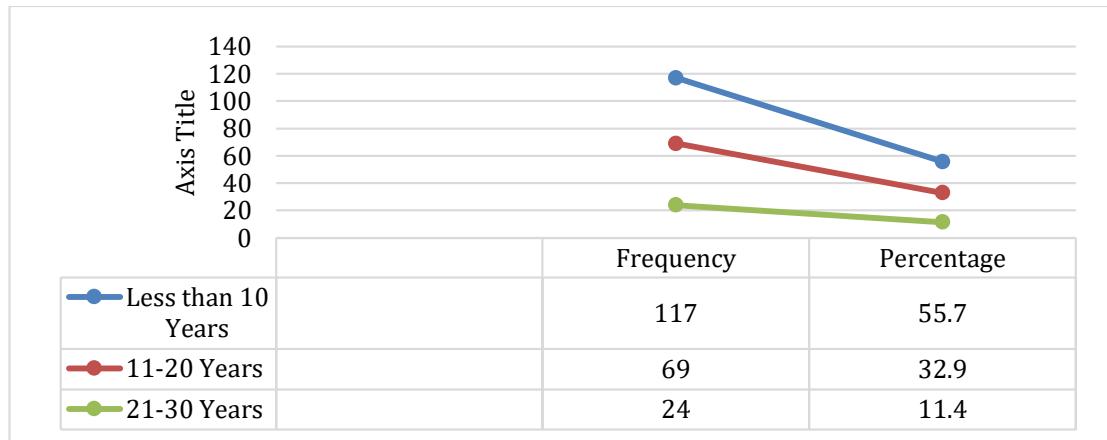


Figure 2. Years of Market Experience for Participants

As shown in

Figure 2, the market experience of the participants that were involved in this study. This shows that 55.7% of the respondents fall within less than 10 years experience, 69% of the respondents fall within 11-20 years experience bracket, while 11.4% constituted low, which falls within 21-30 years. By implication, several market women had a minimum of 5 years market experience mature for this study.

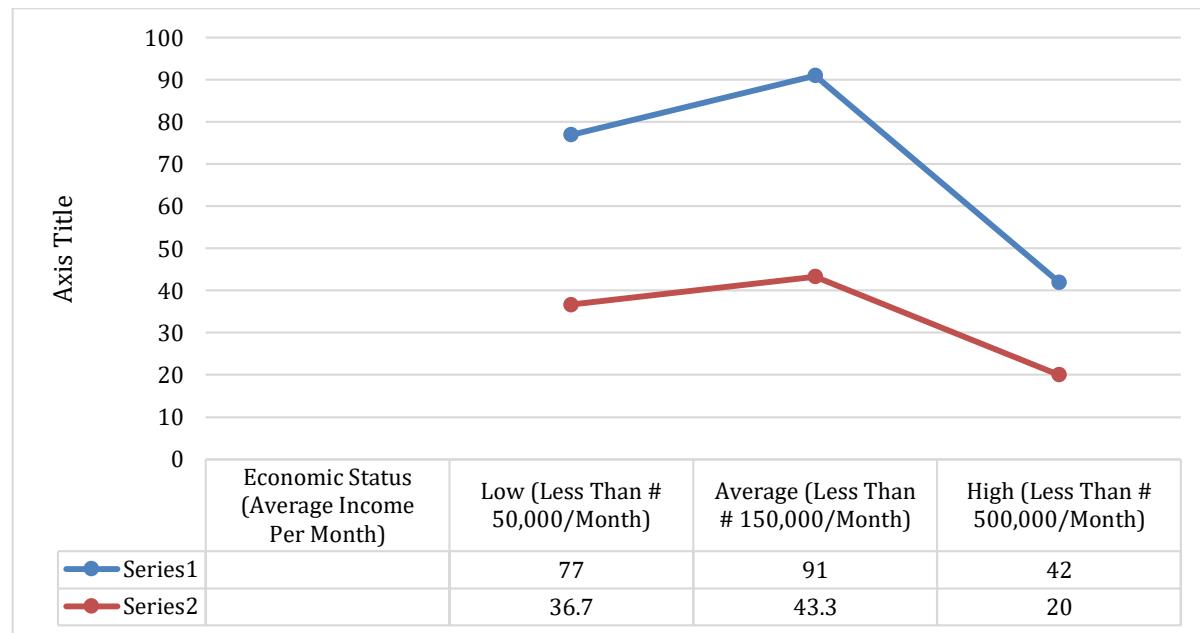


Figure 3. Economic Status of Market Women

As shown in Figure 3, the economic status of the participants that were involved in this study. This shows that 36.7% of the respondents fall within low economic status, 43.3% of the respondents fall within average economic bracket, while 20% constituted low, which falls within high economic status. By implication, several market women had average income to transact business and are suitable for this study.

4.2 Answering the Research Question

Research Question 1: What is the level of market women political socialisation?

Table 1. Mean Response of Market Women Political Socialisation

S. N	Items	SA	A	D	SD	\bar{x}	Std.
1	I became interested in politics through my family.	103 46.3	73 34.9	15 7.2	18 8.6	3.25	.92264
2	I often discuss politics with my friends.	20 9.6	110 52.6	61 29.2	18 8.6	2.63	.77407
3	My political views were shaped by my parents.	126 60.3	55 26.3	20 9.6	8 3.8	3.43	.81819
4	I trust the government to make decisions for the country.	105 50.2	72 34.4	23 11.0	9 4.3	3.31	.83321
5	I feel informed about current political issues.	92 44.0	88 42.1	16 7.7	13 6.2	3.24	.84364
6	My religious beliefs influence my political opinions.	88 42.1	71 34.0	32 15.3	18 8.6	3.09	.95597
7	I have participated in a political campaign or rally.	35 16.7	73 34.9	76 36.4	25 12.0	2.57	.90771
8	I believe my vote can make a difference.	76 36.4	68 32.5	32 15.3	33 15.8	2.90	1.06898
9	I am a member of a political party.	108 51.7	67 32.1	22 32.1	12 5.7	3.30	.87598
10	I have contacted my representative about a political issue.	103 49.3	64 30.6	24 11.5	18 8.6	3.21	.95614
11	My political views are influenced by social media.	109 52.2	78 37.3	12 5.7	10 4.8	3.37	.79853
12	I feel that politics is relevant to my daily life.	14 6.7	118 56.5	13 6.2	64 30.6	2.39	.99476
13	I have attended a political meeting or event.	65 31.1	56 26.8	63 30.1	25 12.0	2.77	1.02135
14	I believe that government policies affect my business.	47 22.5	36 17.2	82 39.2	44 21.1	2.41	1.05751
15	I discuss politics with my customers.	46 22.0	42 20.1	79 37.8	42 20.1	2.44	1.04583
16	My political beliefs are influenced by my community.	43 20.6	36 17.2	85 40.7	45 21.5	2.37	1.03921
17	I have voted in a political election.	0 0	33 15.8	132 63.2	44 21.1	1.95	.60614
18	I feel that my political views are represented in.	51 24.4	33 15.8	83 38.7	42 20.1	2.45	1.06883
19	I believe that political involvement is important for market women.	56 26.8	28 13.4	84 40.2	41 19.6	2.47	1.08775
20	I plan to participate in future political activities.	57 27.3	29 13.9	76 36.4	47 22.5	2.46	1.11783
Weighted Average: 2.79. Threshold: 2.5							

As shown in [Table 1](#), the result indicates the mean response of market women political socialisation. It has a weighted average of 2.79 as against the threshold of 2.5. By implication, market women political socialization was high. Market women demonstrate high political socialisation, reflecting strong awareness of political institutions and exposure to socialisation agents such as family, peers, schools, and media [\[16\]](#). Their daily interactions in marketplaces provide both formal and informal channels for

political learning. Civic education, reinforced through outreach programmes, religious associations, and cooperatives, sustains this awareness. With increased smartphone use, social media has expanded their access to political dialogue and mobilization opportunities [17]. None the less, several women's political activities and rising are usually impeded by structural hinderances, male dominance, societal expectations and gender roles [18]. In addition, an elitist envirnment that is political, systemic imbalances tend to prevent market women' political awareness, involvement and civic orientation from actual representation.

Research Question 2: What is the level of market women civic efficacy?

Table 2. Mean Response of Women Civic Efficacy

S. N.	Items	SA	A	D	SD	\bar{x}	Std.
1	I believe my vote can make a difference in the outcome of an election.	120 57.4	67 32.1	12 5.7	10 4.8	3.42	.805
2	Market women like me have the power to influence government policies.	98 46.9	62 29.7	39 18.7	10 4.8	3.19	.903
3	I feel confident in my ability to participate in local politics.	137 65.6	52 24.9	16 7.7	4 1.9	3.54	.720
4	Political leaders care about the concerns of market women.	118 56.5	61 29.2	18 8.6	12 5.7	3.36	.867
5	I think market women's associations can bring about positive change.	19 9.1	164 78.5	14 6.7	12 5.7	2.91	.617
6	I am comfortable speaking publicly about political issues.	118 56.5	63 30.1	20 9.6	8 3.8	3.39	.814
7	I believe I have the knowledge to participate effectively in politics.	96 45.9	74 35.4	20 9.6	19 9.1	3.18	.943
8	Market women's voices are represented in government.	81 38.8	73 34.9	24 11.5	31 14.8	2.98	1.049
9	I feel empowered to challenge unjust policies.	95 45.5	68 32.5	26 12.4	20 9.6	3.14	.973
10	I think my participation in politics can benefit my business and community.	59 28.2	115 55.0	32 15.3	3 1.4	3.10	.696
11	I am informed about current political issues affecting market women.	118 56.5	81 38.8	6 2.9	4 1.9	3.50	.651
12	Market women can work together to achieve common goals.	77 36.8	130 62.2	2 1.0		3.36	.500
13	I believe market women's political engagement can improve their socio-economic status.	95 45.5	114 54.5	0 0	0 0	3.45	.499
14	I feel that my political participation can bring about positive change.	19 9.1	181 86.6	9 4.3	0 0	3.05	.364
15	I think market women should engage in politics to protect their interests.	66 31.6	143 68.4	0 0	0 0	3.32	.466
16	I am proud to be a market woman engaged in politics.	99 47.4	99 47.4	11 5.3	0 0	3.42	.592
17	I am willing to take action to address social injustices.	66 31.6	125 59.8	18 8.6	0 0	3.23	.592
18	I feel connected to other market women who share my political views.	65 31.1	123 58.9	21 10.0	0 0	3.21	.607

19	I believe I can make a difference in my community through political engagement.	17 8.1	101 48.3	91 43.5	0 0	2.65	.627
20	Market women's political culture is essential for their empowerment.	64 30.6	122 58.4	23 11.0	0 0	3.20	.616
Weighted Average: 3.23. Threshold: 2.5							

As shown in the

Table 2, the result indicates the mean response of market women civic efficacy. It has a weighted average of 3.23 as against the threshold of 2.5. r above-average civic efficacy score [19]. This agency is further strengthened by their economic independence through small-scale businesses. Civic engagement is stimulated by fewer harmful practices, better infrastructure, and entrepreneurial attitudes, according to studies. Health campaigns targeted at market settings also improve knowledge and decision-making confidence, thereby reinforcing civic efficacy [20]. Moreover, political efficacy is an element of civic efficacy which can predicts civic participation. Nonetheless, sustaining civic efficacy requires socio-emotional competencies, as Nigerian women continue to face daily economic stressors and entrenched gender expectations.

Research Question 3: What is the level of market women political participation?

Table 3. Mean Response of Market Women Political Participation

Sn	Items	SA	A	D	SD	\bar{x}	Std.
1	Market women should participate in politics to protect their business interests.	53 25.4	115 55.0	26 12.4	15 7.2	2.99	.817
2	I vote in every election to ensure my voice is heard.	59 28.2	72 34.4	59 28.2	19 9.1	2.82	.948
3	Market women's associations should engage in political advocacy.	56 26.8	37 17.7	68 32.5	48 23.0	2.48	1.12
4	Political leaders listen to the concerns of market women.	59 28.2	115 55.0	30 14.4	5 2.4	3.10	.718
5	I feel comfortable discussing political issues with other market women.	68 32.5	94 45.0	35 16.7	12 5.7	3.04	.851
6	Market women can influence policy decisions that affect their businesses.	51 24.4	119 56.9	28 13.4	11 5.3	3.05	.769
7	I participate in political protests to bring attention to market women's issues.	46 22.0	98 46.9	50 23.9	15 7.2	2.84	.851
8	Market women should run for political office to represent their interests.	44 21.1	116 55.5	34 16.3	15 7.2	2.90	.809
9	I stay informed about political issues that affect market women.	68 32.5	88 42.1	40 19.1	13 6.2	3.01	.877
10	Market women's political participation can bring about positive change.	40 19.1	44 21.1	75 35.9	50 23.9	2.35	1.05
11	I encourage other market women to participate in politics.	57 27.3	120 57.4	27 12.9	5 2.4	3.10	.701
12	Market women face barriers to political participation.	43 20.6	92 44.0	34 16.3	40 19.1	2.66	1.01
13	I believe market women's political engagement can improve their socio-economic status.	36 17.2	112 53.6	41 19.6	20 9.6	2.78	.842

14	Market women should engage in politics to address social injustices.	36 17.2	115 55.0	48 23.0	10 4.8	2.85	.757
15	I feel empowered to participate in politics as a market woman.	71 34.0	74 35.4	53 25.4	11 5.3	2.98	.899
16	Market women's political culture is essential for their empowerment.	32 15.3	35 16.7	82 39.2	60 28.7	2.19	1.02
17	I think market women's political participation can bring about economic growth.	49 23.4	109 52.2	41 19.6	10 4.8	2.94	.788
18	Market women should form alliances with other political groups.	58 27.8	83 39.7	52 24.9	16 7.7	2.88	.906
19	I believe market women's political engagement can lead to policy changes.	61 29.2	110 52.6	27 12.9	11 5.3	3.06	.795
20	Market women's political participation is crucial for democratic development.	41 19.6	93 44.5	61 29.2	14 6.7	2.77	.841
Weighted Average: 2.84. Threshold: 2.5							

As shown in [Table 3](#), the result indicates the mean response of market women political participation. It has a weighted average of 2.84 as against the threshold of 2.5. By implication, market women political participation. It is to be noted that market women show a measure of involvement in politics through ballot exercise, local discussions, campaigning [\[21\]](#). However, some societal imbalances and barriers prevent their rising often times. It is believed that their inability to fund some political steps, activities as well as carry out some programmes prevent their higher commitment. In the same vein, homestead is also a notable hinderance. Although systemic disadvantages have historically not stopped women from being activists, women's under-representation in political institutions continues to be a significant obstacle. Corporate social responsibility initiatives, particularly from financial institutions, may indirectly strengthen political participation by enhancing women's economic empowerment [\[22\]](#).

4.3 Nexus between Market Women's Socialisation, Efficacy and Participation

The high scores across all three dimensions of political socialisation, civic efficacy and political participation, suggest an interdependent relationship. Political socialisation provides the informational foundation; civic efficacy builds the confidence to act; and political participation represents the behavioural manifestation of both. This part is in line with the model of civic voluntarism [\[23\]](#), which states that engagement in politica and ither rekatd activities is a products of economic resources, collaboration and psychological connections. The results also capture market women are significant factor in community politics as they are capable of disseminating civic cum political informations, attitudinal priority as well as capable of driving mob engagement for societal good. This aligns with the result that people who are politically active tends to demonstrate high civic competence and are willing to add value to themselves and others within the same gepgraphical sphere. It is to be noted that higher mean scores on socialisation scores does not necessarily means higher involvment in political.

4.4 Educational Implication

The following implications are raised

1. Conventional activities put together for women in marketplace tends to drive political awareness.
2. The instrioduction of meaningful strategies like use of digital platforms can drive active political engagement of women even in a male-dominating politics.
3. New legislative and policy direction is required to avert gender discrimination which could prevent women from politics.

5. CONCLUSION

The study examined culture of politics by market women, it discovered that they share average means range across the three parameter of the examination; socialisation in terms of political, civic efficacy as well as involvement in political activities. This result negates the narratives about market women apolitical nature. However, there are several impediments to their attainment of higher level of participation. In order to position market women as strategic actors for strengthening Nigeria's democracy, it concludes that inclusive policies, civic education, economic empowerment, and structural reforms are crucial.

Recommendations

The following recommended actions are made

1. Since political socialisation levels are already high, local authorities and civil society should sustain structured civic education in markets, expanding topics beyond elections to include policy monitoring, accountability mechanisms, and citizens' rights.
2. Given their very high political participation, government should create formal consultative platforms where elected representatives regularly engage market women to influence local and state policy decisions.
3. Building on their already strong belief in their capacity to bring about change, training programs should be created to improve market women's advocacy, petition writing, and positive interactions with government agencies.
4. There is need for civic orientation, financial development and leadership training for market women to change any negative perception of politics.
5. Leaders of market women should be factored into the scheme of things such as grassroots mobilisation, feedback platforms, drivers of collective decisions, as well as channel for exchange of information among members.

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Author Contributions Statement

Name of Author	C	M	So	Va	Fo	I	R	D	O	E	Vi	Su	P	Fu
Timilehin Olayinka Omoniyi	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	

C : Conceptualization

M : Methodology

So : Software

Va : Validation

Fo : Formal analysis

I : Investigation

R : Resources

D : Data Curation

O : Writing - Original Draft

E : Writing - Review & Editing

Vi : Visualization

Su : Supervision

P : Project administration

Fu : Funding acquisition

Conflict of Interest

Disclosure.

Informed Consent

Informed consent was obtained from all participants involved in the study.

Ethical Approval

The study was conducted in accordance with ethical standards and approved by the relevant institutional ethics committee.

Data Availability

The data supporting the findings of this study are available from the author upon reasonable request.

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