

UNIVERSITY OF NIGERIA NSUKKA

**DEPARTMENT OF COMBINED BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES
(BIOCHEMISTRY/MICROBIOLOGY)**

TOPIC

**THE TENDENCIES OF NEPOTISM IN NIGERIA'S
POLITICAL SYSTEM**

**A TERM PAPER
PRESENTED IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF THE
REQUIREMENT OF THE COURSE: GENERAL STUDIES
PROGRAMME 104 (G.S.P 104) THE SOCIAL SCIENCE**

11

BY

**NELSON DICKSON RUKWE
REG. NO: 2007/148546**

LECTURER: MR. OKOYE D.FC.

MAY, 2008.

TITLE PAGE

**THE TENDENCIES OF NEPOTISM IN NIGERIA'S
POLITICAL SYSTEM**

DEDICATION

I dedicate this work to God Almighty for his mercies.
Also to my treasure, Miss Ifesinachi Ogbu for her moral support and my mother miss Patience Nelson for her care financial support and unconditional love.

ACKNOWLEDMENT

I wish to say a very big thank you to my mother, Mrs. Patience Nelson, my sisters, friends and my treasure, miss Ifesinachi ogbu for their moral, and financial support, encouragement and unconditional love. God bless you all.

PREFACE

This work is aimed at studying the tendencies of Nepotism in Nigeria's political system.

Basically people have mis- conceptional knowledge of Nepotism in Nigeria's political system. This do not know the history of Nigeria's political system or even what brought the problem of Nepotism in Nigerians political system.

This work is divided into four chapters, as chapter one does the introduction, definition of terms and causes of Nepotism in the Nigeria political. The second chapter deals on the effects of Nepotism, attitude of Nigerian leaders towards Nepotism and Nepotism as a discriminating strategy. The their chapter discuss the ways of curbing Nepotism, difficulties faced in curbing Nepotism and foreign policies on Nepotism. The fourth chapter explains the future of Nigeria's political system in the face of Nepotism.

I also wish to use this medium to extend my profound gratitude to my able, dedicated and caring lecturer, Mr, Darlington Okoye, who through his devotedness and expertise gave us a priceless knowledge on this course. He owe my first right of obligation also to my treasure who contributed ideas in the effort to achieve this height.

Nelson Dickson Rukewe

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Title page - - - - -	-i
Dedication - - - - -	-ii
Acknowledgement - - - - -	iii
Preface - - - - -	iv
Table of contents - - - - -	v
Chapter One	
1.1 Introduction- - - - -	1
1.2 Definition of terms - - - - -	2
1.3 Causes of Nepotism in the Nigeria political system. - - - - -	4
Chapter Two: Consequences of Nepotism in the Nigeria Political System	
2.1 The effects of Nepotism in the Nigerian Government	6
2.2 The attitude of Nigeria leaders towards Nepotism-	8
2.3 Nepotism as a discrimination strategy in Nigeria's political system.- - - - -	10
Chapter Three: Management of Nepotism in Nigeria	
3.1 Ways of curbing Nepotism in Nigeria - - - - -	12
3.2 Difficulties faced in curbing Nepotism - - - - -	13
3.3 Foreign policies on Nepotism - - - - -	13
Chapter Four: Summary and Conclusion	
4.1 the future of Nigeria's political system in the face of Nepotism - - - - -	15
Bibliography	

CHAPTER ONE

1.1 INTRODUCTION TO NIGERIA'S POLITICAL SYSTEM

The focus of any discussion of Nigeria at this time in its history is the outlook for success of its recently reconstituted democratic political system. Equality in question should be the validity of external assessments of the Nigerian political situation, some of which in the past have tended to rest on Nepotism in Nigeria's politics.

Widely heralded in 1960-independence year-as a testing ground of democratic capacity in Africa, Nigeria subsequently experienced a serious breakdown of civil order, partisan rejection of constitutional arrangements, several coups detat, civil war, and out of a total of five heads of state, the assassination of three and the exile of a fourth.

The fate of the system seems less a matter of structural defect that it has in the past however: it is in

fact a premise of the second republic that institutional architecture is a key to democratic viability. It seem useful therefore to consider the relative harmfuiness that Nepotism poses to the prospects of democratic stability.

1.2 DEFINITION OF TERMS

Before I delve into the tendencies of Nepotism in Nigeria's political system I will start by defining some Important terms and they include the following:

- a. **Tendency:** is defined as with in a larger political group whose views are more extreme than those of the rest of the group.
- b. **Nepotism:** is defined as favouritism shown to relatives in conferring offices. It can also be said to the giving unfair advantages to one's family when in position of power
- c. **Political system:** there are several definitions of political system. "some of the definitions include the following:

➤ A political system is a complete set of institutions interest groups (such as political parties, trade unions, lobby groups) the relationships between those institutions, the political norms and rules that govern their functions (constitution, election law).

➤ A political system is a system that necessarily has two properties: a set of interdependent components and boundaries toward the environment with which they interacts.

➤ A political system is composed of the members of a social organization (group) which are in power.

➤ A political system is a concept in which theoretically regarded as a way of the government makes a policy and also to make them more organized in their administration.

➤ A political system is one that ensures the maintaining of order and sanity in the state and at the

same time makes it possible for some other institutions to also have the grievances and complaints put across in the course of social existence.

1.3 CAUSES OF NEPOTISM IN THE NIGERIA POLITICAL SYSTEM

There are several causes of Nepotism in the Nigeria political system but some of the causes are listed below:

- a. Tribalism: this is a discrimination against a citizen because of his place of birth.
- b. Natural ethnic hostility
- c. External state relations
- d. Economic and political ideology
- e. Social insecurity
- f. Political appointments
- g. Social injustice
- h. Prejudice against people considered to be outsiders
- i. Inequality among tribes

- j.** Dishonesty and corruption
- k.** Economic and political instability

CHPATER TWO

CONSEQUENCES OF NEPOTISM IN THE NIGERIA

POLITICAL SYSTEM

2.1 THE EFECTS OF NEPOTISM IN THE NIGERIAN GOVERNMENT

The man-made catastrophe (Nepotism) epitomize all the negative effects and conditions which Nigeria has found itself since the amalgamation of the north and south into a single nation known as Nigeria. It is a well known fact that the combination of diverse ethnic nationalities into a single nation state called Nigeria without a ground work on formation of unitary nation posed one of the daunting challenges of modern day Nigeria.

Likewise, it is also a well known fact that Nepotism have consumed every sphere of Nigeria lives today. Some of the effects of Nepotism in the Nigerian government include;

- The looting of public funds at all levels of government.
- Sectarianism
- Religious fundamentalism
- Soil erosions
- Capital flight to neighboring nations and Europe
- Ineptness of the ruling class
- Rampant military interpenetration and abuse of power
- Lack of nationalism and self sacrifice to the nation
- Corruption
- Self-centeredness
- Lack of self containment and list goes on.

2.2 THE ATTITUDE OF NIGERIA LEADERS TOWARDS NEPOTISM

Evidently, Nigeria has the tools in all spheres of human endeavor that can be employed towards the redemption and repel of the nation's catastrophe. What the human or man made catastrophe (nepotism) has done to Nigeria is to extenuate the virtue, apply the vice which enable a selected few into opulence at the expense of the vast majority.

A universal and unwritten norm assumes that the act of government is experimental. Those who govern in the developed nations borrowed their policies from ideas published by scholars and practitioners. There is no democrat or Republican, Italian or Irish, German or African, Anglican or catholic way or formulation government policy. Nor should there be an Igbo or

Hausa, Yoruba or Tiv, Ibibio or Gwari, Ijaw or Edo way to formulate and execute public policy.

In Nigeria, those who served in the government have not shown interest in squashing Nepotism from public administration. The extent of today's public administration advancement can be attributed to the work of great thinkers. They fine tuned the modern public administration which the whole world has copied and applied in their various domain; Nigeria included but with mix success.

It is a sad situation where Nigeria leaders having spent decades at the corridor of power, exposed to the intricate workings of the Nigeria government, died and are buried with their knowledge. A knowledge that might help Nigeria to overcome some of its current adversities had they been documented and preserved.

2.3 NEPOTISM AS A DISCRIMINATION STRATEGY IN NIGERIA'S POLITICAL SYSTEM

The human aptitude for coactive action may have implications for how the theory of kin selection applies to human kinship several models show that if two or more individuals act coactive in assisting their mutual kin, their effective co-efficient of relatedness can be greater than if each acts individually. Thus human beings may have psychological adaptations not only for individual nepotism but also for group Nepotism – adaptations leading them to construct solidary groups enforcing an ethic of unidirectional altruism toward kin. Human kinship systems have a number of features that seem especially consistent with group Nepotism:

- i. Human kin groups come in many sizes, ranging from families to clan, lineages, and tribes of thousands of people.

- ii. Human kinship commonly features an “axiom of amity” a presumption that kin are entitled to aid simply by virtue of being kin.
- iii. Relatedness as defined by human kinship systems often differs systematically from biological relatedness and varies with social structure- especially with the solidarity of the kin group.

The theory of group Nepotism may have implications for a number of research areas in the social sciences and political system.

CHAPTER THREE

MANAGEMENT OF NEPOTISM IN NIGERIA

3.1 WAYS OF CURBING NEPOTISM IN NIGERIA

For Nigeria to successfully curb Nepotism, there must be a change, a change from the top which would trickle down to the bottom. Some ways of curbing nepotism are stated below:

- There must be a change in Nigerian attitude and perception of the role of government in the society.
- Nigerians must discard their ITK “I too know” attitude that have blinded the nation from doing what is right and employing the right people for the right job without fear of being over shadowed by the leaders who appointed them, or their own job security.
- Government should set up other related offences commission just like the EFCC and ICPC.

3.2 DIFFICULTIES FACED IN CURBING NEPOTISM

Some difficulties faced in curbing Nepotism in Nigeria are listed below:

- i. Fear of being overshadowed by the leaders.
- ii. Fear of job security
- iii. The practice of ethnocentrism
- iv. Tribal and ethnic differences
- v. Lack of patriotism
- vi. Corruption and selfishness and the list goes on.

3.3 FOREIGN POLICIES ON NEPOTISM

There are several foreign policies on Nepotism but few are listed below;

- The Nigerian president needs to be educated on the tenets of presidential system of government.
- Huge contracts should be awarded with regard for normal processes.
- Nigeria must elect people of impeccable character, those who understand that in government, brainstorming

and knowledge of government operations can be susceptible to a change for better. The who are aware that the sole purpose of government is to advance humanity. Those who understand that being in government or public service are the greatest virtue to be bestowed on a citizen. A noble opportunity to sacrifice and subdue ones ego needs for the benefit of the nation.

CHAPTER FOUR

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

4.1 THE FUTURE OF NIGERIA'S POLITICAL SYSTEM IN THE FACE OF NEPOTISM

One of the major challenges that has faced the Nigerian Nation over the years is the issue of corruption and its debilitating ancillaries bribery, graft, fraud and Nepotism. Nepotism has become so deep-seated in the country that it had stunted growth in all sectors and has been the primary reason behind the country's difficulties in developing fast.

With renewed confidence in the government to combat and reduce Nepotism, foreign investors have the guarantee of achieving their objectives in Nigeria,.

While the problem of nepotism has been around for a while, it is instructive to note that the will to combat it has become more resilient and with expected co-operation of international community, it will be reduced if not completely eliminated from Nigeria in due course.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Nino, c; the constitution of deliberate democracy. New haven: yale university press, 1996.

Almond, Gabriel, A, et al; comparative politics today: A world review (seventh edition). 2000

C.S Whitaker, Jr second Beginnings, the New political Framework, 2005.

Robert J.Q Unian, Mark V. Flinn; Kinship, sex and fitness in a Caribbean community. Human Nature, 2005.

Chinua Achebe, the Trouble with Nigeria: Enugu: Fourth Dimension publishers, 1983.