journals.unizik.edu.ng/jcpl/index ISSN: 2736-0342
NNAMDI AZIKIWE UNIVERSITY, AWKA
JOURNAL OF COMMERCIAL AND PROPERTY LAW Vol. 12(4), September, 2025

INTRINSIC VALUES AS A DETERMINANT OF A NATION'S DEVELOPMENT: A CASE STUDY OF THE 2023 NIGERIAN PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

Oridamilola A. IJIWOYE*
Oluwatoyin OMONIYI**

Abstract
The 2023 Nigerian Presidential Election served as an important watershed in the nation's clamour for development and the actualization of intrinsic values that underpin its socio-political framework. The election witnessed each Presidential candidate representing a spectrum of ideologies, each advocating for various intrinsic values such as integrity, transparency, and inclusivity. Voters' determination was largely displayed by the determination to vote for that candidate capable of ending the pressing challenges that had bedeviled the nation for so long, including corruption, insecurity, indiscipline, infrastructure deficits, and moral decay. This paper examines the intricate synergy between national development and the intrinsic values adopted by the different Presidential candidates and the electorate. This paper concludes that the nation's successful development rests on the alignment of political leadership with sincere fundamental values respected by its citizens, especially the family, schools, and teachers who have been classified as the true agents of change. This paper having reviewed the values and the roles that the different state actors must play in achieving national development in Nigeria recommends that the values imbibed by a nation must be upheld by political leaders, citizens and all the agents of national values without fear and favour, all in pursuit of a sustainable national development.

Keywords: Intrinsic Value, National Development, Presidential Election, Citizens, and Nigeria

1. Introduction
Try not to become a man of success but rather try to become a man of value, Albert Einstein (1879-1955), Physicist and Nobel Laureate.[1]It is simply impossible to overemphasize the significance of values in a nation. Success may be achieved without value, but greatness cannot. Values are a collection of precepts, conventions, standards, and behaviours that are usually acceptable in our day-to-day interaction with others. Values need to be upheld by an individual as they contribute to the person's behavior and reflection on society. Every nation has the principles, standards, or values to aid and sustain its development; they are regulations for the society. The word "value" is an ambiguous word. Carl Rogers defined it as "the tendency to show preference."[2] Value is the degree of importance given to something. National values are a representation of the paramount values upheld throughout the common cultural experience of the nation[3]. It regulates what is cherished or refused and what is rejected and accepted. A nation without non-perishable values cannot advance.

The attainment and upholding of values are not for the consequences arising from the values upheld but for the benefit attributed to the value itself. Intrinsic values can be defined as the ethical values or rights that exist as an intrinsic characteristic of a particular thing or class of things simply because of their existence.[4]. This definition exemplifies that intrinsic values are not characterized by the outcome of their exhibition but by their existence. Development is commonly used in reference to

***Oridamilola Adaba IJIWOYE,** Faculty of Law, Redeemer's University, Eden. Email: ijiwoyeo@run.edu.ng Phone No:08074655364
****Oluwatoyin OMONIYI,** Faculty of Law, Redeemer's University, Eden Email: omoniyio@run.edu.ng
[1] Decision Innovation, 'Value Quotes' <https://www.decision-making-solutions.com> accessed 9 May 2023
[2]B Akinola, 'Ethics, Value and Professional Responsibilities in the Legal Profession (published 2020, Institute of Human Capacity Development) 142
[3] ibid
[4] Oxford Reference, 'Intrinsic Value' <https://www.oxfordreference.com/display/10.1093/oi/> accessed 9 May 2023

the advancement or growth of a state of things, person, or country. It is a positive transformation.[5] A nation constitutes a terrain filled with people led by the same government. They have in common their heritage, history, culture, language and religion.[6] The development of a nation, therefore, is the increasing positive revolution in a territory under a particular government in all sectors of the territory. It is common knowledge that Nigeria is a developing country with different values that can help advance all sectors of the country.

One of the major issues hindering Nigeria's development is its citizens' failure to demonstrate core values like patriotism, unity, social justice, honesty, and so forth. The most overriding negative value in Nigeria at this time is corruption, which is seriously working against the development of Nigeria. Concerning a nation, the intrinsic values upheld by most citizen's stand as the intrinsic values of the nation as a whole. The values believed by a nation play a major part in the national development of the country in question

When a nation upholds integrity as an intrinsic value, corruption will be highly reduced, if not eradicated. This paper will provide an overview of intrinsic values, emphasizing the role of intrinsic values in nation-building concerning the Nigerian 2023 Presidential Elections.

2. The Development of a Nation

The development of a nation is greatly determined by the kind of intrinsic value adopted by a nation. The development allows growth, evolution, the constructive change of the physical, economic, social, environmental, and demographic features[7]. A nation is a sovereign state consisting of people with similar features, like culture, language, religion, etc. The developed countries are known as first-world countries. These countries include the United States, Australia, Italy, and many more. While developing countries are known as third war countries, they include countries like Nigeria, Kenya, Turkey, etc.[8]

There are various features of a developed nation and reasons a nation has to be developed. When a nation is developed, there is an increase in the population. People from other countries would find sufficient reasons to aid living in ease to be a resident of such a nation. With the rate of population, there would be a need to work and survive. Fortunately, there are numerous employment opportunities and a high rate of industrialization; that is, problems will be solved, and innovations will be established. A sole person cannot make it possible so that other individuals will be employed. This will also make a nation independent. A developed nation has a good standard of living, and the cost of living in such a society would not be high: the density of the population, in addition to the working force, will most certainly increase the nation's capital per income through paying tax, revenues from goods sold and other types of expenses expected to be paid by citizens to the government. Having adhered to their duties, the government will be forced to perform its duties, providing social infrastructure and adhering strictly to the law, knowing it has been chosen to the seat and may be removed at any point in time.

The educational system will be of standard quality, which is one of the bases for development. Children are the future, and educating and equipping them will greatly benefit society. There would be quality health facilities provided, and because of education, people understand and work in the field. There would also be technological improvement. When a nation is developed, there is good leadership. The masses will be provided with adequate knowledge, being one of the factors

[5] Max, 'What is Development – A definite Guide' (MDG MONITOR 2016) <What is Development - A Definitive Guide | MDG Monitor>, accessed 07 May 2023.
[6] National Geographic, 'Nation' <Nation (nationalgeographic.org)> accessed on 07 May 2023.
[7] Sid, 'What is development' (SID 2021) <What is Development? - Sid Israel - Society for International Development '<sid-israel.org)accessed 07 May, 2023.
[8]Surbhi, 'Differences between Developed and Developing Countries' (Key Differences 2020), <Difference Between Developed Countries and Developing Countries (with Comparison Chart) - Key Differences>, accessed 07 May 2023.

essentials of education, to make decisions concerning who they want to represent the nation. The people will live peacefully and in unity, without any form of violence or discrimination. There would be a low level of crime reported in society, the youths would be well-equipped to build a prosperous future. Therefore, there would be no reason to be involved in illegal activities. Every sector of the country has to be balanced, from education to leadership, to the values of the people, finance, and so forth, because a lack of any of the factors will be a detriment to the nation's growth.

When a nation is not developed, the opposite of the above-mentioned would be the reality of such a country. There would be a high rate of poverty, as there is no job for the people to engage in. They would be dependent on the developed countries for a lot of products, like Nigeria importing a lot of materials, even to the cheapest and smallest erasers. It has a high rate of illiterates and unemployed amongst its population, which results in a high rate of criminal record. There would be poor quality education and a health system.

In order to achieve this development, certain characteristics must be found among the people, like sufficient national wealth or national resources, good leadership, peace, the dignity of labor, educated citizens, equality, the kind of intrinsic value imbibed in the nation, and many more. The people have to be adequately educated; there should be enough facilities to foster quality and conducive learning. The government should encourage education by offering free school or a reasonable amount as school fees. The government must also be submissive and be the servant-leader of the people. They must also work within the bounds of the law, as no one is above the law. The people should also deem it fit to have reasonable, lawful jobs to decrease the rate of crime and increase the country's capital per income. There are unlimited conditions to be fulfilled; however, for this study, the intrinsic values the people of a nation have will be the focus.

3. Intrinsic Values in Nigeria

An intrinsic value is something that is valued for itself and not for its results[9]. It is beneficial to break down the meaning of intrinsic value to create a better understanding of the subject matter. According to Merriam-Webster Dictionary, 'intrinsic' means belonging to a thing's essential nature or constitution.[10] The word ‘value’ means principles of behavior, one's judgment of what is important in life[11]. It is a standard or principle held dearly by a person or group of persons. Value influences the conduct of people within an environment. National Value is a fundamental feature in the concept of choice; it is intrinsic to humans as rationality is.

An intrinsic value has value "in itself" and for its own sake, not for anything else. The country that stands as the case study of this paper is Nigeria. Nigeria is widely held to be a country that is religious and moral. Nigeria is a geo-political zone with various ethnic and religious groups, of which each of them has its cultural values and activities respected by those who own it. In Nigeria, the dominant value is respect for everyone, specifically the elders, loving your family and decorating the family's name in honor, being polite and believing in God, Allah, and Supreme Being, depending on your religion, being a person with a job and diligent in it no matter how little. Morals and values are fundamental tools that affect decision-making in the country.

The intrinsic values upheld by the country include honesty, integrity, fairness, love, and many more. These values are globally recognized as important in the maintenance of interpersonal relationships. At the annual conference of The Institute of Chartered Accountants of Nigeria (ICAN), AdewaleRaji, Chief Executive Office of Odua Investment Company, stated that the value

[9] Effective Altruism, ‘Intrinsic Values’ <https://www.effectivealtruism.org/articles/ea-global-2018-intrinsic-values> accessed 9th May 2023

[10] Merriam Webster <https://www.merriam-webster.com/> accessed 9 May 2023

[11] Oxford Languages <https://www.google.com/search?q=meaning+of+value> accessed 9 May 2023

adopted by a nation really determines the level of their development[12]. What determines how great a person turns out in life is widely dependent on the values imbibed.

The word" value" can also be replaced with the word "ethics." Ethics deals with the right or wrong of human conduct. The 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria in Chapter II, section 15(2) provides that, "Accordingly, national integration shall be actively encouraged shall be actively encouraged, whilst discrimination on the grounds of place of origin, sex, religion, status, ethnic or linguistic association or ties shall be prohibited."[13] The aim of national integration is to build a bonded and strong nation. Also, subsection 3 of this states that, for the purpose of promoting national integration, it shall be the duty of the State to:

(a) Provide adequate facilities for and encourage free mobility of people, goods, and services throughout the Federation.
(b) Secure complete residence rights for every citizen in all parts of the federation.
(c) Encourage inter-marriage among persons from different places of origin or of different religious, ethnic, or linguistic associations or ties: and
(d) Promote or encourage the formation of associations that cut across ethnic, linguistic, religious and other sectional barriers.

Section 23 of the Nigerian Constitution provides that discipline, integrity, the dignity of labour, social justice, religious tolerance, self-reliance, and patriotism are the national values of the country.[14]. These ethics are the significant values the country stands for and upholds in its dealings. They serve as the bane of the national intrinsic values. Every Nigerian citizen is expected to uphold the above mentioned principle. The constitution provides that these ethics are to be upheld and maintained not because of their consequences but because each is good in itself, and they have been acknowledge as the fundamental principle that each citizen must uphold to ensure the growth of the nation.

The Bible asks an important question in the Book of Amos 3 verse 3, “Can two work together, except they agree?” The answer to this question is No. This is due to the fact that when you work with a person that does not align with you, that person will always draw you back. People must learn to respect their differences, allow for their flaws, and use their talents to work together to achieve predetermined goals. The foot prints of challenges faced by the nationalists who strived for our independence from the colonial masters are evident throughout Nigeria’s history. The nationalists develop discipline during their fights or liberation. They discovered how to focus on the main objective during their fights for liberation. They discovered how to concentrate on the main objective and resisted being bought over by the colonial masters’ gifts.

In order to ensure that every Nigerian is duly represented and their interests are taken care of, they learned to fight for equality and social justice. They also developed mutual reliance by forming political parties and other organizations that work together for the advancement of democracy. They discovered how to cooperate despite differences in their diverse ethnic group and religion, to accomplish a shared objective. The Values our nationalist fought to uphold are what we now know as the national ethics of the country.

Why were these specific values selected as the national ethics of the country? The answer is plausible. The combination of these ethics would successfully aid in the development of the country. For better comprehension, the selected national ethics will be explained in no specific order.

[12]Akinola, (n 2).
[13] The 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (as amended). S. 15(2)
[14] CFRN s23

1. Discipline: This means an orderly or a prescribed conduct or pattern of behavior expected from a specific group of people[15]. Discipline is expected of every Nigerian citizen in his or her dealings.
2. Integrity: Integrity means a firm or strict adhere to a code of moral values.[16]. It exemplifies upholding the right moral stand in any situation. It is a state of incorruptibility.
3. The dignity of Labour: Occupations involving intellectual or physical labour as the job demands are expected to be equally respected.[17]
4. Social Justice: In contemporary politics, social justice is the fair treatment and equitable status of all persons and social groups within a country or state.[18] Every citizen of a country is expected to be treated fairly and equally. It simply denotes that everyone deserves equal economic and political opportunities.
5. Religious Tolerance: This is the concept that all religions are valid within their culture of origin.[19] No religion should be overlooked or downplayed. All should be treated with equal respect. Religion should not be used as an instrument for discrimination.
6. Self-reliance: This means to trust and believe in one's abilities.[20] The state of being confident in one's capabilities without external influence. It simply means to rely on oneself.
7. Patriotism: This is a state of love for one's country. It essentially stems from a person's devotion to his country. A patriotic individual is vigorously driven for his country's cause with a spirit of belongingness.

The above-highlighted ethics are the intrinsic values upheld by Nigeria. The 1999 Constitution of Nigeria provides for it and is therefore deemed widely accepted and upheld by the citizens of the country. Without extra analysis, it is expected that every citizen of the country is expected to portray the above ethics in all their dealings and activities. The ethics in question are expected to be reflected in every decision and action taken by the country's citizens and the nation.

4. The Effect of Demonstrating Intrinsic Values

Intrinsic means when something is highly important and the basic characteristics of a person.[21] Intrinsic values are characteristics bestowed upon man naturally, which are considered very important and cherished. They include honesty, tolerance, peace, patriotism, just a few to be mentioned. These values are to be exercised by the people of the state for its numerous advantages. If a nation has good and worthy values displayed by the people, it has a very high probability of advancement. Otherwise, it will strive and hardly achieve a developed nation. In a nation where intrinsic values are displayed by the citizens of a nation, there is a good relationship among the people. Once there is a good relationship between the people of a nation, there is unity and tolerance. A good relationship among them will enable them to communicate about the problems of the nation and how to resolve them. They find a way forward and act on it, leading to the progress of the community. It also helps us live in peace, strong bond, and harmony amongst ourselves. Exercising a value like patriotism, the tribe or ethnicity of another will be irrelevant. They would treat each other as family, wherever they see themselves. They should be able to recognize each other outside the nation and fight for each other. It will improve social interactions.

The people would be loyal to the nation at large rather than to their individual tribe. It allows the people to exercise their rights without fear, for instance, the value of religious tolerance. Everyone

[15] Merriam Webster <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/discipline> accessed 9 May 2023
[16] Merriam Webster <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/integrity> accessed 9 May 2023
[17]MeaningDB <https:// meaningdb.com/en/dignity-of-labour> accessed 9 May 2023
[18] Britannica, 'Social Justice' <https://www.britannica.com/topic/social-justice> accessed 9 May 2023
[19] R Mishra, 'INTOLERANCE-Everything from Religion and art of personal choices' 2019 <https:// timesofindia.indiatimes.com/readersblog/> accessed 9 May 2023
[20] Merriam Webster <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/self-reliance#> accessed 9 May 2023.
[21] Cambridge Advanced Learner's Dictionary & Thesaurus, <INTRINSIC | English meaning - Cambridge Dictionary> accessed 08 May 2023.

will be able to speak up concerning their religion: this is the right to freedom of religion as stated in Section of the 38 1999 CFRN (as amended)[22]. Likewise, people would be able to support and vote for their interested political party or candidate if there is tolerance. No threats would be made, political violence will be a stranger, and there would be no cause for people to indulge in political apathy. It helps to achieve the future for our society. We capture what we want society to be in the near future and work towards it using values like teamwork, justice, and many more. It guides and directs our behavior in the society[23]. It helps people in the state make better and wise decisions towards a lot of things like Leadership. It tells us what is good or bad in the society and for the society. They serve as a means of correcting and reforming the negative manners of individuals in the society.[24] The display of honesty and integrity will compel the officers in charge of the election and the electoral candidate not to rig the election results. Values help us view things in order of priority or importance; that way; a person would know what to focus on and what not to.

Despite the Riches in Mineral Resources Nigeria has been unable to develop in all sectors due to the inability of its people to exhibit these national values. The social-political background amongst the people is the major reason for the latter problem stated, with the little recognition of the national values by the people being the minor reason. In a situation where the citizens of a nation are fostering hatred amongst themselves, such a state is certainly going to have difficulties in growing. Using the United States of America as an example, the value of unity is deeply rooted amongst its people. Once they are able to recognize you as part of them, they don't hesitate to mingle and love themselves; it is one of the reasons why they are able to fight and achieve a lot of things, no matter the morality of it. They always speak up, with the assurance that somebody else or a population will support them and a positive change will be made, rather than judge and criticize one another. For instance, the movement of LGBTQ, the fight against racism, police brutality, and many more. They didn't care that some of them were from this state, religion, or had a different skin color, but they stood firm because they knew fighting for that thing would develop their country, even in the slightest way possible. The failure to show these values leads to social disorder and disorientation in society, as there is no social justice or tolerance. It gives rise to the absence of peace and unity, one of the values stated in the 1st stanza of the Nigeria national anthem. It makes individuals do actions they would not do and act in a damaging manner. It is what has led to the biggest challenge facing the nation, corruption. Everyone does as they wish to satisfy their selfish desire.

5. Intrinsic Values and Nation Building

Every nation strives toward development and growth. A nation will not progress without the efforts and contribution of her citizens in her dealings. The pride of any country is its development and attainment of a higher level of all-around growth encompassing the social, political, and economic areas. Development can be defined as the process in which someone or something grows or changes to become more advanced.[25]. Hence, national development is a nation or country's gradual and steady growth to be more advanced. National development exemplifies the increase in the material well-being of all country citizens.[26] It includes eradicating poverty, a better standard of living, the absence of discrimination of any form, and fairness in all activities across the nation. National development in Nigeria is quite slow-paced. Various national planning programs have been implemented, but not all were successfully executed. There are many reasons for the futile execution of national development programs. However, some crucial factors are bad leadership, corruption, and indiscipline.

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[22] S. 38 The Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (as amended)

[23] Vas Touronis, 'What are values and why are they important?' (My online therapy, October 21, 2021) <What are values, and why are they important? | My Online Therapy>, accessed 9 May 2023.

[24] Life Persona, 'Importance of values in society' <Importance of Values in Society: 10 Reasons | Life Persona>, accessed 9 May 2023.

[25] Cambridge Dictionary <https:// dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/development> accessed 9 May 2023

[26] ToluLawal and Abe Oluwatoyin, 'National development in Nigeria: Issues, challenges and prospects' (2017) 11 *African Journal of Political Science* <http://www.internationalscholarsjournals.org/> accessed 9 May 2023

Nigeria has a long line of bad leadership. The past recent governments of the country have been flawed as the individuals that get into power do not have goals or visions. Some leaders run for political positions just for the benefits ascribed to them and not for the influence they are expected to have on the community and country. Corruption is a prominent societal flaw, as the country's leaders, including the citizens, have imbibed corruption as a culture and way of life. Corrupt leaders have managed the country.[27] The lack of discipline and orderliness is another factor in the slow development of Nigeria. Orderliness and discipline have proven to be foreign concepts to the citizens and the country's leaders. Most Nigerian citizens worldwide are known as hardworking, industrious, and disciplined. However, the country is also attributed to cybercrimes, money laundering, and corruption. The values reflected by the nation's citizens play a crucial role in the country's development. In situations where the citizens often reflect flawed values and morals, the trust in the country will continually wane. For national development to be propelled and actualized, the country's citizens, both at home and in the diaspora, must exhibit good and complementary values to boost the country's reputation.

Nigerians should not be characterized as dupes, cheats, ritualists, kidnappers, or corrupt people. Instead, good values and morals, such as honesty, contentment, integrity, patriotism, and the like, must be upheld. Economic, social, and political development cannot be made in a country where social vices like corruption, kidnapping, cybercrimes, internet fraud, and other harmful vices thrive. [28] Bad values and morals taint the country's image and dent the nation's image on a global stage. Hence, the intrinsic values of a nation play a crucial part in national building. A country that reflects bad values will have stunted and slow national development, and vice versa.

6. Reflection of Intrinsic Values in the 2023 Nigerian Presidential Election

The Nigerian 2023 Presidential election served as a brilliant case study highlighting the significance of inherent ideals in the country's growth. Nigeria has diversified population, rich cultural legacy, and significant economic potential; moreover, due to several socioeconomic and political obstacles, it still needs to realize its full potential. The Presidential Elections reflected the values of the country's citizens. In the past years, the country's presidential elections were mainly between the All Progressive Congress and the People's Democratic Party. However, the just concluded Presidential Elections paved the way for Labour Party as a strong candidate known as Peter Obi was a major candidate for the elections. As Nigeria is a heterogeneous state, it is expected that the running candidates hail from different tribes and ethnicities. Unfortunately, the just concluded presidential elections reflected major flaws in the national values upheld. The national ethics provided in the Constitution were neither practiced nor evident. Lack of religious tolerance, integrity, and social justice were prevalent.

Operational difficulties and the use of technology, violence and voting suppression. Cyberbullying, religious intolerance, tribalism, theft, and other vices played an ugly role in the Presidential election. On the internet, supporters of rival candidates took to insults, queries, and public defamatory statements about the opposing candidates and their parties. Different people had their preferred candidates, not because they said the candidates could do the job that needed to be done in the nation, but because there was this notion of; it is our turn, ignoring the role of capacity and competence.

Regarding integrity, a lot of moral standards were swept under the carpet. Some of the vying candidates for the Presidential Election engaged in electoral malpractice. Quite a reasonable number

[27] *Supra*

[28] J N Okeke, et al, 'Values and Value Systems of Nigerian: Implication for National Development', (2021) 24 *Nigerian Journal of Social Studies*, <https://www.njss.org.ng/publications> accessed 9 May 2023

of people were denied their right to vote and be voted for due to voters' intimidation and coercion. They were threatened at their polling booths and forced to vote for a particular candidate. Rigging of votes cast was not also left out, as there were claims of electoral rigging at certain polling booths, and the case of underage voting was prominent in the North. Bribery and corruption were not left out, as candidates and their respective parties bought citizens' votes through bribery. A famous case of a woman mercilessly beaten by political thugs went viral, drawing the attention of various political analysts.

In the context of social justice, the claim that all citizens were not treated fairly is insisted upon. The citizens who supported a particular candidate over the other were treated with contempt and subjected to abuse and intimidation. They were denied their right to choose their representatives, but succumbed to undue pressure from citizens with a different choice of candidate. Tribalism is a significant flaw emphasized and brought to light by the 2023 Presidential Elections in Nigeria.

The three top candidates for the election were Bola Ahmed Tinubu, a Yoruba man; Peter Obi, an Igbo man; and Atiku Abubakar, who hails from the Northern tribe. These three candidates hailed from different ethnicities and were capable in their distinct niches. The fault began when Nigerians began supporting their candidates not based on capabilities and qualifications but on their tribes. The treatment of voters based on ethnicity is a contentious aspect of what happens during Presidential elections in Nigeria, and the 2023 election was not an exception. It was apparent that the Yorubas were pushing for a particular candidate to become the next President. Their acts might have been based on capabilities, but a major number of them, through social media, claimed they refused to be ruled by an Igbo man.

The Yorubas believe that the Igbos regard themselves as superior to others. They also look down on the Igbos' audacity and desire to carry Biafran flags across Yoruba territories, which they regard as a no-man's land. The Yorubas perceive Igbos to be greedy and too ambitious. [29]Also, the Igbo collective's displeasure with Obafemi Awolowo is further portrayed as evidence of hate for the Yoruba tribe. Nigerian singer, writer, and social activist Charly Boy put forward his tribal tirade against the Yoruba. He said, "In almost 70 years I have lived, I have never heard any story of my Yoruba brothers being harassed or terrorized in the eastern part of this country. Why is the reverse the case in the West? What offence did their Igbo brothers commit to be targeted whenever the election draws near?"[30]

It is crucial to emphasize that Yorubas are not the political nemesis of Igbos and vice versa. The two strong tribes are expected to work together to unite the nation, develop, and not tear the country apart based on personal experiences and vendettas. The values Nigerians were supposed to have portrayed were explicitly absent, causing the outcome of the electoral process to be dissatisfactory.

7. Conclusion

As exemplified above, intrinsic values are characterized not by their consequences but by the value itself. The inherent values adopted by a nation are a significant determinant of its development. The 1999 Federal Republic of Nigeria Constitution contains the Nigerian-prescribed national ethics. The core national ethics of the country, in no particular order, are self-reliance, integrity, religious tolerance, discipline, patriotism, social justice, and dignity of labour. These ethics are to be upheld by Nigeria as a nation. The citizens must practice them in their day-to-day activities as they make up the nation or country. Intrinsic values of a nation play a significant part in the national development and growth of the nation in question. These values are naturally embedded in man but not practiced often. A country known for fraudulent acts and dishonesty would not be able to

[29]TajuTijani, '2023 Election and the Tribalisation of Public Discourse' <https://guardian.ng/opinion/2023-election-and-the-tribalisation-of-public-discourse/> accessed 9 May 2023

[30]*Supra*

advance on a global stage concerning economic, social, and political affairs compared to a country characterized by proper morals and refined ethics. Unfortunately, Nigerians cannot show this value, hindering the nation's advancement. The 2023 Nigerian Presidential Elections revealed a deterioration in Nigeria's national ideals and portrayed the flaws in the intrinsic values upheld by the citizens. Negative values such as rioting, apathy, bribery and corruption, impatience, disorderliness, disrespect, and disregard for human life have replaced our respect, obedience, orderliness, tolerance, patriotism, and social justice as the norm among the populace. The attitude of Nigerians and events during the election resulted in a complete absence of worthy intrinsic values. Corruption, religious intolerance, social injustice, and tribalism drove the process of the election. The nation's main issue is its lack of unity among the tribes. Nigeria, as a country, must reform the values reflected by its citizens for the country to grow and expand economically, socially, and politically. The nation's main issue is its lack of unity among the tribes. Nigerians are deterred from risking their lives by voting because of the widespread murdering and maiming. Since people have prioritized sectional loyalty over national loyalty, inter-religious and inter-ethnic reliance and association are gradually disappearing.

8. Recommendations

Education policymakers must emphasize teaching national values in the Social Studies curriculum to broaden knowledge of acceptable values. Social Studies instructors should instill these values in their students both within and outside the classroom. Instructors should be positive role models for their students regarding diverse national values. All national agencies, institutions, organizations, and non-governmental organizations should, at all costs, promote social ideals among Nigerians. Religious establishments should sensitize their followers at their various worship gatherings.

The citizens of Nigeria as a country need to come together and stand in unity for the country to grow and advance on a global stage. Specific steps and mindset reformation must be taken for national stability and development. The existing tribal war, predominantly between Yoruba and Igbo, needs to come to an end soon. If tribalism prevails, the country might be divided. For tribalism to be tackled, the country's tribes need to find a mutual ground, one way or the other. It is presumed that the tribalism war began in the days of our forefathers and grew into modern society. However, we must stop its growth to prevent it from engulfing the coming generations. Apart from tribalism, the citizens of the country seem to thrive in social injustice, religious intolerance, and a lack of discipline. These flaws would significantly affect the growth of any country or state, and unity is not imbued. In the next elections, every individual is allowed to freely choose and support the candidates of his or her choice and is not to be discriminated against on the grounds of his or her religion, tribe, or any other societal flaws. Apart from the conduct of elections, in day-to-day activities, integrity, religious tolerance, and discipline are to be upheld by the country's citizens.