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GENDER EXCLUSION IN GRASSROOTS INTRA-PARTY POLITICS OF A RULING PARTY IN NIGERIA: CASE STUDY OF ONDO STATE.

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Abstract

The participation of women in the political development of a society cannot be undermined as they have the same enthusiasm as men in term of good leadership. In Ondo State, the crops of women with good leadership traits were being marginalized in party structures of People's Democratic Party (PDP), which is a factor that affected women political participation in intra-party politics in the state. This study investigated reasons for women marginalization in the intra-party politics of PDP in Ondo State. The study engaged both primary and secondary sources of data. Primary data were obtained through the use of structured questionnaire. 420 respondents were drawn across the PDP members in the state. The questionnaire was analyzed using simple percentage. The findings revealed that women had low representation at the leadership echelon of PDP in Ondo State. The restrained factors include; patriarch nature of the society, level of women's educational attainment, occupation and intra-party crises. From the findings, the respondents confirmed that, patriarch nature of the society (83.6%) and inferiority complex (59%) affects their participation in PDP in Ondo State. Also, the respondents ascertained that, level of women's educational attainment (75.1%) and women's occupation (74.1%) affect women vying for party positions in PDP in Ondo State. Finally, the respondents affirmed that, religious practices (67.4%) and intra-party crisis (52.6%) affect women participation in PDP in Ondo State. Based on the findings, it is recommended that there is need for the party constitution to be reviewed with a view to allowing some internal positions for women. There is need for electoral system to be reformed in such a way that, it will mandate parties to adopt a quota of one third party positions for women.

Keywords: Political Participation, Women, Politics, PDP, Intra-Party Politics.

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Interviewee

- Mr. Ayo Fadaka, Ondo State PDP Public Relations Officer (Interviewed on 10th July, 2016).
- Mrs Sola Ibilola, PDP Member (Interviewed on 10th July, 2016, from Okitipupa Local Government interviewed from corridor of protest against PDP appointment of woman as a supervisor to local government at PDP State Secretariat in Akure, Ondo State).
- Mrs. Omolere Omolola Women leader Akoko South West, interviewed on 14th July, 2016.

$$\text{The computed } \chi^2 = 516.37$$

$$\text{The expected frequency} = 390/5 = 78$$

$$\text{The degree of freedom} = n - 1 = 5 - 1 = 4$$

0.05 That is 5% level of significance with degree of freedom.

$$X^2 (4) = 7.815 \text{ (from tabulated result from the sum of the survey)}$$

Decision Rule

IF X^2 Computed (C) > X^2 Tabulated (T) at 0.05 = accept that there is Relationship

If χ^2 Computed (C) < X^2 Tabulated (T) at 0.05 = reject that there is no Relationship