

**THE ROLE OF CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS IN
INFLUENCING LEGISLATION - A CASE STUDY OF
NIGERIA'S NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

BY

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BEING

**A DISSERTATION SUBMITTED TO THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR
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MASTER DEGREE IN LEGISLATIVE STUDIES (MLS)**

JULY, 2024

DECLARATION

I, Lasis Adavize YUSUF, hereby declare that this thesis entitled; “The Role of Civil Society Organizations in Influencing Legislation - A Case Study of Nigeria’s National Assembly” has been carried out by me, conducted under the supervision of Dr. Augustine Chidiebere. Osigwe. All information from literature have been duly acknowledged in the text and list of references provided. This thesis has not been previously presented for the award of degree at NILDS/UNIBEN Post Graduate School or at any institution.

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CERTIFICATION

This dissertation titled “**THE ROLE OF CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS IN INFLUENCING LEGISLATION - A CASE STUDY OF NIGERIA’S NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**” presented by Lasis Adavize YUSUF has been read and accepted as meeting requirement guiding the award of degree of Masters in Legislative Studies (MLS) of National Institute for Legislative and Democratic Studies/University of Benin (NILDS/UNIBEN) Postgraduate programmes and is approved for its contribution to knowledge and literacy appreciation.

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APPROVAL PAGE

This is to certify that this dissertation “THE ROLE OF CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS IN INFLUENCING LEGISLATION - A CASE STUDY OF NIGERIA’S NATIONAL ASSEMBLY” has been carefully supervised, read, assessed and approved as having met the necessary conditions for the award of Masters in Legislative Studies (MLS) in the National Institute for Legislative and Democratic Studies/University of Benin and is therefore approved for its contribution for knowledge.

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DEDICATION

This work is dedicated to Almighty Allah for his mercy, guidance and protection throughout the course of this program.

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ABSTRACT

Civil society organizations (CSOs) are known to be non-state actors whose goals are neither to make profits nor to seek governing power. They are known essentially to play vital roles in the process of representative democracy as they are generally recognized as an essential ‘third’ sector that have positive impact on good governance by promoting transparency, effectiveness, openness, responsiveness and accountability. Hence, this study aims to examine the influence of the CSOs on Legislations at the Nigeria’s National Assembly. It specifically pursues to; examine the effectiveness of the CSOs in the legislative process vis-à-vis the synergy between CSOs and the Legislature, identify the most adopted strategies by CSOs in influencing legislation in Nigeria, and determine the significant strategic factors influencing the contribution of CSOs in Nigeria Legislation.

The study adopted quantitative research approach. The study employed statistical table of randomness to select five (5) CSOs in the FCT. Subsequently, the study adopted purposive sampling and purposively sampled twenty-five (25) staff from each of the randomly selected five (5) CSOs. Data were collected through well-structured questionnaire and were analyzed using Excel and SPSS analysis packages. The study employed descriptive analysis methodologies such as percentages and charts as well as inferential analysis approach such as factor analysis.

Among other empirical findings, this study found a seemingly fair synergy between the CSOs. However, in spite of the level of the synergy, the study established adequate capacity and staff strength for the CSOs and further found that the engagement of the CSOs in legislative processes and operations had often been successful and had resulted into some significant reforms in electoral process, petroleum sector, taxation and so on. Subsequently, the study identified collaboration and education/sensitization as the most adopted strategies by the CSOs. Also, the

empirical findings from the factor analysis established four (4) Factors with loading-strategies (that is Factor 1, 2, 3 and 4) with high reliability of 0.901. However, Factor 1 (with highest eigen-value of 6.57 and 36.47% as percentage of variation) alongside its loading-strategic variables (which include Collaboration, Education/Sensitization and little Persuasion) was identified as the most significant factor of the loading-strategies. Thus, the study concludes that Collaboration, Education/Sensitization and little Persuasion the best and most significant consolidated strategies employed by the CSOs in influencing the legislative process and operation of National Assembly.

Consequently, recognizing how successful and effective CSOs were in their engagement towards influencing the legislative processes and operations of the National Assembly, the study recommends that the public being the critical stakeholders should work together with the CSOs towards influencing the country's legislation thereby delivering the expectations of representative democracy. Also, acknowledging Collaboration, Education/Sensitization and little Persuasion as the most significant consolidated-strategies of the CSOs, the CSOs are reproved to direct more resources towards building and enhancing their collaboration, education/sensitization and persuasion strategies towards enhancing their effectiveness in influencing the legislative processes and operations of the National Assembly. In addition, in order to enhance the collaboration between CSOs and the Legislators, the legislature should ensure bureaucratic bottlenecks are lessened.

Number of words: 500

Key Words: Legislation, Organizations, Democracy, Collaboration and Sensitization.

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background to the Study

Civil society organizations (CSOs) are known to be non-state actors whose goals are neither to make profits nor to seek governing power. They are known to unite people in order to advance communal goals and interests (UNDP, 2006). These organizations are active in public affairs, representing the interests and beliefs of their members or others. They are founded on principles like ethics, culture, science, religion, or philanthropy. They include various types of organizations, such as NGOs, professional groups, foundations, research institutions, community groups, faith-based organizations, people's organizations, social and political movements, and labor unions. No doubt, the deliberation as regard the CSOs' role in democratic governance has gained a lot of interest and impetus ever since the end of the America-Soviet Cold War of 1947-1991. Precisely, the CSOs importance in national democratic-governance has received prominent attention among academicians and political researchers' discourses in the last two to three spanned of decades. The civil organizations argument have had an extensive past-story in politics. CSOs are assumed as the devices for resident or citizens' involvement as well as enablers of regional prejudice (Kimutai *et al.*, 2021) following the increase in the amalgamation schemes and international governance measures. Inarguably, the anxieties for representative validity (which is one dividend of democracy) have driven the civil societies to the center of national development. Also, this has heightened the expectancy of CSOs impact on the regional amalgamation policies as well as procedures. Thus, this study is of the strong belief that CSOs are one of the key supports of democracy and has the capability to excavate democracy vis-à-vis aids to bring about noble democratic governance in the nation.

Furthermore, CSOs are all the time better placed to put on weight on nation's government by demanding for informed policies that improve democracy vis-à-vis enhance development and good governance (Nwachukwu, 2020). As well, among other functions CSOs are always better situated in the demand for institutional reforms such as the legislature, local government, executive, judiciary, and police among others. Civil society organizations are being considered these days as prerequisite to go farther than the formal democracies, in the pursuit to realize long-lasting attitude modifications and overcoming hindrances by some undemocratic leaders. These organizations are widely recognized as crucial for holding governments accountable to their citizens, improving public policy decisions, and making development programs more effective (Paffenholz and Spurk; 2006, Nwachukwu, 2020). Therefore, civil societies are naturally anticipated to function as an interface amidst the spheres of the public and private of the societies, however intentionally or otherwise, they are not insusceptible from the pressures of the very governmental society in which they operate (Oke and Atufe-Musa, 2021). Nonetheless, within the environment of democratization process which necessitates the founding of a collaboration and commitment, partnership and concession, civil society organizations and political groups being the perilous stakeholders do execute starring role that are similar to the anticipations of symbolic democracy.

The civil society groups are recognized to play three dynamic roles during the process of symbolic democracy. According to Bernhard *et al.* (2015), CSOs are firstly identified as grounds through which the public preferences are articulated and grouped. Secondly, CSOs signify the province or circle of the public in which residents overcome shared action difficulties, secure representation and influence policy change. Thirdly, through the civil society groups' fight against detested state activities or engagements as well as their starring role as whistle-blowers,

They control the behavior and conduct of leaders and opponents. According to Berber (1995), civil society organizations are non-political, value-free organizations whose purpose is to cooperate or coordinate interactions through mutual agreement and understanding, unlike governments whose main purpose is to establish their own state power. to achieve success. , collect or promote freedom. It is widely recognized as an important "third" sector that affects good governance through transparency, efficiency, openness, productivity and accountability (Jack, 2018). The establishment of Western democracies led third world countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America to take such populations into consideration. However, Nigeria is not an alien phenomenon to African history and during the colonial period, many groups came together with the colonial government to influence colonial policy on Africans (Oke and Atufe-Musa 2021). There is no doubt that some of these contacts contributed to the recognition of independence. The CSOs are involved in many activities, including but not limited to policy analysis and advocacy (PLAC, 2018).

Research on civil society organizations shows that they engage in a variety of advocacy activities, including but not limited to identifying and bringing unresolved issues to the public's attention, and addressing various financial and health concerns (Dodgson et al. 2002), Jake 2018, Öke and Atufe-Musa 2021). At all stages of the legislative process, it is recognized that CSOs contribute to the policy process by introducing or developing legislation. CSOs contribute to policy development by providing valuable information that can affect people's lives. Jake (2018) identified five strategies that civil society organizations use to influence public policy and legislation. These include education, persuasion, collaboration, litigation, and resistance. At each stage of the legislative process, civil society organizations can use any of these strategies to gain buy-in to legislation. A good advocate must have a good understanding of how bills move

through the Legislature, the process, the alarm of decision-makers, and the legislative process, including energy companies.

1.2 Statement of the Research Problem

After the end of the Cold War between the United States and the Soviet Union from 1947 to 1991, nonreligious civil society organizations became more important than ever in promoting governance and democracy. To be clear, these groups are new to Africa and Nigeria, especially when compared to democracy-promoting groups in the United States and Europe. However, CSOs have become an important concept in the democratic process in Nigeria in the short period of their existence. According to Nwachukwu (2017) and Jake (2018), these groups are clearly not only instruments of good governance in Nigeria and elsewhere, but are equally important to the country. They fulfill this role in a variety of ways, including but not limited to policy analysis and advocacy; therefore, the importance of civil society in a democratic society like Nigeria cannot be ignored. There is no debate. Despite the passing of years, legal evaluation in democratic arguments is still a problem today. This approach is often inspired by the centrality of law in democratic governance, as studies have shown that democracy cannot exist without the House of Representatives (Fish, 2006; Alli, 2014; Volden and Wiseman, 2013; Jack, 2018). However, the behavior of legislators inside and outside the House of Commons has exposed the Constitution to public condemnation. Since 1999, studies on the performance of the National Assembly (NASS) have attracted the attention of political analysts, researchers and other stakeholders. The Nigerian National Assembly never stops making news. In many cases, some have called for hospital reforms to reduce administrative costs related to the salaries and allowances of members of parliament. However, the purpose of this study is to examine the legislative proposals of civil society organizations that seek to create policy by influencing the

regulations created by the legislature. Civil society can contribute to the development of law by enacting or creating laws at every stage of the legal process. They do this by providing important information for the development of specific policies that have the potential to influence people.

1.3 Research Questions

The following research questions were formulated:

- i. What is the relationship between civil society and legislative bodies?
- ii. What are the most common strategies used by civil society organizations to influence politics in Nigeria?
- iii. What are the main strategies that influence the participation of civil society organizations in the Nigerian National Assembly?

1.4. Aims and Objectives of the Study

The main objective of this study is to examine the role of civil society organizations in the legislation of the Nigerian National Assembly. The specific objectives are to:

- i. Examine the influence of civil society on law and the integration of civil society and law;
- ii. Identify the strategies commonly used by civil society organizations to influence the rule of law in Nigeria; and
- iii. Identify the key concepts that influence the participation of civil society organizations in the Nigerian legal system.

1.5 Scope of the Study

The purpose of this study is to examine the legal advocacy of civil society organizations that aim to influence policy making by influencing laws made by the legislature. Accordingly, this study investigates the role of CSOs in influencing the National Assembly of Nigeria in relation to the

five principles of CSOs recognized by Jack (2018); To be clear, this study is limited to the analysis of the activities of CSOs in the Federal Capital Territory (FCT), Abuja, Nigeria. The scope of the study is limited to analyze the strategies of civil society organizations to ensure good governance in the country and their relationship with the National Assembly of Nigeria.

1.6 Significance of the Study

This study will not only benefit researchers but also all participants in the Parliament and the public. The outcome of good governance in Nigeria is the role of strong, powerful and effective civil society organizations and legislatures. This research will promote awareness of the importance of civil society in law and practice. It can also inform future research on the effectiveness of civil society in the legislature and the link between civil society and the legislature, as this has not been done before in the country. This study will also inform legislators on the development of their work on power level issues.

1.7 Operational Definition of Significance of Terms

Governance: According to the United Nations Development Program (2006), governance means the use of financial, political and administrative resources to control the situation at all levels of the country. It refers to the processes, methods, and organizations that allow people and groups to voice their opinions, exercise their rights, fulfill their responsibilities, and resolve conflicts.

Legislature: Legislature is a governing body with statutory responsibility of representation, oversight and making or enacting laws (Niyi and Gani, 2019).

Civil Society Organization: It is a legal and informal organization that is a center between the individual and the state, has social relations, works with non-state citizens and works in one or more things, the purpose of which is to express and advance the interests of the internal group (Osaghae, 1998).

Legislative Advocacy: Legislative leaders of nonprofit organizations address policymaking efforts by influencing the laws passed by the legislature.

1.8 Chapter Organization

This study is divided into five chapters. Chapter one includes the research background, definition of the research problem, research questions, aim and objectives, significance and importance of the research. Chapter 2 is a review of relevant literature along with a general discussion of evidence and theoretical frameworks. Chapter 3 focuses on the methodology detailing the research design, data sources, population, sample size, data collection methods and analysis information. Chapter 4 discusses and analyzes all the data collected from the survey. Finally, in Chapter 5, the entire research is summarized, the findings are summarized, and recommendations are made based on the results of the study.

CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW AND THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

This chapter focusses relevant existing literature to the study. It starts by defining key terms, then examines studies related to the research. Finally, it presents the theoretical concepts and framework used in this study.

2.1 Conceptual Clarifications

2.1.1 Conceptualization of Civil Society

The modern understanding of civil society blends the thoughts of philosophers with the current practices of government. According to Kimutai et al. (2021), modern strategies revolve around the concept of expanding democratic space, strengthening popular participation in governance, and exercising certain rights through governance. Scholars attribute today's population growth to the political debates that followed the democratization of Eastern Europe in the 1980s and 1990s. Political events and protests that saw the decline of socialism and the collapse of the Soviet Union led to the rise of society and its relationship with democracy (Matanga 2000, Mamdani 1996, Cohen and Arato 1992). Ibrahim (2015) believes that popular protests and protests against totalitarianism and authoritarianism in South America were successful and encouraged critical public discourse. He noted that theologies of solidarity and liberation supported the opposition, and the concept of civil society represented the struggle against the regime in the public mind, for freedom and human rights. Chandhoke (2007) also said that civil society emerged as a place where people organized to create and pursue various freedoms without the constraint of the power of the bureaucratic state. According to Mamdani (1996), these events are considered as a transition from the state-space to the community-view, from the idea of resistance aimed at seizing state power to the idea of resistance pursuing the idea of statism. unarmed civil struggle.

To seize state power. The connection between the emergence of modern civil society and the conditions for democracy in Eastern Europe, he then attributes it to culture and characteristics. Ibrahim (2015) linked civil society to democracy and said that a model emerged in the theory of democracy that argues that it is not possible for civil society to develop strongly and powerfully, and that independent change or integration is not possible. Priller and Alscher (2010) believe that public institutions, as a form of public participation and accountability, have great potential to think, express and represent satisfaction. They are given the responsibility to carry out important tasks, support the development of democracy, provide services in the case of health and, if so, integrate the public into the collective in such a way that a good relationship is established.

Botchway (2018) discovered that public institutions are linked to effective governance, economic influence, and socially impactful programs. Mallya (2009) recognized a strong and vibrant community as the cornerstone of the four pillars of governance: transparency, accountability, participation, and the rule of law. The tendency to associate civil society with the pursuit of democracy is also evident in its organizational structure. Numerous scholars attribute civil society to structures that foster democratic principles in various social contexts. Clayton et al. (2000) identified significant social organizations as voluntary groups of diverse backgrounds and types. These include community groups, cooperatives, unions, associations, self-help groups, foundations, professional associations, churches, cultural groups, and organizations focused on epidemics, services, and other issues. This aligns with Carothers and Barndt (2000), who defined civil society as a broad concept encompassing all institutions and organizations that operate outside the state and the market. This includes what political scientists traditionally refer to as interest groups, such as nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) but also clubs, professional organizations, business centers, ethnic organizations, and more. Additionally, they encompass

numerous other organizations whose primary purpose is not to promote social or political interests, such as religious organizations, student groups, and cultural organizations.

Bratton (1994) suggested that a civil society allows individuals to advocate for their rights without interference from the family or the state. Citizens in such societies identify social needs, demand political rights, and fulfill their civic duties. They often achieve these goals by forming groups with shared interests. Cohen and Arato (1992) argued that civil society, unlike economic society or politics, involves organizations closely connected to individuals and participation in broader societal changes. James (2007) contended that the Western-centric power dynamic grants civil society organizations a significant role in challenging state power through efforts to achieve political and social transformation. He viewed these collaborative endeavors as crucial for social change aimed at dismantling previous regimes, reducing corruption, and establishing a more transparent governance system. Bromley (2020) observed that cultural shifts associated with the rise and globalization of Western liberal and neoliberal ideologies have contributed to the growth of organizations and increased cooperation among unions.

Tar (2014) found that in a neoliberal perspective, civil society is often understood as a blend of civic virtues and universal tools for expressing and realizing enduring democratic ideas. The first important one was argued by Alexis de Tocqueville, who had eleven communities that could struggle against the state and against it in their own community. Bratton (1994) argued that civil society is essential to state power because it creates political consensus. He believes that the right of elites to exercise power in the state ultimately depends on the acceptance of the people. This agreement, which is an important political tool for those who want to govern, is created by civil society. The Pompidou Group (2015) agrees with this article that public investment strategies create more value for policy planning and implementation processes and improve policy,

efficiency, understanding and long-term use of policies. Chalmers (2011) noted that interest groups are seen as an important element in the expression of public interest and the creation of legal rights.

From all the above-mentioned definitions and explanations, In fact, civil society is the area of organization of social life. It has integrated organizations that deal with social, economic and political issues but have nothing to do with holding power (Adejumobi, 2005). Therefore, civil society organizations play different roles in different contexts, situations and cultures. In other words, social institutions are affected in different ways. They mostly initiate and act for progress, development and public good. No wonder Konteh (2006) states that NGOs play an important role in good governance, poverty reduction, education, health, infrastructure, promotion and protection of human rights, peace-building and conflict prevention.

2.1.2 Historical Overview of Civil Society Organizations in Nigeria

Nigeria as a country has a long and strong social culture and this is a symbol of diversity and variety in Nigeria. Civil society has largely led Nigeria's history of struggle and rebellion. In fact, their creation and activities date back to the colonial period when groups, sometimes local and regional, sometimes along clan and "class" lines, became part of the revolutionary movement against the colonial state. For example, Egbe Omo Oduduwa and Jamiyar Mutanin Arewa, among others, later turned to politics to compete for power after independence. Immediately after independence, civil society organizations became involved in community self-help activities and humanitarian aid at the grassroots level (CIVICUS Civil Society Index, 2007). There was strong leadership and organized resistance to bad policies during the period of civil rule. The military, which later came to power through rebellion, adopted many political reforms without the support of civil society (Young, 1997). Under the military regime in Nigeria, there

have been attempts to obstruct, curtail or control the activities of civil society. This is perhaps understandable because civil society is more successful in democratic societies and democratic institutions. Despite the restrictions on its activities, civil society under military leadership played a significant role in Nigeria's dismantling of the military (especially in 1990). Organizations such as the National Democratic Alliance (NADECO), the Civil Liberties Organization (CLO) and the Movement for Democracy (CD) are just a few. It is part of the civil society that opposes the attack on Nigerian ideology and the introduction of democracy in the country (Wisdom et al., 2011).

Since independence, civil society has been affected by the Nigerian situation and politics. During the colonial period, civil society was mostly concerned with ethnic resistance against the oppression of the colonial state. After independence, the focus shifted to economic growth. The public sector needs to adapt its primary role to new challenges. With the advent of the military government and the suspension of the law in January 1966, civil society began to think in ways that were inherently incompatible with its traditional responsibilities. Therefore, Mohammed-Salih (2001) says that in Africa, elites and ethnic groups have repeatedly created competition against democracy and against politicians after independence. Since the civil war in 1970, the role of civil society has changed to maintain national peace, national reconciliation, rehabilitation and reconstruction. As oil revenues increased, the focus shifted to infrastructure and social services. From 1979 to the present, the role of civil society has been to solve the problems of economic governance of the day through SAPs, rationalization, nationalization and recent privatization, poverty, empowerment, etc. (CIVICUS Civil Society Index, 2007).

2.1.3 Governance Structure in Nigeria

Streamsowers and Kohn (2022) noted that most modern governments have three branches: the Executive, the Legislature, and the Judiciary. The Executive implements laws passed by the Legislature, the Legislature creates laws, and the Judiciary interprets them. This tripartite structure is essential for a successful government and state, as exemplified by Nigeria. At the federal level, the President heads the Cabinet, while the President of the Senate leads the bicameral National Assembly (Senate and House of Representatives). The Chief Justice of the Supreme Court heads the Judiciary. At the state level, the governor leads the executive committee, the speaker heads the state assembly, and the chief justice heads the state judiciary. Each branch has specific roles and responsibilities to fulfill their constitutional duties, and a good government should collaborate to ensure the nation's peace and prosperity. This section outlines the legislative process of the National Assembly and the stages that bills must pass through to become law.

2.1.3.1 Overview of Legislation Process in the Nigeria's National Assembly

In accordance with Section 4(1) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as amended) ("the Act"), NASS, the Federal Republic of Nigeria, is subject to the laws of the Republic of Nigeria. This is to make laws for the maintenance of peace, order and good government of the Union, including all matters contained in the Control List of Special Laws and Articles (a list of 12 articles that may be established by the NASS and the State Legislatures). This law is primarily implemented by bills passed by the National Academy of Social Sciences and assented to by the President. Bills generally come in two forms: either special laws affecting private citizens, corporate bodies and/or a specified group of persons, or administrative laws

affecting the public. Bills can be introduced by members of the House or government officials in either house of the NASS. Second reading; third reading and final letter of approval.

Presentation and First Reading

The first step is for the employee to notify the union members when he/she receives a copy of the bill. If it is a public bill, the Clerk will print a copy of the bill at the Department of Labor and send a copy to each member of the Chamber of Commerce, or if it is a private bill, the member sponsoring the bill must go to the Chamber of Commerce. Member of the Chamber of Commerce. The motion requesting a motion by the President of the Senate (or the House of Representatives), as the case may be, is submitted with the approval of the Speaker of the House, and the bill is published in two (2) consecutive issues of the Gazette of the Ministry. After publication, a copy of the first issue must be sent to all members of the chamber of commerce. During the first reading stage, the Clerk reads a short title of the bill, briefly explains the purpose of the bill, and sends it to the President of the Senate or the Speaker of the House, depending on which house the bill is presented to. The purpose of the first reading stage is to inform the legislators of its implementation. There is no discussion or negotiation at this stage.

Second Reading

The second reading stage discusses and debates the implications of the bill. The process begins with the sponsor of the bill requesting a re-reading of the bill. As part of the motion, the member will explain the purpose of the bill, its general content, and the benefits of determining why the bill should be approved. In order for the motion to proceed to second reading, it must be supported by other legislators in the relevant chamber. If the motion is not supported, it will be deemed to have been rejected and will not proceed to second reading. After a motion is revoked and doubled, the bill will be discussed by the members of the House and then a vote will be

taken on whether or not it will go to the executive committee. If a simple majority of the MPs in the relevant house support the bill, it will go to the committee for reconsideration, otherwise the bill will not be reconsidered until the next day.

Committee Stage

After the second reading, the bill will be sent to the relevant House representative committee for further consideration. At the committee level, the committee worked to further improve the bill, including holding public hearings to ensure the participation of key stakeholders and the public. The committee's mandate is to make recommendations, amendments and suggestions, if any, to the Bill and to report to the relevant House. The committee chair will report on the progress of the bill, after which the House will decide whether to add the bill to the Committee of the Whole. At the end of this stage, the motion will move to the third reading of the bill.

Third Reading and Passage

In the third reading, the bill was read and approved by the members again. At this time, a clean copy of the bill including all the amendments will be signed and countersigned by the Speaker and the Speaker or the Senate President, then the consent form will be sent to the Clerk of the other House for information. his consent, the consent of the other house. The reception room will accept the adopted bills and then, will express its agreement without any changes. However, if the provisions of the First Family bylaws are not approved or requested to be changed, a joint committee/meeting will be formed by the Senate Director and the Executive to check the difference in the bill. The Joint Committee usually consists of members from both houses and must present a common position that both houses can accept.

Assent or Veto

If both houses of the House of Representatives receive the report of the Convening Committee, the Clerk of the National Assembly shall prepare a copy of the joint report for the approval of the President, who shall sign the bill into law. . . . During the approval period, the President shall approve or veto/disapprove the bill within thirty (30) days of receiving it. If the President vetoes or fails to indicate his approval within the specified period, the NASS may override the veto and pass the bill by a two-thirds majority vote of both houses of Congress. At present, the assent of the president is not required for the enactment of the constitution into law. This has only been done once since the Fourth Republic of Nigeria; in June 2000, the NASS overruled President Olusegun Obasanjo's veto of the bill establishing the Niger Delta Development Commission.

2.1.3.2 Other Legislation Process: Power and Control over Public Funds and Power of General Supervision

The National Assembly can exercise enormous powers and control over public funds under their respective jurisdictions (sections 80-81, CFRN, 1999). To strengthen the legal finance system, the Constitution specifically created the position of auditor general for the federal and state governments. The selected personnel are independent in all respects. Appointed by the President on the recommendation of the federal or state civil service and confirmed by the Senate or the state assembly. The government board was protected because it could not reduce its work. His removal from office can only be carried out by the Legislative Council, as provided for in the constitution. (CFRN, 1999). To sustain democracy and safeguard the interests of the nation or the state against subversion, the constitution provides certain checks and balances mostly placed in the hands of the legislature. There appears to be three areas of supervision of the Executives by the legislature. Broadly, these are (a) power to conduct investigation, (b) power to confirm

certain appointment made by the President or the Governor, and (c) power to establish committees of the legislature.

2.2 Review of Empirical Literature

No doubt, there is an evolving consensus in the literature on the significance of CSOs as actors in national and regional governance and integration schemes. Although national governance particularly the legislative, is a constituent led endeavour, scholars have underscored the role of non-state actors including civil society in influencing this process. Shoki (2019) points out that this role has become clear as a result of changes in international relations between regions, regional governments and social regions in the past. Kamatsiko (2017) noted that civil society organizations are involved in regional peace and security organizations, implement cross-border reconciliation projects and work to resolve conflict and peace issues affecting many countries. Thanks to the new regionalism, public actors can connect, exchange information, debate, compete and contribute to political and administrative policies within and outside the country. Shoki (2009) argued that the main purpose of civil society organizations is still to represent those outside of state power, but that changes in their daily roles are necessary due to changes in social relations within and between communities. Finally, he said that two types of public organizations can be identified. The first category was, and still is, concerned with representation through the provision of social protection and security services. The second group of NGOs is a rapidly growing group of NGOs that work with government, partner organizations, and the United Nations to engage in legal processes.

Also remember that when the United States and its allies in the war on terror prepared for war in Iraq in early 2003, millions of people took to the streets internationally and thousands of protesters came to Copenhagen to exercise their power. Olesen (2011) believes that these factors

are even more important when world leaders decide and implement policies on climate change. Both argue that transnationalism has become a force to be reckoned with. The ability to control events on a large scale and to support thousands, even millions, of people is evidence of the important work of transnational activists and transnational activists. But these conditions also show the limitations of the power of the profession and the continued power of the state. Despite overwhelming support and success, the rebels have not achieved what they wanted: an end to the war and strong security.

Zimmer (2010) suggests regulatory cooperation involving third-party organisations (TTOs) across different legal frameworks and regulatory levels – particularly in the EU multi-level governance system. It shows the transition from government to governance in the horizontal direction of policy-making and thus allows us to think about groups of actors – private actors – who, together with government and civil society, are key players in policy and participation. Among these private actors, civil society organisations are seen as agents of cooperation and therefore have legal freedom to enter politics. Cohen and Arato (1992), while acknowledging the role of civil society in governance, argue that the role of civil society is not directly related to governance or overcoming power, but is dependent on the influence of independent and unlimited social dialogue.

Kamatsiko (2017) found that civil society organizations are involved in regional peace and security organizations, implement cross-border reconciliation projects, and work to resolve conflict and peace issues affecting many countries. Through the new regionalism, public actors can connect, exchange information, debate, compete, and contribute to political and administrative policies within and outside the country. Shoki (2019) points out that this role has become clear as a result of changes in international relations between regions, regional

governments, and social regions in the past. There has been an increase in transnational and regional public action on environmental, tax justice, HIV/AIDS, and human rights issues.

In addition, James (2007) added that public institutions often focus on improving the human well-being of people in society by reducing poverty and are often the first to question gender equality, protecting human rights and improving human security. The impact of government regulation on the level of recognition of human health. Therefore, if the international governing body is to remain stable, it must listen to the voice of the “citizen” in order to develop the best and most sensible art of peace, without resorting to the absurdity of continuing war. It seems that integration scholars agree that civil society can play an important role in the integration policy process.

They connect civil society to promote cooperation and democratic governance. A closer look at these efforts in the region reveals a greater consensus among scholars and practitioners on the importance of civil society organizations. Integration and civil society research often acknowledges the contribution of civil society organizations to local governance and policy processes. This review reviews the available evidence to examine the role of civil society in governance and its contribution to the development of democracy in Africa.

Badal (2020) argues that in Africa, where there were previously numerous peoples, there could never have been a state, a set of institutions that protected all interests, and a civil society in general. Matanga (2000) argues that the roots of civil society in Africa can be traced back to the pre-colonial period. The literature on public organizations in pre-colonial Africa includes health organizations, agricultural workers’ organizations, and credit unions. Matanga gives examples from pre-colonial West Africa, which include institutions such as crafts that controlled access to crafts, production techniques, labor standards, and costs. Others include merchant associations

that regulate prices and trade routes. Corporations also played a role in negotiating with states on a range of issues, including weights and measures laws, liability laws, contract language, and organizational laws.

Bratton (1989) also points out that Africans developed new models of voluntary participation over time in response to the disappearance of cities and businesses on this basis. Sometimes these new organizations reiterated long-standing alliances (e.g. the National Welfare Association, the Prophetic Movement, and the Agricultural Labour Party), in other cases they brought together people with new jobs and class symbols (e.g. mobility, trade unions, professional associations). According to Matanga (2000), with the establishment of the political system, most of these organizations were dissolved, while others went underground. The colonial powers saw their potential as a center of opposition to colonial rule. However, he noted that the oppression and abuse of rights experienced in almost all countries of Africa led some organizations to engage in political and opposition activities before they did the first, while others were established. Some African civil society organizations later played a significant role in the dismantling of the colonial state. Bratton (1989) notes that many voluntary organizations may become politicized, first by protesting the injustice of the regime, then by making their voices heard by calling for freedom. In effect, they are the foundation of the federal government. Administration. Mamatah (2014) notes that in the context of authoritarianism and economic stagnation in the late 1970s and early 1980s, civil society was particularly anti-revolutionary. Neubert (2014) believes that economic development began to support the development of civil society organizations in Africa, and self-help was encouraged through civil society organizations. Aid is supported by international donors. Matanga (2000) acknowledges that the new development agenda developed by international donors requires the adoption of neoliberal

economic and democratic policies, a reversal of the state in support of business, and civil society is part of this. Clayton et al. (2000) note that the recognition that a transition to elected governments is not in itself more democratic has led to an approach that promotes good governance that supports civil society.

In addition, Kimutai et al. (2021) provides a literature review on the impact of civil society on the integration of the East African Community (EAC). This article begins with an in-depth analysis of theoretical perspectives on the meaning and role of NGOs in governance, as well as existing perspectives on their nature and needs. It examines the depth of cooperation among NGOs in the European Union (EU), the Americas, Asia and Africa. Apart from some divergent views, most scholars agree on the importance of civil society in governance, such as policy-making, increasing public participation, transparency and accountability. However, there is no similar study in other parts of the world outside the EU, where there is a useful study of its impact. Kimutai et al. (2021) state that the promise of a necessary role for civil society in the integration process in the East African Community is clear. However, more than two decades after their reintroduction, their actual impact on the social system remains negative.

In 2022, Lupin (2022) compared South Africa's post-apartheid civil society organisations (CSO) law with Ethiopia's 2019 law to examine the differences and overlaps in how these regimes sought to promote the interests of CSOs. This was done against the historical backdrop of state repression. In this process, Lupin examines the "good" policies of NGOs in practice and finds that there are serious limitations to the effectiveness of change management in addressing many of the difficult issues of NGOs that are specialised in the political and legal issues behind the questions. Okonjo-Iweala and Osafo-Kwaako (n.d.) review some of the recent steps taken to improve fiscal reconciliation in Nigeria and highlight the role played by civil society. They find

that in order for the public to participate in a good public debate on fiscal transparency, the capacity of the organisations involved in the debate needs to be strengthened. In addition, they find that senior government officials should welcome the increased participation of civil society as an opportunity for greater visibility and debate on public finance issues. They conclude by identifying practical strategies that civil society organisations and senior government officials across Africa can use to promote effective and transparent dialogue on governance finance.

Jake (2018) examines the role of community-based organisations (CSOs) in health care through policy advocacy. The article outlines various efforts by civil society organizations (CSOs) to pass the National Health Bill (2014). Jake (2018) noted that the role of civil society organizations cuts across all levels of the legal system. This study provides evidence of civil society organizations' participation and consultation in NHBs, indicating that when they are involved in the development and evaluation of national health plans, they can help define or strengthen national priorities, thereby helping to improve health outcomes. Jake (2018) concludes by highlighting important lessons learned and important in the successful advocacy process, such as legal knowledge, ability to foster relationships and collaboration, and collaboration with international partners, etc. (2020) analyzed the relationship between civil society and good governance in Nigeria. The focus of this study is based on some recommendations from the field of study. Methodologically, Nwachukwu employed various methods to collect secondary data and the research was analyzed using content analysis. Nwachukwu (2020) argued that civil society as a pillar of democracy can deepen democracy, thereby leading to good governance in Nigeria. This study shows that civil society organizations, by their origin and function, are always in a better position to control government and need policies and practices that promote independence, development and good governance. However, Nwachukwu (2020) agreed that

among other things, all stakeholders and organizations in the country should come together to help the people overcome their limitations and weaknesses and transform them into useful and effective resources, skills and methods. They specifically examined the contribution of civil society to the three pillars of democracy, namely regular elections, rule of law and respect for human rights. Their research uses liberal democratic theory as an analytical framework. The findings show that NGOs face many internal and external challenges that render them ineffective. The study also believes that lack of funding, public awareness of the role of NGOs and lack of access to important information (especially from government agencies etc.) will affect the performance of NGOs. They suggested that public institutions should create their own models to raise public awareness and ensure appropriate funding and budgeting. As the 2019 elections approach, Rufus examines the role of civil society organizations in ensuring credible, free and fair elections in Nigeria. He adopted process theory as a theoretical approach to analysis. The data collection method used written and personal experience, while the data analysis method used content analysis. The findings show that civil society organizations play a significant role in voter confidence. Rufus (2021) suggested that civil society organizations should improve voter education, participation of other stakeholders, and enhance advocacy for Nigeria's digital electoral process to drastically reduce opportunities for electoral fraud and manipulation. Therefore, Umar and Tambai (2020) explored the role and challenges of civil society organizations as activists in the democratic integration process in Nigeria. They therefore sought to highlight the dangerous work of three civil society organisations, namely the Centre for Democracy and Development (CDD), the Alliance for Trustworthy Elections (ACE) and the Stakeholder Democracy Network (SDN), by exposing the responsibilities and problems of their companies. . . Freedom is reinforced. They achieve their research objectives using face-to-face

interviews, usefully supplemented by secondary sources where they provide in-depth and clinical interviews. Check whether civil society organisations, not misconceptions, are important in the political struggle. The main participation of political parties. In front of the united path of freedom. It believes that civil society and civil society play an important role in the fight against authoritarianism, corruption and violence in Nigeria and in the promotion of economic outcomes, independence and leadership. The studies identified historical and contemporary examples of civil society and civil society movements, such as the anti-military movement of the 1990s, the #EndSARS movement in 2020 and the continued advocacy of transparency and accountability in governance. This study also identifies the opportunities and challenges facing civil society and social movements seeking democratic reforms and the protection of human rights in Nigeria. Ademoyegun (2023) concluded his speech by making some suggestions on how civil society and social participation can be developed and their implications for the development of democracy in Nigeria. The table below summarizes the empirical data examined.

Table 2.1: Tabular Summary of the Relevant Literature

S/N	Author(s)	Region/Country of Study	Objective of Study	Adopted Methodology	Findings
1	Kamatsiko (2017)	Africa	Assessed the CSOs engagement in Africa's Great Lakes Region conflict, and attempts at regional peace building	Qualitative Research Technique: Literature Review	The study found that social actors can connect, exchange information, debate, compete and contribute to politics and governance through new spaces. Respect the laws of the country and the country.
2	Shoki (2009)	Africa	Examined the Civil Society, Governance and Integration in Africa.	Desk Review	He identified two types of civil society organizations: The first type of civil society organization was and still is concerned with representation by providing social protection and security services. It is made by social organizations that involve the government and related organizations.
3	Olesen (2011)	Europe	Examined Power and Transnational Activism	Desk Review	The study notes that despite the massive and successful support of civil society, the rebels failed to achieve what they wanted: no war and good security.

4	Zimmer (2010)	Europe	Examined the Third Sector–Government Partnerships	Content Analysis	Research shows that civil society organizations have an important position over these private actors because they are intermediaries of cooperation and therefore have legal independence based on their access to politics.
5	James (2007)	Not specified	Investigated the Civil Society, Religion and Global Governance Paradigms of power and persuasion	Qualitative Research Technique	He added that mostly grassroots civil society organizations focus on improving people’s health by reducing poverty, and that many of these are the first step towards protecting human rights and improving human security, which raises questions about the government’s policy. The impacts are negative.
6	Cohen and Arato (1992)	Not specified	The study assessed Civil society and political theory	Secondary Research Technique: Desk Review	This study argues that the political role of civil society is not directly related to the control or seizure of power, but is influenced by debates within democratic institutions that are not limited to public life and culture.
7.	Badal (2020)	Africa	The paper discoursed the Historical Development of Civil Societies	Secondary Research Technique: Desk Review	The article suggests that prehistoric cultures of Africa may not have had a state, but they did lack a citizenry in the broad sense, a set of institutions that inhibited unity.
8.	Matanga (2000)	Kenya, Africa	Examined the Civil Society, Governance and Integration in Kenya, Africa	Qualitative Research Technique	The literature on public organizations in pre-colonial Africa includes health organizations, agricultural workers' associations, and credit unions. Matanga cites examples from pre-colonial West Africa that include institutions such as crafts that controlled access to crafts, production techniques, labor standards, and costs.
9.	Bratton (1989)	Africa	Assessed the Civil Society and Associational Life in Africa	Secondary Research Technique: Desk Review	The report found that many voluntary organizations (NGOs) became politicized, first by speaking out against the injustice of the dictatorship and then by insisting on calling for independence. In fact, they are the foundation of the federal government.
10.	Kew and Oshikoya (2014)	Africa	Examined the Civil Society and Democratic Struggles in Africa	Qualitative Research Technique	Research shows that the growth and success of African civil society can lead the fight to overthrow authoritarian and authoritarian regimes and move towards democratic rule.
11.	Mamatah (2014)	West Africa	Assessed the concept of building Civil Society in West Africa	Secondary Research Technique: Desk Review	This study notes that civil society was particularly active in combating the effects of authoritarianism and economic stagnation in the 1970s and early 1980s.
12.	Neubert (2014)	Africa	Analyzing African civil society data on social self-organization in the context of globalization and local socio-political decisions	Qualitative Research Technique	This study notes that civil society was particularly active in combating the effects of authoritarianism and economic stagnation in the 1970s and early 1980s.
13.	Kimutai <i>et al.</i> (2021)	East Africa	Provide a literature review on the impact of civil society in the integration of the East	Secondary Research Technique: Desk Review	The study shows that there is a clear consensus in the East African Community on the role that civil society should play in the integration process, but more than two

			African Community (EAC)		decades after its re-establishment, its real impact on the social system remains negative.
14.	Lupin (2022)	South Africa and Ethiopia	Compare South Africa's post-apartheid non-governmental organization (NGO) law with Ethiopia's 2019 law	Qualitative Research Technique	It has been determined that the effectiveness of change management in solving many problems related to civil society organizations is limited, especially due to political pressure and legislation.
15.	Okonjo-Iweala and Osafo-Kwaako (n.d)	Nigeria, Africa	Take a look at some of the latest measures to increase financial transparency in Nigeria	Qualitative Research Technique	Explain the role played by civil society organizations. They also found that in order for the public to participate in effective public debates on financial dealings, the capacity of these organizations to participate in such debates needs to be further strengthened.
16.	Jake (2018)	Nigeria, Africa	Examining the role of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in health care through policy advocacy	Secondary Research Technique: Desk Review	A report on evidence on participation in and consultation with NHBs suggests that when civil society organizations are involved in the design and evaluation of national health plans, they can help define or strengthen national priorities and thereby help improve health outcomes.
17.	Nwachukwu (2020)	Nigeria, Africa	Analysis of the relationship between civil society and good governance in Nigeria.	Secondary Research Technique: Content Analysis	Research shows that civil society organizations in Nigeria face a number of challenges, problems and constraints that affect or hinder their ability to discharge their duties of good governance.
18.	Adebowale and Violet (2021)	Nigeria, Africa	Examining the role of civil society in the connection between the people and the government	Secondary Research Technique: Content Analysis	The findings show that NGOs face many internal and external challenges that render them ineffective.
19.	Rufus (2021)	Nigeria, Africa	Assessed the role of civil society organizations and the conduct of credible elections in Nigeria.	Secondary Research Technique: Content Analysis	The findings show that NGOs face many internal and external challenges that render them ineffective.
20.	Ademoyegun (2023)	Nigeria, Africa	Examining the role of civil society and social relations in promoting democracy and human rights in Nigeria	Secondary Research Technique: Content Analysis	This study identifies the opportunities and challenges facing civil society and social movements seeking to transform democracy and protect human rights in Nigeria.

2.2.1 Gaps in the Literature

From the foregoing, it is evident that there is an emerging consensus in the literature on the significance of CSOs as actors in national governance schemes and the roles of CSOs in democratic society cannot be overemphasized. Also, it is very glaring the role and contributions of CSOs have been assessed in different aspects such as election and democratic consolidation,

however, scant attention has been accorded to their role of the CSOs on Legislations at the Nigeria National Assembly.

A closed study was Jake (2018), whose study examined the role of CSOs in health care delivery through legislative advocacy. The study limited its scope to identification of strategies that can be deployed by CSOs in influencing public policy and legislation. The study identified the follow strategies education, persuasion, collaboration, litigation and confrontation. However, apart from examining the effectiveness of CSOs in the legislative process the study shied to identify the most strategies often deployed by the CSOs in influencing public policy and legislation. Also, the best strategy(ies) that could be possibly combined towards the success influence of the CSOs in the country legislation. Thus, it is against this backdrop that this study proposes to fill the existing gaps in the literature.

2.3 Theoretical Review and Framework – Civil Society Theory (CST)

Civil Society Theory (CST) was first put forward by the philosophers of the Scottish Enlightenment (Pearce, 1997). The researcher is able to propose the relationship between people (economic society under law) as a solution to certain problems of the market, which increased the manorial system of feudal society. According to Adam Ferguson, this feature poses a threat to public morality, while at the same time making the state responsible for health management and health responsibility. According to Ferguson (1966), the real threat of authoritarianism emerges here.

First, related to the tension between individual and social life, second, the need for checks and balances on state power, and third, the need to rediscover some virtues of the republican or civic spirit, which represents a concern for today's civil society. social scholars. However, in the form of the Enlightenment, this idea has not been fully discussed "today". According to Ferguson, this

is the problem, because it can be argued that cooperation is important in solving the above problems, but it is not defined as a non-state activity. Ferguson also evaluates the importance of the integration of civil society with the state in the classical sense (Keane, 1988).

A non-"modern" attitude towards civil society is also one of the theorists of the Scottish Enlightenment. They (especially Adam Smith) said that civil society's "solutions" to problems of human well-being stem from philosophical or ethical concerns that occur within it. This is a similar eighteenth-century idea, also influenced by Christianity and naturalism, that showed the relationship between people's mutual recognition of each other (Seligman 1992). Hegel was the first philosopher to begin to develop a truly "modern" theory of civil society (Philosophy of Right, 1821). Although he emphasized the conflict between the individual and society, like the philosophers of the Scottish Enlightenment, he did so without mentioning the morality of "goodness." Rather, Hegel sought to resolve the contradiction of civil society due to its uniqueness from the international state. The concept of civil society as a problem of the relationship between the state and civil society as a separate entity is first clarified at this point. But Hegel's theory of civil society also gave this idea a negative air for the first time. In order to achieve its internationalization, the state must establish its personal independence and be able to meet the needs of civil society. However, this development has created a region where conflict and inequality prevail, which will lead to the compromise of justice itself. This harmony of justice exists only in the international state, which must control and direct the population, although not destroy it.

Definitions of civil society in political science generally move from a narrower understanding of collective life outside state control to a broader leftist view that sees the freedom of civil society as something that powers the deepening of democracy. According to these theorists,

communicative and self-reflexive civil society creates a "public sphere" whose boundaries must be defended against the intrusion of economic and bureaucratic power (see Cohen and Arato, 1992). Whether it is the liberation of the people from state interference, the liberation of many interest representatives, or the reduction of economic and administrative power, all people agree that civil society is an independent and necessary institution for democracy. It is against this background that this study takes Hegel's *Philosophy of Right* (1821), a theory of civil society regarding freedom, especially the participation of civil society in the legislative process and in labor.

CHAPTER THREE

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This chapter focused on the various research tools and methodologies adopted in the study utilized. The chapter begins with a comprehensive details of the study research design. Also, the chapter discusses unambiguously the area of study, population of study, sample size and sampling procedure, data collection instrument as well as methods of data analysis.

3.1 Research Approach

3.1.1 The Quantitative Research Method

In this study, quantitative research methodology (QRM) was adopted. This method involves the calculation and analysis of different objectives to obtain a good result. This involves the use of numerical data to answer the questions of who, how many, what, where, when, how much, etc. and analyzing the data using special statistical methods. Aliaga and Gunderson (2002) elaborated on this topic and defined QRM as the identification of a problem or phenomenon by collecting data in the form of numbers and analyzing it with the help of statistical procedure. Williams (2011) also supports that QRM involves collecting quantitative data and then analyzing the data to support or refute alternative information. Also, Williams (2011) stated that QRM begins with introducing the research problem, formulating hypotheses or research questions, reviewing relevant literature, and determining how much information is available, therefore QRM can be inductive, deductive, or abductive (combination of inductive and deductive cases). In this case, this study received a study cutoff.

3.1.2 The Deductive Research Approach

This study was based on the principle of termination. According to Wilson (2010), this approach involves developing hypotheses based on existing principles or theories and then developing tools to test the research questions or ideas. Therefore, this study formulates a research question to examine the role and impact of civil society organizations in the Nigerian National Assembly. The research question seeks to determine the nature and extent of the impact of public institutions in the Nigerian National Assembly.

3.2 Area of Study

The focus of this study is the city of Abuja in the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) of Nigeria. FCT City is the seat of the country's National Assembly; the National Assembly is the legislative body of the Nigerian government. It can be said that the power of the people is in the constitution. The National Assembly has two houses: the Senate and the House of Representatives. There are 109 elected members in the Senate and 360 in the House of Representatives. The FCT also hosts the headquarters of many civil society organizations such as ActionAid, Youth Initiatives, Human Rights and Development Justice Advocates, Agency for Communications and Development (A-CODE), Alliance for Trustworthy Elections, CAER, Civic Center, Centre for People with Disability (CCD), Centre for Democracy and Development, Centre for Information Technology and Development (CITAD), LSD Centre, Citizens' Initiative for Good Governance, Centre for Integrated Citizens' Development and Social Rights, Centre for Civil Society Legislation Initiative (CISLAC) and others. This study therefore focuses specifically on selected public institutions.

3.3 Population of Study

The study focused on powerful organisations such as ActionAid Nigeria, Youth Defenders Initiative, Defenders for Human Rights and Fair Development, Centre for Democracy and Development (CDD), Alliance for Trustworthy Elections, CAER, and Centre for Citizens with Disabilities for Democracy and Development (CCD). , Centre for Democracy and Development, Centre for Information Technology and Development (CITAD), Citizens' Initiative for Good Governance, Centre for Integrated Citizens' Development and Social Rights, Centre for Civil Society Legislative Initiatives (CISLAC), CLEEN Foundation, Community Rights Project (CRP) and Business Development, Forward Africa, Balanced Gender, Global Alliance of Women Lawyers (GAFA), Nigeria Global Love Campaign HIV/AIDS (GRAPH), Habitat for Humanity, Human Rights Justice and Peace Foundation, Inspiring Nigerian Youth Initiative for Holistic Development and Empowerment, Her Majesty's Community Rural Development Foundation, Media Rights Agenda, National Youth Initiative Movement, Next Generation Youth Initiatives International (NEGYII), Change Nigeria International, Nigerian Women Trust Fund, Electoral Reform Partnership, Policy and Legal Advocacy Centre (PLAC), Positive Gender Initiative, ReclaimNaija, Responsible Citizenship and Human Development (RECHI), Rural Youth Initiative, Change Space, Stakeholder Democracy Network, Transformation Monitoring Group (TMG), Women's Right to Education Project, Vocational Training Young Innovators Initiative, Nigeria Youth Alert and Youth Initiative for Growth and Progress. (Yiaga Africa). However, the target respondents were limited to five (5) NGOs randomly selected using a random table. These groups met with NGO staff from different ethnic, religious and educational backgrounds. Therefore, the population of this study has a wide range of responses from different cultures such as religion, tribe, education and years of experience.

3.4 Sample Size and Sampling Procedure

Consequent to the study adoption of Quantitative Research Methods research design, also in order to gain a rich source of data, this research adopted random sampling technique. Specifically, to obtain a rich source of information and allow for the necessary flexibility to explore responses in greater depth during the administration of questionnaires, thus this study using the Statistical Table of Randomness, five (5) CSOs in the FCT Abuja were selected. A statistical table of randomness is a series of digits (0 to 9) prepared randomly in rows and columns, as demonstrated in the small sample shown in Fig 3.1. The table usually contains 5-digit numbers, arranged in rows and columns, for ease of reading. Typically, a full table may extend over as many as four or more pages.

CSO Selection Procedure

- This study assumed a population of 15 CSOs in the FCT. Each CSO was assigned a number from 1 to 15, in order to randomly sample only 5 of the CSOs.
- Since the population size is a two-digit number, the study utilized the first two digits of the numbers listed in the statistical table of randomness.
- Without looking, 38914 was picked as starting spot in the table (see 1st column, 12th entry).
- This location gives the first two digits to be 38. This choice is too large (>15), the next number, 04070, in the column was selected which two-digits gives 04 (<15). Thus, CSO assigned number 04, Youth Initiative for Advocacy Growth & Advancement (YIAGA Africa), was picked.
- From the table, the following other numbers were arrived at: 01 (01674), 07 (07274), 03 (03811), and 05 (05542) which represent Civil Society Legislative Advocacy Centre

(CISLAC), Policy and Legal Advocacy Centre (PLAC), ActionAid Nigeria, and Center for Democracy and Development (CDD).

Fig 3.1. Statistical Table of Randomness

36518	36777	89116	05542	29705	83775	21564	81639	27973	62413	85652	62817	57881
46132	81380	75635	19428	88048	08747	20092	12615	35046	67753	69630	10883	13683
31841	77367	40791	97402	27569	90184	02338	39318	54936	34641	95525	86316	87384
84180	93793	64953	51472	65358	23701	75230	47200	78176	85248	90589	74567	22633
78435	37586	07015	98729	76703	16224	97661	79907	06611	26501	93389	92725	68158
41859	94198	37182	61345	88857	53204	86721	59613	67494	17292	94457	89520	77771
13019	07274	51068	93129	40386	51731	44254	66685	72835	01270	42523	45323	63481
82448	72430	29041	59208	95266	33978	70958	60017	39723	00606	17956	19024	15819
25432	96593	83112	96997	55340	80312	78839	09815	16887	22228	06206	54272	83516
69226	38655	03811	08342	47863	02743	11547	38250	58140	98470	24364	99797	73498
25837	68821	66426	20496	84843	18360	91252	99134	48931	99538	21160	09411	44659
38914	82707	24769	72026	56813	49336	71767	04474	32909	74162	50404	68562	14088
04070	60681	64290	26905	65617	76039	91657	71362	32246	49595	50663	47459	57072
01674	14751	28637	86980	11951	10479	41454	48527	53868	37846	85912	15156	00865
70294	35450	39982	79503	34382	43186	69890	63222	30110	56004	04879	05138	57476
73903	98066	52136	89925	50000	96334	30773	80571	31178	52799	41050	76298	43995
87789	56408	77107	88452	80975	03406	36114	64549	79244	82044	00202	45727	35709
92320	95929	58545	70699	07679	23296	03002	63885	54677	55745	52540	62154	33314
46391	60276	92061	43591	42118	73094	53608	58949	42927	90993	46795	05947	01934
67090	45063	84584	66022	48268	74971	94861	61749	61085	81758	89640	39437	90044
11666	99916	35165	29420	73213	15275	62532	47319	39842	62273	94980	23415	64668
40910	59068	04594	94576	51187	54796	17411	56123	66545	82163	61868	22752	40101
41169	37965	47578	92180	05257	19143	77486	02457	00985	31960	39033	44374	28352
76418												

Therefore, the following Youth Initiative for Advocacy Growth & Advancement (YIAGA Africa), Civil Society Legislative Advocacy Centre (CISLAC), Policy and Legal Advocacy Centre (PLAC), ActionAid Nigeria, and Center for Democracy and Development (CDD) were

selected using the statistical table of randomness. Afterwards, due to the unknown staff population size of the selected CSOs, this study purposively sampled twenty-five (25) staff from each of the CSOs. Hence, for the purpose of this research a total number of 125 of CSOs staff were purposively sampled.

3.5 Instrument of Data Collection

This study used closed-ended and open-ended questions as data collection tools. Researchers have shown and confirmed that surveys using closed-ended questions are an effective way to obtain rich data. The above tool helps in collecting important data that can be easily verified from each participant. The developed survey consisted of multiple choice questions using a 5-point Likert scale response score. The questions were aimed at NGO staff.

3.6 Method of Data Analysis

Data collected from the field were entered, coded and analyzed using Social Science Statistical Software (SPSS) version 23. The study utilized descriptive analysis and factor analysis approaches.

3.6.1 Descriptive Analysis

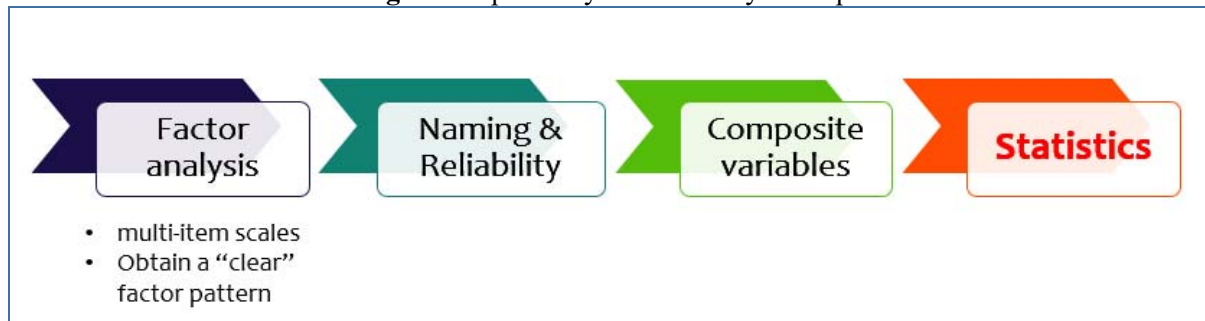
The research work employed the descriptive analysis. This include the use of bar-charts, word-cloud and table to analyse and present the analysis results.

3.6.2 Factor Analysis

This is a category of multivariate statistical techniques; interdependence methods give meaning to a set of variables or seek to group things together (e.g., correlation, cluster analysis, multidimensional scaling, factor analysis). Factor analysis is a data-reduction technique that serves to combine questions or variables (= manifest variables) to create factors (= latent variables). A factor is a latent variable or construct that is not directly observable but must be

inferred from observable variables. The purposes of identifying factors include: discovering underlying constructs within the data, reducing the number of variables to a more manageable set (e.g., condensing 20 questions into 3 factors), and utilizing these factors rather than focusing on individual questions. The steps in Exploratory Factor Analysis include (see Figure 3.2):

Fig 3.2. Exploratory Factor Analysis Steps



Source: Identified By Researcher

In addition, if the main research objective is achieved, the latent variables will be useful and provide more insight into the characteristics of the population being studied. Of course, it is obvious at this point that there will not be a single solution to this problem. There are so many degrees of freedom in the problem statement that even if a little thought leads to a solution, there are still infinite solutions. This is one of the criticisms of the analysis, along with the subjectivity of the choice of solution. However, as we will show, we found the results in our analyses informative and useful, and there are many ways to reduce the number of sample choices that need to be made. Developing a probability analysis model involves three key steps: (1) determining the number of items, (2) adjusting the model to estimate item loadings, and (3) rotating the loadings to identify the optimal solution. Each of these steps will be discussed in detail.

3.7 Pre-Test of Instrument

To evaluate the validity and reliability of the research instrument, a pilot study was conducted with 50 respondents, who were purposively selected from the population. The questionnaires were distributed online for completion. The validity tests confirmed the relevance of all 30 items tested. Table 3.1 below displays the reliability (consistency) test results for these 30 validated items.

Table 3.1: Reliability Statistics

Cronbach's Alpha	Cronbach's Alpha Based on Standardized Items	No of Items
.901	.818	30

Table 3.1 shows a Cronbach's Alpha of 0.901, which signifies a strong level of internal consistency. Consequently, the items are deemed valid and highly reliable for this study.

CHAPTER FOUR

DATA PRESENTATION, ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSIONS

This chapter discussed the analysis results obtained from the study. The analysis results included the descriptive analysis of the respondents' characteristics as well as the respondents' opinions on CSOs engagement in legislative processes and operations of the National Assembly. Each sub-section offers a distinct interpretation within the context of the study, analyzing respondents' opinions in percentage terms. All data were examined using IBM-SPSS version 23 analysis software.

4.1 Demographic Characteristics of the Respondents

Table 4.1 displays the demographic information of the study respondents. It shows that slightly more than half of the total respondents were male, accounting for 54% (N=68) although nearly half of the respondents were female (46%, N=57), thus this approximately infers that the study is gender sensitive and gender inclusion.

Table 4.1. Demographic Data of the Respondents

	Frequency	Percent (%)
Gender		
Female	57	46
Male	68	54
Age		
21-30 Years	18	14
31-40 Years	65	52
41-50 Years	30	24
51-60 Years	12	10
Educational Level		
HND/Bachelor Degree	44	35
Higher Degree	81	65
Years of Experience		
5 Years and Less	47	38
6-10 Years	36	29
Above 10 Years	42	34

Source: Field Survey, January 2024

In addition, the table reveals that just above half of the respondents were within the age bracket 31-40 years (52%, N=65) followed by a significant minority of the respondents who were within the age bracket 41-60 years (34%, N=42), thus this deduced approximately that most of the study's respondents were youthful. Also, the table shows that most of the respondents had higher degrees (65%, N=81) while the rest had either HND or Bachelor Degrees (35%, N=44). The table further reveals that most of the respondents had above 5 years (62%, N=78) working experience. As a result, the demographic data of the respondents indicate nearly equal gender representation, with a youthful, well-educated group possessing relevant work experience. Therefore, their perspectives and knowledge are valuable and crucial to this research.

4.2 Assessment of the Effectiveness of CSOs in the Legislative Process

This section presents and discusses the assessment results related to the effectiveness of CSOs in the legislative process of National Assembly as well as the synergy between the two. Prior to the effectiveness assessment, Fig 4.1 presents the capacity and staff strength assessment of the CSOs. According to the figure, most of the CSOs had between 21 to 100 employees and majority of the study respondents (90%) acknowledged that CSOs have sufficient capacity for engagement in legislative process of the National Assembly. Thus, these results deduce that most of the CSOs have adequate staff strength and capacity to engage in legislative process of the National Assembly.

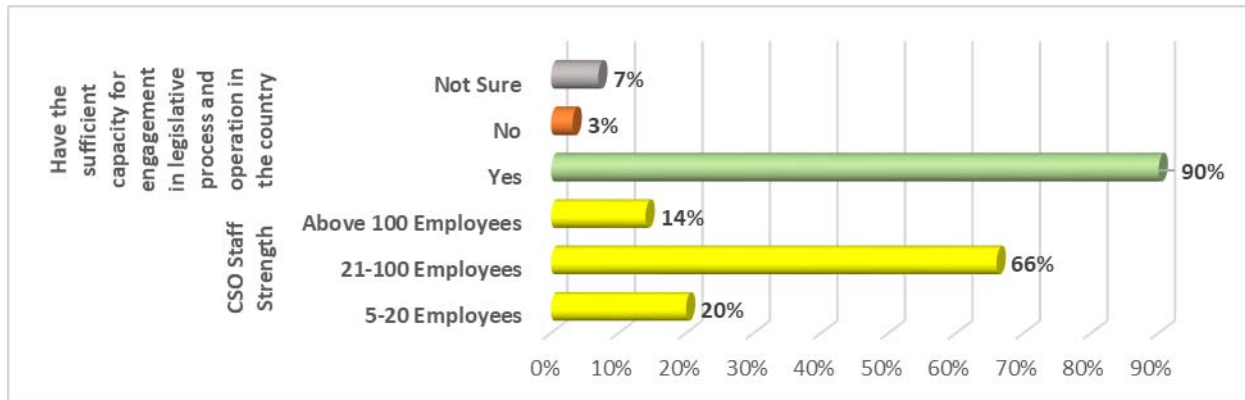


Fig 4.1. The CSOs' Capacity and Staff Strength

Fig 4.2 depicts the assessment results of the effectiveness of the CSOs in legislative process and operations vis-à-vis their synergy with the Legislature. According to the figure, nearly half of the respondents (46%) acknowledged a fair synergy between the CSOs and Legislators. However, most of the respondents (61%) admitted that their organization had influenced some policy areas or legislative processes. Also, most of the respondents (72%) acknowledged their organization engagement in the legislative processes and operations were often successful.

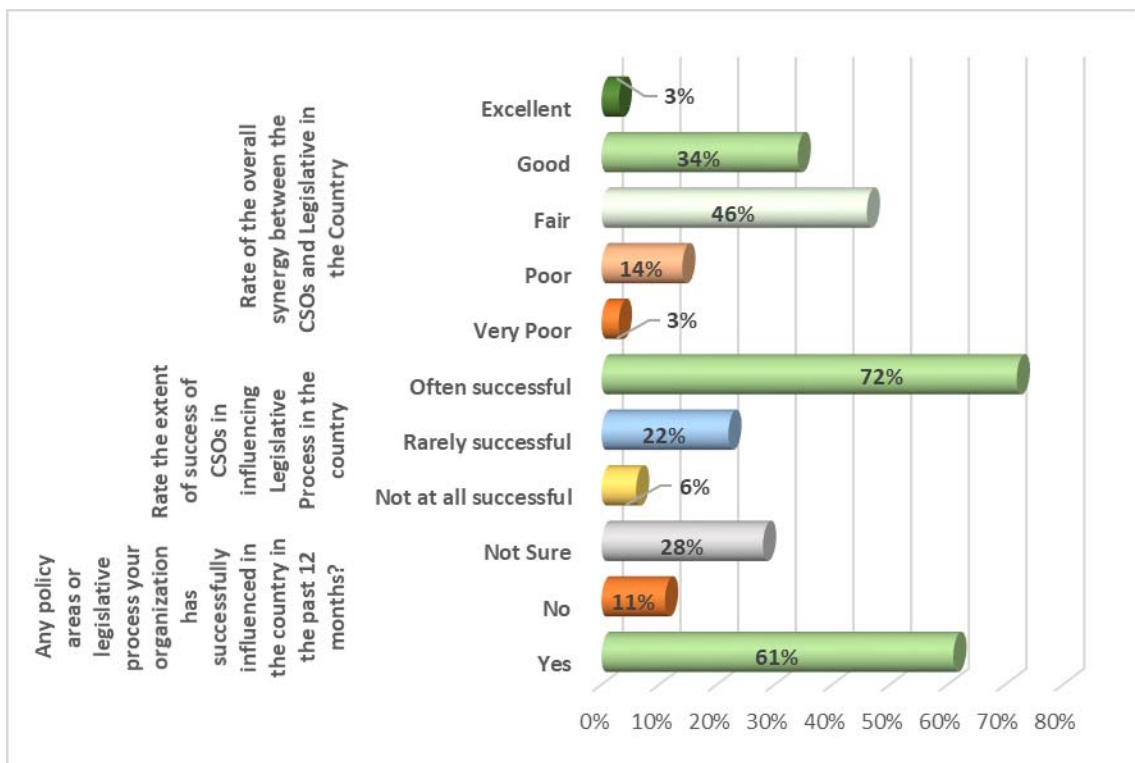


Fig 4.2. CSOs Effectiveness in Legislative Process Vis-À-Vis their Synergy with Legislative



Fig 4.3. Policy Areas or Legislative Process CSOs had Successfully Influenced

Consequently, Fig 4.3 highlights the salient policy areas and legislative processes that had been successfully influenced by CSOs, this include Petroleum Industrial Act (PIA), Not-to-young-to-run-bill, Electoral Reform Act, Annual Appropriation Acts, Constitution Review and so on. These results establish a seemingly fair synergy between the CSOs and the legislators and suggest improved synergy between the two. In spite of the level of the synergy, the results infer that the engagement of the CSOs in legislative processes and operations for the past 12-months have often been successful and has resulted into some significant reforms in electoral process, petroleum sector, taxation and so on. Thus, the CSOs were mostly effective in their engagement in legislative processes and operations of the National Assembly.

4.3 Assessment of CSOs’ Strategies towards their Successful Influence in Legislative Process and Operation of the National Assembly

This section provides and deliberates on the assessment results of the CSOs adopted strategies towards their successful influence in legislative process and operation of the National Assembly. Fig 4.4 assesses the CSOs education and sensitization strategies targeted towards influencing the legislative process and operation. According to the figure, just above half of the respondents

(52%; Seldom=26%, Almost-Never=26%) differed that CSOs' staff have no sufficient knowledge and understanding of legislative processes. In that regards, majority of them (86%; Almost-Always=40%, Mostly=46%) acknowledged that CSOs are familiar with the National Assembly legislative process. Also, the figure shows that majority of respondents (78%; Almost-Always=40%, Mostly=38%) identified CSOs to support training and capacity building of legislature.

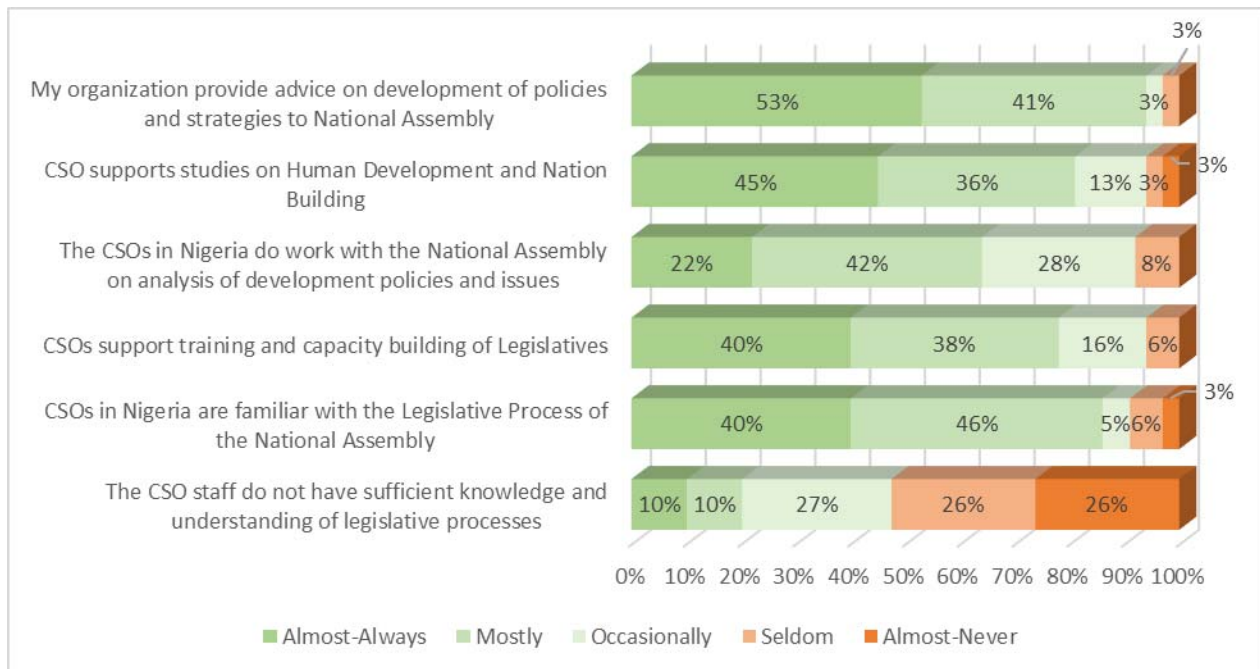


Fig 4.4. Education and Sensitization Strategies of CSOs

In addition, Fig 4.4 shows that majority of the respondents disclosed that CSOs: provide advice on development of policies and strategies to National Assembly (94%; Almost-Always=53%, Mostly=41%), and support studies on Human Development and Nation Building (81%; Almost-Always=45%, Mostly=36%). Likewise, the most of the respondents (64%; Almost-Always=22%, Mostly=42%) acknowledged CSOs do assist the National Assembly on the analysis of development policies and issues. Evidently, the results reveal that the CSOs mostly

utilized the education and sensitization strategies to influence the legislative process and operation of the National Assembly.

Moreover, Fig 4.5 assesses the CSOs collaboration strategy targeted towards influencing the legislative process and operation. The figure shows that larger percentage of respondents acknowledged the CSOs are: open to the legislative processes and operation of the National Assembly (80%; Almost-Always=51%, Mostly=29%), facilitate dialogue between legislators and public stakeholders (85%; Almost-Always=43%, Mostly=42%), facilitate partnership between legislative, public and CSOs (97%; Almost-Always=50%, Mostly=47%), and collaborate as much as possible with the legislatives in developing public driven policies and projects (81%; Almost-Always=40%, Mostly=41%). Thus, the results depict that majority of the CSOs mostly employed the collaborate strategy in their struggle to influence the legislative process and operation.

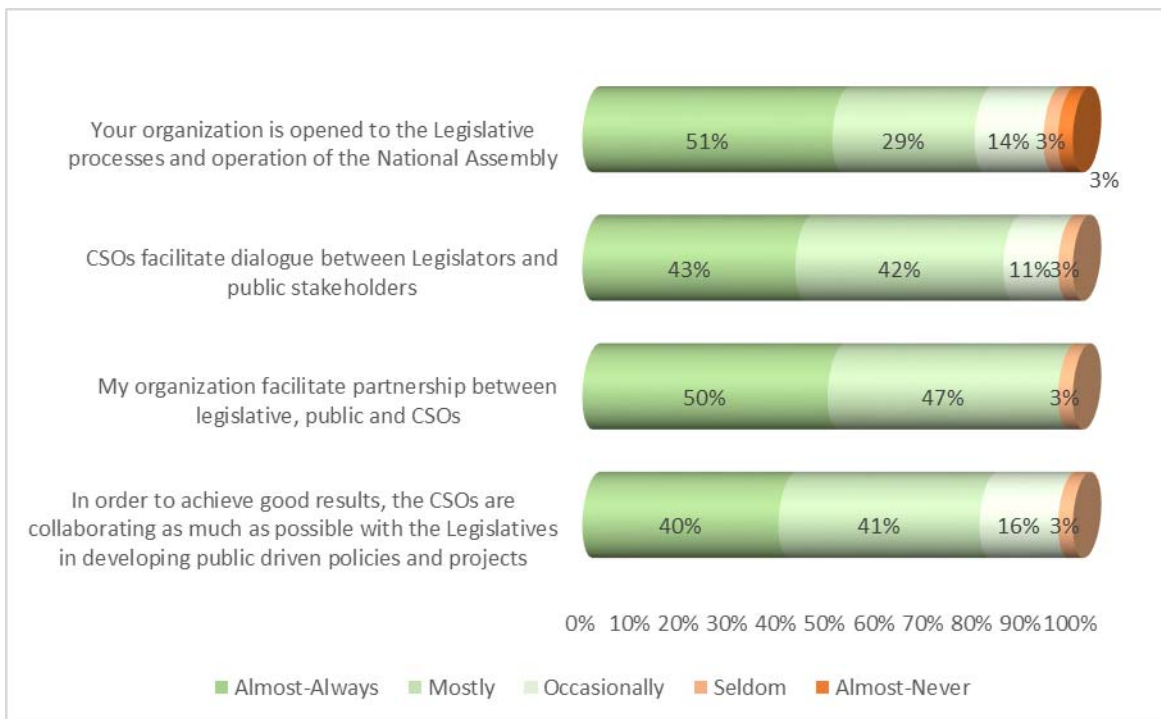


Fig 4.5. Collaboration Strategy of CSOs

Fig 4.6 assesses the CSOs persuasion strategy targeted towards influencing the legislative process and operation. According to the figure, just above half of the respondents admitted that their organization mostly tends to influence legislative process more whenever it adopts persuasion as a strategy (59%; Almost-Always=13%, Mostly=46%). In the same vein, most of the respondents acknowledged that mostly via persuasion their organization had successfully influenced policy areas or legislative process of the National Assembly (60%; Almost-Always=21%, Mostly=39%). However, one-fourth of the respondents identified that through resistance their organization had influenced the legislative conduct and practice or process. Hence, the results show that just around half of the CSOs mostly employed the persuasion strategy in their struggle to influence the legislative process and operation. This implies that the persuasion as a strategy for influencing legislative process was not rampantly employed by the CSOs.

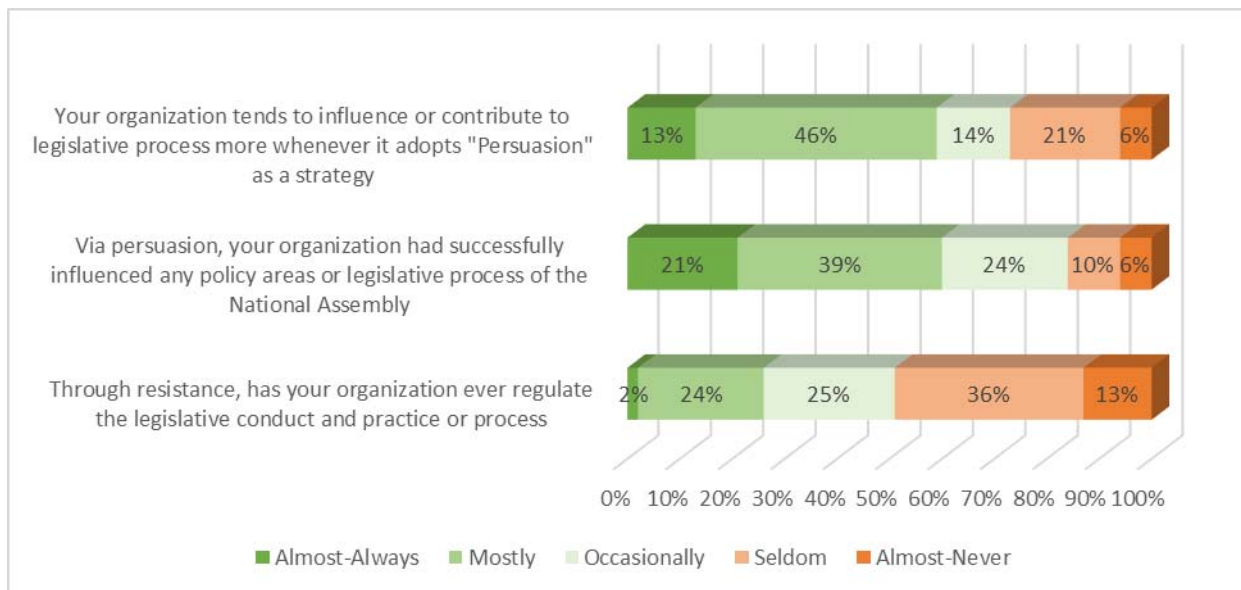


Fig 4.6. Persuasion Strategy of CSOs

In addition, Fig 4.7 assesses the CSOs confrontation strategy targeted towards influencing the legislative process and operation. The figure reveals that minority of the respondents admitted

that their organization; adopts confrontation as strategy in legislative process towards Nation and human development (20%; Almost-Always=10%, Mostly=10%); and tends to influence legislative process more whenever it adopts confrontation as a strategy (24%; Almost-Always=3%, Mostly=21%). Thus, these results infer that confrontation as a strategy to influence legislation process is not widely utilized by CSOs in Nigeria.

Similarly, Fig 4.8 assesses the CSOs litigation strategy targeted towards influencing the legislative process and operation. The figure shows that minority of the respondents acknowledged that their organization: devised to use litigation as one way to influence policies or law making in the National Assembly (14%; Almost-Always=6%, Mostly=9%), and tends to influence legislative process more whenever it adopts litigation as a strategy (17%; Almost-Always=13%, Mostly=4%). Thus, similar to confrontation strategy these results deduce that litigation as a strategy to influence legislation process is not widely utilized by CSOs in Nigeria.



Fig 4.7. Confrontation Strategy of CSOs



Fig 4.8. Ligation Strategy of CSOs

4.4 Assessment of Strategic Factors Influencing the Contribution of CSOs in Legislative Process and Operations

This section presents and discusses Factor Analysis results of the respondents' perceptions as regard strategies CSOs employ in influencing the legislative process and operation of the National Assembly. First, to determine the number of factors extracted, two key pieces of information were used: eigenvalues and the scree plot. The eigenvalues criterion extracts and retains the factors that have eigenvalues greater than 1 for further investigations. Table 4.2 presents the summary of factors that have eigenvalues greater one (factor 1 to 4). The Initial Eigenvalues in Table 4.4 depicts first 4 factors are meaningful as they have Eigenvalues > 1. Factors 1, 2, 3 and 4 explain 36.47%, 19.70%, 7.56% and 6.79% respectively of the total variation of the influence of CSOs in legislative process and operation with a cumulative total of 70.02% (total acceptable). The Extraction Sums of Squared Loadings provides similar information based only on the extracted factors.

Table 4.2. Summary of Eigen Values and Total Variance Explained

Factor	Initial Eigenvalues			Extraction Sums of Squared Loadings		
	Total	% of Variance	Cumulative %	Total	% of Variance	Cumulative %
1	6.565	36.473	36.473	6.219	34.551	34.551
2	3.547	19.704	56.176	3.254	18.078	52.628
3	1.362	7.567	63.743	1.081	6.008	58.636
4	1.222	6.787	70.531	.804	4.468	63.104

Also, Fig 4.9 presents the scree plot of the factors as against their respective eigenvalues. This plot shows that there are seven relatively high (Factors 1 to 4) eigenvalues. The figure suggests retain of factors that are above the 'bend' (that is the point at which the curve of decreasing eigenvalues change from a steep line to a flat gradual slope). Both results (Table 4.2 and Fig 4.9) as described above, significantly suggest retaining only components above this point that is Factor 1 to 4.

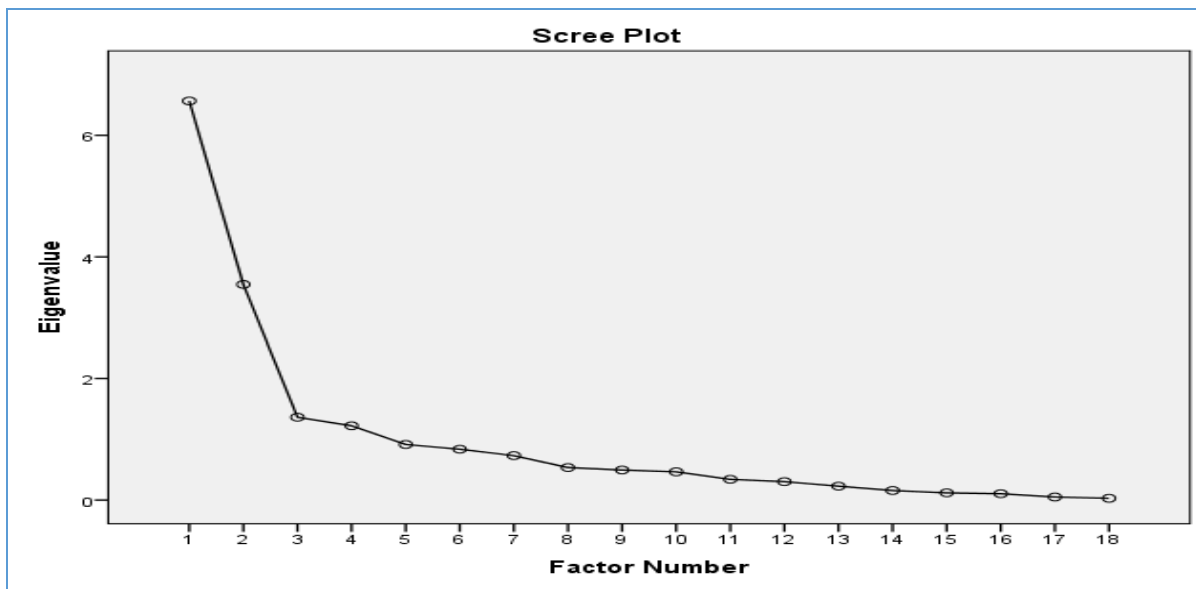


Fig 4.9. The Factor Scree Plot

Table 4.3. A Matrix of Factor Loading of CSOs Strategies towards Influencing Legislative Process

	Factor			
	1	2	3	4
The CSO staff do not have sufficient knowledge and understanding of legislative processes	-0.576	-0.088	0.114	0.414
CSOs in Nigeria are familiar with the Legislative Process of the National Assembly	0.504	-0.279	0.112	0.512
CSOs support training and capacity building of Legislatives	0.843	-0.058	-0.026	0.066
The CSOs in Nigeria do work with the National Assembly on analysis of development policies and issues	0.59	-0.312	-0.149	-0.179
My organization supports studies on Human Development and Nation Building	0.512	-0.133	-0.253	0.171
My organization provide advice on development of policies and strategies to National Assembly	0.89	0.053	-0.049	-0.031
In order to achieve good results, the CSOs are collaborating as much as possible with the Legislatives in developing public driven policies and projects	0.772	-0.099	-0.076	-0.171
My organization facilitate partnership between legislative, public and CSOs	0.914	-0.084	0.07	0.079
CSOs facilitate dialogue between Legislators and public stakeholders	0.836	-0.154	-0.063	0.073
Your organization is opened to the Legislative processes and operation of the National Assembly	0.397	-0.456	0.119	0.21
Through resistance, has your organization ever regulate the legislative conduct and practice or process	0.422	0.403	-0.046	0.028
Via persuasion, your organization had successfully influenced any policy areas or legislative process of the National Assembly in the past 12 months?	0.701	-0.221	0.16	-0.265
For Nation and Human development, how often does your organization adopts "Confrontation" as a strategy in influencing the Legislative Process of National Assembly	0.358	0.616	-0.3	-0.143
Litigation is one way, your organization devised to influence or contribute to policies or law making in the National Assembly	0.085	0.793	-0.392	0.125
Does your organization sought to lobby in order to influence the legislative process?	0.238	0.455	0.769	-0.165
Your organization tends to influence or contribute to legislative process more whenever it adopts "Confrontation" as a strategy	0.28	0.801	0.198	0.046
Your organization tends to influence or contribute to legislative process more whenever it adopts "Persuasion" as a strategy	0.513	0.037	0.182	0.167
Your organization tends to influence or contribute to legislative process more whenever it adopts "Litigation" as a strategy	0.177	0.854	0.046	0.234

Table 4.3 presents the matrix of the 4-factor-strategies. The factor matrix provides information from the initial unrotated solution. The values in the matrix represent the weights, showing the relationship between each item (or variable) and its corresponding factor. The table depicts mixed directional associational weights of items (variables) with the 4-factors. At this stage the solution has not taken into consideration the correlation between the 4-factors. Subsequent results information is more readily interpretable.

Subsequently, Table 4.4 presents the final factor-strategies matrix for the CSOs strategies that significantly influence the legislative process and operation. The The matrix displays the factor loadings for the rotated solution after 10 iterations, which are akin to regression weights (or

slopes). These values reflect the strength of the association between the variables and the factors. The rotation was applied to produce a more interpretable structure. The interpretation of this results is mainly completed from the reliability table presented in Table 4.5 as the reliability of the Rotated Factor loadings (strategies) are yet to be determined. Hence, Table 4.5 presents the measures and reliability of the rotated factor loadings.

Table 4.4. The Final Factor Matrix of the CSOs Strategies towards Influencing Legislative Process

	Factor			
	1	2	3	4
The CSO staff do not have sufficient knowledge and understanding of legislative processes (<i>E1</i>)	-0.696			
The CSOs in Nigeria do work with the National Assembly on analysis of development policies and issues (<i>E4</i>)	0.646			
My organization provide advice on development of policies and strategies to National Assembly (<i>E6</i>)	0.736			
In order to achieve good results, the CSOs are collaborating as much as possible with the Legislatives in developing public driven policies and projects (<i>CI</i>)	0.745			
Via persuasion, your organization had successfully influenced any policy areas or legislative process of the National Assembly in the past 12 months (<i>P2</i>)	0.721			
For Nation and Human development, how often does your organization adopts “Confrontation” as a strategy in influencing the Legislative Process of National Assembly (<i>Cf1</i>)		0.708		
Litigation is one way, your organization devised to influence or contribute to policies or law making in the National Assembly (<i>L1</i>)		0.877		
Your organization tends to influence or contribute to legislative process more whenever it adopts “Confrontation” as a strategy (<i>Cf2</i>)		0.751		
Your organization tends to influence or contribute to legislative process more whenever it adopts “Litigation” as a strategy (<i>L2</i>)		0.850		
CSOs in Nigeria are familiar with the Legislative Process of the National Assembly (<i>E2</i>)			0.759	
Your organization is opened to the Legislative processes and operation of the National Assembly (<i>C4</i>)			0.504	
Does your organization sought to lobby in order to influence the legislative process (<i>P3</i>)				0.907

Table 4.5. Measures and Reliability Table

	Factor Loading	Factor
CSOs Influencing the Legislative Process and Operation of National Assembly (<i>Reliability</i> = 0.901)		
The CSO staff do not have sufficient knowledge and understanding of legislative processes (<i>E1</i>)	-0.696	1
The CSOs in Nigeria do work with the National Assembly on analysis of development policies and issues (<i>E4</i>)	0.646	1
My organization provide advice on development of policies and strategies to National Assembly (<i>E6</i>)	0.736	1
In order to achieve good results, the CSOs are collaborating as much as possible with the Legislatives in developing public driven policies and projects (<i>CI</i>)	0.745	1
Via persuasion, your organization had successfully influenced any policy areas or legislative process of the National Assembly in the past 12 months (<i>P2</i>)	0.721	1
For Nation and Human development, how often does your organization adopts “Confrontation” as a strategy in influencing the Legislative Process of National Assembly (<i>Cf1</i>)	0.708	2
Litigation is one way, your organization devised to influence or contribute to policies or law making in the National Assembly (<i>L1</i>)	0.877	2

Your organization tends to influence or contribute to legislative process more whenever it adopts “Confrontation” as a strategy (<i>Cf2</i>)	0.751	2
Your organization tends to influence or contribute to legislative process more whenever it adopts “Litigation” as a strategy (<i>L2</i>)	0.850	2
CSOs in Nigeria are familiar with the Legislative Process of the National Assembly (<i>E2</i>)	0.759	3
Your organization is opened to the Legislative processes and operation of the National Assembly (<i>C4</i>)	0.504	3
Does your organization sought to lobby in order to influence the legislative process? <i>P(3)</i>	0.900	4

Source: Researcher’s Compilations from SPSS Outputs

To conclude the factor analysis of the employed CSOs strategies towards their successful influence in the legislative process and operation, Table 4.5 presents the measures and reliability assessment of the rotated factor loadings for the strategies. The table entails the final factor – strategies as depicted in Table 4.4 and reliability measures of the factors. Following the reliability measures, the choice of Factors 1, 2, 3 and 4 returned with high reliability of 0.901. List below provides summary for the reliable factors and their related variables.

Factor 1 related variables with their strategies include;

- The CSO staff do not have sufficient knowledge and understanding of legislative processes (E1) = -0.696;
- The CSOs in Nigeria do work with the National Assembly on analysis of development policies and issues (E4) = 0.646;
- My organization provide advice on development of policies and strategies to National Assembly (E6) = 0.736;
- In order to achieve good results, the CSOs are collaborating as much as possible with the Legislatives in developing public driven policies and projects (C1) = 0.745;
- Via persuasion, your organization had successfully influenced any policy areas or legislative process of the National Assembly in the past 12 months (P2) = 0.721.

Factor 2 related variables with their strategies include;

- For Nation and Human development, how often does your organization adopts “Confrontation” as a strategy in influencing the Legislative Process of National Assembly (Cf1) = 0.708;
- Litigation is one way, your organization devised to influence or contribute to policies or law making in the National Assembly (L1) = 0.877;
- CSO organization tends to influence or contribute to legislative process more whenever it adopts “Confrontation” as a strategy (Cf2) = 0.751; and
- CSOs tend to influence or contribute to legislative process more whenever it adopts “Litigation” as a strategy (L2) = 0.850.

Factor 3 related variables with their strategies include;

- CSOs in Nigeria are familiar with the Legislative Process of the National Assembly (E2) = 0.759; and
- CSOs are opened to the Legislative processes and operation of the National Assembly (C4) = 0.504.

While Factor 4 variable with its strategies include;

- CSOs sought to lobby in order to influence the legislative process P(3) = 0.900.

From the aforementioned, some variables display negative correlations. A negative sign does not reflect the strength of the variable's relationship with the factor, but rather indicates that the variable is inversely related to the factor, meaning they move in opposite directions. Therefore, based on the highest eigen value and percentage account of variation, Factor 1 with eigen-value of 6.57 and 36.47% as percentage of variation accounted for, returns as the most significant factor of the loading-strategies.

4.5 Evaluation and Discussion of Findings

Evidently, this study examined the influence of CSOs in the law making process of the Nigeria's National Assembly. The study primarily sourced its information from approximately equal number of gender which were youthful as well as highly educated with apt working experiences. Based on these respondents' responses, among other findings, this study found a seemingly fair synergy between the CSOs. However, in spite of the level of the synergy, the study established adequate capacity and staff strength for the CSOs and further found that the engagement of the CSOs in legislative processes and operations had often been successful and had resulted into some significant reforms in electoral process, petroleum sector, taxation and so on. Thus, the CSOs were mostly successful and effective in their engagement towards influencing the legislative processes and operations of the National Assembly. These empirical findings are unique compare to other related studies such as civil Okonjo-Iweala and Osafo-Kwaako (n.d), Nwachukwu (2020), Adebowale and Violet (2021), Rufus (2021) and Ademoyegun (2023) whose studies acknowledged the contributions of CSOs in elections activities and governance matters.

The study explicitly identified 'education and sensitization' and 'collaboration' to be rampantly employed among the CSOs towards influencing the legislative process and operation of the National Assembly. It subsequently found 'persuasion', 'confrontation' and 'litigation' strategies not to be widely employed among the CSOs. While this empirical finding is similar to Jake (2018) who recognized five strategies of the CSOs; education, persuasion, collaboration, litigation and confrontation, this study dissimilar itself by investigating the use of the strategies among the CSOs. By the identifying the best strategies of the CSOs that can be combined to yield good results towards CSOs strives to influence the legislative process.

Moreover, empirical findings from the factor analysis of the education, persuasion, collaboration, litigation and confrontation as strategies employed by CSOs to influence the legislative processes and operations of the National Assembly significantly identified the following factors with associate loadings (i.e. strategies):

Factor 1: This factor reveals the significance of ‘education and sensitization’, ‘collaboration’ and ‘persuasion’ strategies towards the successful engagement of the CSOs towards influencing the legislative process and operation of National Assembly. These loading-strategies that made-up Factor 1 include; CSOs collaborating as much as possible with the Legislatives in developing public driven policies and projects (having the highest loading of 0.745), the CSOs’ staff having sufficient knowledge and understanding of legislative processes, CSOs working with the National Assembly on analysis of development policies and issues, CSOs providing advice on development of policies and strategies to National Assembly, and using persuasion, to influence any policy areas or legislative process of the National Assembly. Thus, it can be considered reasonable to name these five loading-strategies as **“Collaboration, Education/Sensitization and minute Persuasion”**.

Factor 2: The second factor is loaded with by four strategy-variables. The highest loadings and second highest loadings of the factor tells us how litigation was utilized by CSOs to achieve more success in influencing the legislative processes and operations of National Assembly. The rest two loading-strategies of the factor reveals the significance of confrontation as a strategy for CSOs to influence or contribute to legislative process more. It is considered reasonable to name these four loading-strategies as **“Litigation and Confrontation”**.

Factor 3: The third factor is also loaded with two strategic-variables. The highest loadings of the factor depicts the significance of the CSOs Staff familiarity with the Legislative Process of the

National Assembly (0.759) which translated to their successful engagement in the legislative process and operation. The factor also provides the vital role the CSOs openness to the Legislative processes and operation of the National Assembly play in their success engagement in legislative process and operation. It is considered reasonable to name these two loading-strategies as **“Education and Collaboration”**.

Factor 4: The last component (factor 4) loaded with just a strategic-variable. The loading-strategy of the factor reveals the significance of lobbying as a strategy towards their success in influencing the legislative process. It is considered reasonable to name these two loading-strategies as **“Lobbying which is a form of Persuasion”**.

Based on the foregoing and evident from the eigen-values and percentage of variation each factor accounted for, Factor 1 with eigen-value of 6.57 and 36.47% as percentage of variation accounted for, returns as the most significant factor of the loading-strategies. Thus, **Collaboration, Education/Sensitization and little Persuasion** are the significant strategies employed by the CSOs to influence the legislative process and operation of National Assembly.

CHAPTER FIVE

SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

This chapter concludes the research. It begins by summarizing the main findings, followed by drawing conclusions. The final section presents important recommendations based on the study.

5.1 Summary of Findings

This study was engrossed with the assessment of the influence of the CSOs in legislative process and operation of the National Assembly. In line with the above, the study focused on three primary objectives, and the research findings are presented accordingly, based on these objectives.

Prior to the factor analysis of the identified strategies employed by CSOs, the study descriptive analysis revealed that there exist a seemingly fair synergy between the CSOs and the legislators and suggest improved synergy between the two. The study established adequate capacity and staff strength for the CSOs and further found that the engagement of the CSOs in legislative processes and operations for the past 12-months had often been successful and had resulted into some significant reforms in electoral process, petroleum sector, taxation and so on. Thus, the CSOs were mostly successful and effective in their engagement towards influencing the legislative processes and operations of the National Assembly.

For the study second objective, the empirical results (see Fig 4.4 to Fig 4.8) identified the salient strategies employed by the CSOs in achieving their success. The study explicitly identified ‘education and sensitization’ and ‘collaboration’ to be rampantly employed among the CSOs towards influencing the legislative process and operation of the National Assembly. It subsequently found ‘persuasion’, ‘confrontation’ and ‘litigation’ strategies not to be widely employed among the CSOs.

Moreover, in the vein of the last objective the empirical findings from the factor analysis found four (4) Factors with loading-strategies that is Factor 1, 2, 3 and 4 returned with high reliability of 0.901. However, based on the evident from eigen-values and percentage of variation each factor accounted for the influence of the CSOs in the law making of the National Assembly, Factor 1 with eigen-value of 6.57 and 36.47% as percentage of variation accounted for, returns as the most significant factor of the loading-strategies. Thus, Collaboration, Education/Sensitization and little Persuasion are the significant strategies employed by the CSOs towards their achievement of success in influencing legislative process and operation of National Assembly.

5.2 Conclusion

Based on the empirical findings the study concludes that a seemingly fair synergy exist between the CSOs and the legislators and suggest improved synergy between the two. Also, the study concludes that the CSOs have adequate capacity and Staff strength to engage or influence the legislative process and operation of the National Assembly. And this could be attributed to their success in terms of their contribution to legislative process in Nigeria. Thus, the study concludes that the CSOs were mostly successful and effective in their engagement towards influencing the legislative processes and operations of the National Assembly.

In addition, the study concludes 'education and sensitization' and 'collaboration' as the most employed strategies among the CSOs towards influencing the legislative process and operation of the National Assembly. The factor analysis for the 18 variables of the identified salient strategies revealed that based on eigenvalue rules, four (4) factors were extracted and retained for further investigation. Factor 1 returned with the highest eigen-value of 6.57 and 36.47% as percentage of variation accounted for. The empirical findings established Factor 1 with its loading-strategic variables as the most significant factor of the loading-strategies. Hence, the

study concludes that Collaboration, Education/Sensitization and little Persuasion as best and most significant consolidated-strategies employed by the CSOs in influencing the legislative process and operation of National Assembly.

5.3 Recommendations

Based on the findings of this study the following are recommended;

- Recognizing how successful and effective CSOs were in their engagement towards influencing the legislative processes and operations of the National Assembly, the public being the critical stakeholders are therefore encourage to work together with the CSOs towards influencing the country's legislation thereby delivering the expectations of representative democracy.
- Acknowledging Collaboration, Education/Sensitization and little Persuasion as the most significant consolidated-strategies of the CSOs, the CSOs are reprovved to direct more resources towards building and enhancing their collaboration, education/sensitization and persuasion strategies towards enhancing their effectiveness in influencing the legislative processes and operations of the National Assembly.
- Also, in order to enhance the collaboration between CSOs and the Legislators, the legislature should ensure bureaucratic bottlenecks are lessened.

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APPENDIX I

National Institute for
Legislative
and Democratic Studies,
No. 30 Danube Street,
Maitama, Abuja.
31st January, 2024.

Dear Respondent,

LETTER OF INTRODUCTION

I write to introduce Mr. Lasis Adavize Yusuf, a student of Master's Degree in Legislative Studies at the National Institute for Legislative and Democratic Studies/University of Benin (NILDS/UNIBEN) post graduate programme. He is undertaking a dissertation on the topic: *The Role of Civil Society Organizations in influencing legislation. A case study of Nigeria's National Assembly* under my supervision.

As an esteemed civil society organization with several years of experience in the legislative process of the Nigerian National Assembly.

You may wish to assist him in providing answers to the attached questions to enable him achieve the objectives of the research. The findings of this research work will be presented in an anonymous manner, ensuring that individual responses are not identifiable.

Your anticipated cooperation will be greatly appreciated.

Thank you very much for your kind attention to this request.

Yours sincerely,
Dr. Augustine Osigwe
Project Supervisor

APPENDIX II

Questionnaire

Section A: Bio-data

1. What is your gender category? (a) Male (b) Female
2. What is your age-bracket? (a) 21-30yrs (b) 31-40yrs (c) 41-50yrs (d) 50-60yrs (e) 61-70yrs
3. What is your highest current qualification (a) Primary/FSLC (b) SSCE (c) OND/NCE (d) HND/BSc (d) Higher Degree
4. Professional Experience as CSO worker? (a) 5 years or less (b) 6-10 years (c) Above 10 Years

Section B: CSO capacity & Synergy with Legislature

5. My civil society organization has;
 - a) Fewer than 5 employees
 - b) Between 5 and 20 employees
 - c) Between 20 and 100 employees
 - d) Above 100 employees
6. Do your organization have the sufficient capacity for engagement in legislative process and operation in the country? (a) Yes (b) No (c) Not Sure
7. How would you rate, the overall synergy between the CSOs and Legislature in Nigeria
 - (a) Very Poor (b) Poor (c) Fair (d) Good (e) Excellent
8. Are there any policy areas or legislative process your organization has successfully influenced in the country in the past 12 months? (a) Yes (b) No (c) Not Sure
9. If Yes, please state _____
10. Overall, how would you rate the extent of success of CSOs in influencing Legislative Process in the country?
 - (a) Not at all successful (b) Rarely successful (c) Often successful (d) At all successful

Section C: CSO Influence in Legislative Process and Operation

	Almost-Always	Mostly	Occasionally	Seldom	Almost-Never
Education/Sensitization					
11. The CSO staff do not have sufficient knowledge and understanding of legislative processes					
12. CSOs in Nigeria are familiar with the Legislative Process of the National Assembly					
13. CSOs support training and capacity building of Legislators					
14. The CSOs in Nigeria do work with the National Assembly on analysis of development policies and issues					

15. My organization supports studies on Human Development and Nation Building					
16. My organization provide advice on development of policies and strategies to National Assembly					
Collaboration					
17. In order to achieve good results, the CSOs are collaborating as much as possible with the Legislators in developing public driven policies and projects					
18. My organization facilitate partnership between legislature, public and CSOs					
19. CSOs facilitate dialogue between Legislators and public stakeholders					
20. Your organization is opened to the Legislative processes and operation of the National Assembly					
Persuasion, Confrontation & Litigation					
21. Through resistance, has your organization ever regulate the legislative conduct and practice or process					
22. Via persuasion, your organization had successfully influenced any policy areas or legislative process of the National Assembly in the past 12 months?					
23. For Nation and Human development, how often does your organization adopts “Confrontation” as a strategy in influencing the Legislative Process of National Assembly					
24. Litigation is one way, your organization devised to influence or contribute to policies or law making in the National Assembly					
25. Does your organization sought to lobby in order to influence the legislative process?					
26. Your organization tends to influence or contribute to legislative process more whenever it adopts “Confrontation” as a strategy					
27. Your organization tends to influence or contribute to legislative process more whenever it adopts “Persuasion” as a strategy					
28. Your organization tends to influence or contribute to legislative process more whenever it adopts “Litigation” as a strategy					

29. What are factors that make it difficult for CSOs to engage in legislative processes and operations? Comments

30. In your opinion, what is the single most important action that needs to be taken to improve the CSOs engagement in legislative process and operation? C Comments
