

Voter's Turnout in the 2019 Gubernatorial Elections in Kaduna State: A Case Study of Chikum Local Government Area of Kaduna State

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Abstract

The study assessed Voters Turnout in the 2019 Gubernatorial Election in Kaduna State: (A Case Study of Chikum Local Government Area). Rational choice theory was used for this study. This study is a non-experimental research setting based on survey design. It involves the gathering of information about the voter's turnout and 2019 governorship election in Chikum local government, Kaduna State. A total of 70 questionnaires were distributed, and all the 70 were recovered successfully. The questionnaire was analysed using simple descriptive statistics and frequency tables. The statistical analysis used in this study revealed that people came out to vote during the 2019 gubernatorial election in Chikum local government but not as expected. Majority of the respondents believed that they refused to come out and vote during the 2019 gubernatorial election in Chikum because they were discourage with the outcome of the presidential election result as it does not reflect the true nature of the votes cast during the election. It implies to them that the same will happen in the gubernatorial election as their votes will not be counted. The objective of the research is to Assess Voter Turnout in Chikum Local Government Area of Kaduna State during the 2019 Gubernatorial Election in Kaduna. The recommendations of this study suggested that there should be a proposed promotion of compulsory voting with provisions for it's in the constitution. A situation where an eligible voter does not vote, they should be subjected punitive measures such as fines and imprisonment will help address the issue of low turnout in elections.

Keywords

Voters, Turnout, Election, Constitution, Kaduna State

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1. Introduction

Elections are the defining institutions of modern democracy and serve many purposes. Perhaps the most fundamental and important purpose is to make decisions [1]. If all eligible participate, votes will be a population in the social science sense. If turnout is less than universal, votes will be a sample [2]. The sample of less-than –all may mirror the population of all more accurately or less accurately. The principles of statistics and sampling apply to elections. The

smaller the sample, the greater it's potential to differ from the population. The impact of low turnout to the decisions made by elections is crucial [3]. The lower the turnout, the greater the chance that the election result is not the outcome preferred by the population of potential voters. Low turnout makes it possible for minorities to defeat majorities. The most important impact of low electoral turnout is that decisions are made by a minority of the population [4]. The rate of voter turnout is calculated as the percentage of the total number of registered voters by the total number of

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votes (the summation of the total number of valid votes and the total number of rejected votes) accrued at the end of the election. The rate of voter turnout in the 2019 governorship election in Nigeria is also the lowest of all recent elections held on the African continent, according to the data from the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (I-IDEA) reveals [5]. Voter turnout is the most common means of participation in a democracy. While turnout is a simple measure, it reflects on concern with outcomes, constituent satisfaction, political attitudes, partisan attribution of the vote, as well as other indicators of democratic effectiveness. Recognizing the importance of citizen participation to democracy [6], it also seems fair to say that turnout plays an important role in democratic consolidation. Unsurprisingly, political scientists have long been concerned with discovering turnout's determinants. Generally, turnout is determined by a function of variables that operate on three levels—the national, the district, and the individual. Several comparative studies have focused on national level determinants, most commonly the electoral rule and compulsory voting, to account for variation in turnout across countries [7]. Many fewer have looked to individual level determinants, such as attitudes and political involvement, for comparative purposes [8]. Over the years, Nigeria's elections have usually witnessed low turnouts of voters regardless of the several appeals made through various adverts on television. The voting age population of Nigeria was put at 91,669,056 in 2015. While 67,422,005 people registered and just 29,432,083 people turned out to vote in the 2015 presidential election according to the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance [9]. In 2019 Election, only 34.75% of registered voters voted. This percentage represents 28,614,190 people who cast their votes during the elections [10]. In 2019 Governorship election in Kaduna State, Chikum local government is among the lowers in voters turnout compared to other local government and the turnout in Presidential election [10]. The 2019 Governorship advertisements witnessed loads of name calling, mudslinging candidates 'images, hate and attack messages in Kaduna State and Chikum local government in particular. Researchers have directed their apparatus towards finding a relationship between candidate success in election and voter's turnout. The decision on voters to turnout during voting depends on numbers of factors which this study will find out. Therefore, this study examine voters turnout in the 2019 gubernatorial election in Kaduna State with reference to Chikum Local Government Area. The research work is structure in to five sections: the introduction, literature review, methodology, data presentation and analysis of results and finally conclusion and recommendations.

2. Literature Review

2.1. Conceptual Issues

2.1.1. Voters Turnout

Voter turnout is the percentage of eligible voters who cast a ballot in an election [11]. Eligibility varies by country, and the voting-eligible population should not be confused with the total adult population. Age and citizenship status are often among the criteria used to determine eligibility, but some countries further restrict eligibility based on sex, race, or religion.

2.1.2. Election

Elections are a democratic process where citizens aged 18 and over elect candidates to represent them and their interests locally, nationally or internationally [1]. The process is determined by a voting system, where citizens vote for one candidate. The candidate with the majority of votes is elected. Anyone who is enrolled on the Electoral Register is able to vote.

2.2. Theoretical Literature

Rational Choice Theory (RCT)

Rational choice theory states that individuals use rational calculations to make rational choices and achieve outcomes that are aligned with their own personal objectives. These results are also associated with an individual's best, self-interests. Using rational choice theory is expected to result in outcomes that provide people with the greatest benefit and satisfaction given the choices they have available [12].

2.3. Empirical Literature

Mac-Ikemenjima [13] analyzed the connection between fear of violence and youth voter turnout in sub-Saharan Africa and shows that the relationship is negative after controlling for socio-economic factors and partisanship, which suggests that fear of violence, could be a factor in elucidating youth voter turnout. Bekoe and Burchard [14] show that, on aggregate, pre-election violence has no significant influence on voter turnout, but violence may be used to lower participation, to assemble supporters, or to chastise election winners. Electoral malpractices such as violence and rigging have been argued to be relevant to the waning of trust in the electoral process among Nigerians [15, 16]. Thus, it can be inferred that people of higher SES may not support political violence and, because there is relatively no pre-election or electoral violence, their level of turnout increases. Amoateng, Kalule-Sabiti and Heaton [17] provide evidence that in Africa higher levels of voting is found among more educated and employed people. Based on a study of the impact of the Universal Primary Education

programme on political participation in Nigeria, Larreguy and Marshall [18] provide evidence that education has a positive influence on voting. The study demonstrates that better-educated citizens (those who have primary and secondary schooling) engage more in critical forms of political participation, e.g., interest in politics, voting and community participation. This result is most robust among minority groups and those in heterogeneous areas lacking own-group identification and no growing backing for political violence. Here, the connection between having no increased support for political violence and the effect of education on turnout is at best not clear, however. Resnick and Casale [19] show that older African citizens tend to vote more and express a higher degree of partisanship than their younger population. This finding is in tandem with results from studies in Western democracies, but the point of departure is that young Africans are not more likely to protest than older people. Resnick and Casale [19] argue that these results bring in to question the notion that youth are more likely to protest when they are frustrated and cast doubt on the validity of the electoral process as a vital channel for demonstrating the political choices of young Africans. Another demographic factor that has been found to shape voter turnout is gender. Amoateng, Kalule-Sabiti and Heaton [17] show that, in general, women are two thirds as likely to turnout as men, with the gender gapping turnout varying extensively across African countries through time.

3. Methodology

This study is a non-experimental research setting based on survey design. It involves the gathering of information about the voter's turnout and 2019 governorship election in Chikum local government, Kaduna State. Structure questionnaire were used as method of data collection. The data gathered for the study were subjected to descriptive and inferential statistics. The descriptive statistics involves the use of simple percentage.

3.1. Geographical Location of the Study

The study area is Chikum local government area of Kaduna state, Nigeria. Its headquarters is in town of Kujama. It is located between latitude 10°31'500" North and longitude: 7°27'400" East and has an area of 4,645 km, and had a population of 368,250 at the 2006 census. Sa GbagyiI, His Royal Highness Dr. Danjuma Shekwonugaza Barde of Gbagyi Traditional Council, Kaduna State, is the traditional ruler of the area. The jurisdiction of the royal Chief covers parts of Kaduna South Local Government Area of Television village and Romi New Extension. Chikum Local Government derives its name from a Gbagyi village named

Chikum in the south-eastern part of Kujama. The area was originally populated by the Gbagyi people but is now being subsumed by urbanization making it a cosmopolitan part of Kaduna.

3.2. Population, Sample Size and Sampling Techniques of the Study

The population of this study comprises of the teachers of primary and secondary schools located in the local government area, Business men and women, farmers, civil servant and people from none of the category mentioned. A stratified random sampling technique was used in selecting the respondents. Ten (10) respondents were chosen from selected primary schools in the area, ten (10) from secondary schools selected in the area, ten (10) Farmers, ten (10) civil servant and twenty (20) Business men and women, ten (10) from none of the category mentioned above, and total of seventy (70) respondents were selected as the sample size.

4. Data Presentation and Analysis of Results

Data Presentation

Demographic Characteristics of Respondents

Table 1. Gender of the Respondents.

Gender	Frequency	Percentage	Valid percentage	Cumulative percentage
Male	21	30	30	30
Female	49	70	70	100
Total	70	100	100	

Source: Field survey, 2019

The table 1 above shows that 21 respondents are male and 49 respondents are female which represents 30% and 70% respectively. The result shows that majority of the respondents under investigation are male. Figure 1 show the clear picture of the sex of the respondents.

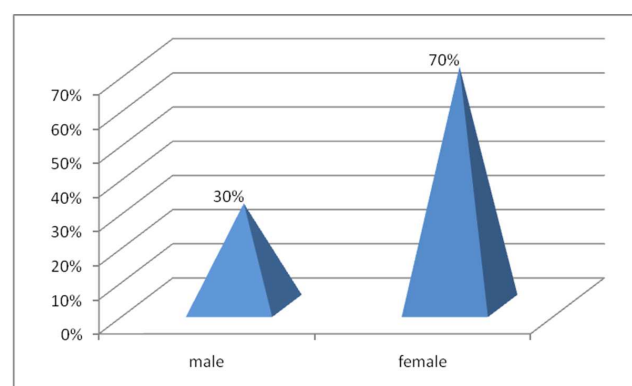


Figure 1. The sex (gender) of the respondents.

Table 2. Age of the Respondents.

Age	Frequency	Percentage	Valid percentage	Cumulative percentage
18-30Years	13	18.6	18.6	18.6
31-40Years	32	45.7	45.7	64.3
41-50Years	21	30.0	30.0	94.3
51&above	4	5.7	5.7	100
Total	70	100	100	

Source: Field survey, 2019

The table 2 above and figure 2 below shows that 13 respondents are between the age 18 and 30 which represents 18.6%, 32 respondents are between the age of 31 and 40 which represents 45.7%, 21 respondents are between the age of 41 and 50 which represents 30.0% and 4 respondent is between the age 51 and above which represents 5.7%. The result shows that majority of the respondents were between the age of 31 and 40 years.

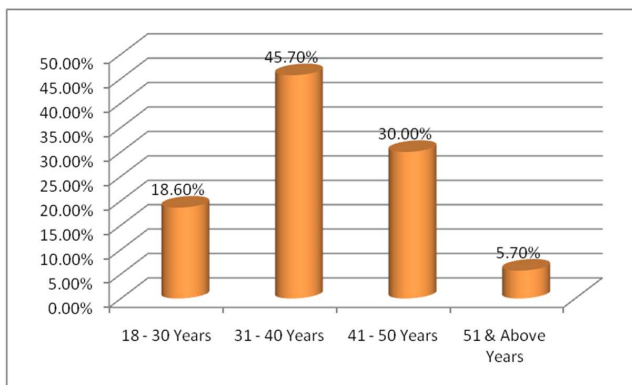


Figure 2. Age of the respondents.

Table 3. Marital Status of the Respondents.

	Frequency	Percentage	Valid percentage	Cumulative percentage
Single	29	41.4	41.4	41.4
Married	38	54.3	54.3	95.7
Divorce	3	4.3	4.3	100
Total	70	100	100	

Source: Field survey, 2019

The table 3 above shows that 29 respondents are single which constitute 41.4% of the study while 38 respondents are married which constitutes 54.3% of the study. 3 (4.3%) are divorced. This result shows that majority of the respondents are married as clearly indicated in figure 3 below.

Table 4. Education Qualification of the Respondents.

	Frequency	Percentage	Valid percentage	Cumulative percentage
Primary School	16	22.9	22.9	22.9
Secondary School	18	25.7	25.7	48.6
NCE/OND	21	30.0	30.0	78.6
HND	9	12.9	12.9	91.5
Degree	6	8.5	8.5	100
Total	70	100	100	

Source: Field survey, 2019

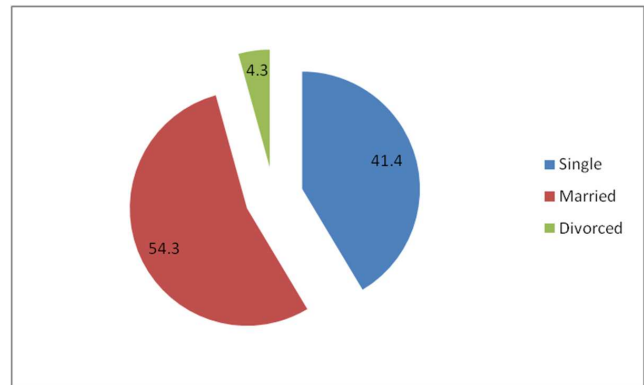


Figure 3. Marital status of the respondents.

The table 4 and figure 4 shows that 16 respondents have primary school certificates which represent 22.9%, 18 respondents have secondary school certificates which represents 25.7%, 21 have NCE/OND which represents 30.0%, 9 with HND which represents 12.9% and 6 respondents have degree certificates which represents 8.5%. The result shows that more of the respondents are NCE/OND holders.

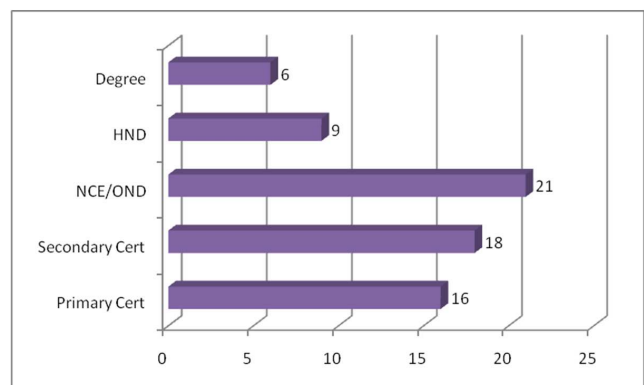


Figure 4. Educational Qualification of the respondents.

Table 5. Occupation of the Respondents.

	Frequency	Percentage	Valid percentage	Cumulative percentage
Teacher	22	31.4	31.4	31.4
Civil Servant	13	18.6	18.6	50.0
Farmer	8	11.4	11.4	61.4
Business	25	35.7	35.7	97.1
None	2	2.9	2.9	100
Total	70	100	100	

Source: Field Survey, 2019

The table 5 above shows that 22 respondents are teachers in both primary and secondary schools in the area which represents 31.4%, 13 respondents are civil servant which represents 18.6%, 8 respondents are farmers which represents 11.4%, 25 respondent are business men and women which represents 35.7% and 2 respondents are not in any of the category mentioned in the study.

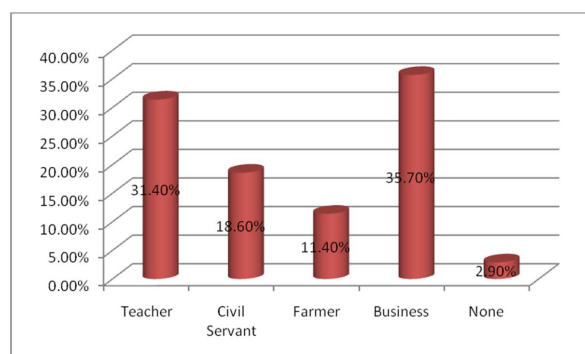


Figure 5. Occupation of the respondents.

Data Analysis

Table 6. Did you come out to vote during the 2019 Gubernatorial Election?

	Frequency	Percentage	Valid percentage	Cumulative percentage
Yes	39	55.7	55.7	55.7
No	31	44.3	44.3	100
Total	70	100		

Source: Field survey, 2019

Table 6 above shows that 39 respondents which represent 55.7% came out to vote during the 2019 gubernatorial election in Kaduna State, and 31 respondents which represent 44.3% only do not come out to vote during the 2019 gubernatorial election in Kaduna State. Despite the fact that those that came out to vote are more than those that do not come out, the percentage of those who failed to come out during the election is very high (44.3%).

Table 7. Was there any form of awareness by the government before the election date in Chikum Local Government?

	Frequency	Percentage	Valid percentage	Cumulative percentage
Yes	63	90.0	90.0	90
No	7	10.0	10.0	100
Total	70	100	100	

Source: Field survey, 2019

The outcome of the questionnaire in table 7 indicated that 63 respondents which represent 90% agreed that there was awareness by the government before the gubernatorial election in Chikum Local Government, Kaduna State., 7 respondents which represent 10% strongly disagreed. We conclude that there was awareness by the government before the election date in Chikum as 90% of the respondents agreed.

Table 8. Do you think that your vote counted in the 2019 gubernatorial election in Chikum Local government?

	Frequency	Percentage	Valid percentage	Cumulative percentage
Yes	5	7.1	7.1	7.1
No	65	92.9	92.9	100
Total	70	100	100	

Source: Field survey, 2019

The table 8 above shows that 5 respondents agreed that their vote counted in the 2019 gubernatorial election in Chikum Local government which represents 7.1%, 65 respondents disagreed that their vote do not count in the 2019 gubernatorial election in Chikum Local government which represents 92.9%. This response implies that voter's votes were not counted in the 2019 gubernatorial election in Chikum Local government as 92.9% of the respondents are with that opinion.

Question 9: What was the effort made by the government to make people come out to vote during the 2019 gubernatorial election?

Responses: 41 respondents (58.6%) says that the government do not make any effort to encourage the people to come out to vote during the election while 12 respondents which represent 17.1% of the entire sample size says that, the government make awareness in the media on the need for people to come out and vote during the election. 17 respondents (24.3%) do not say anything on this matter. These responses indicated that, there was less attention given by the government in terms of motivation or encouragement to voters to come out and vote during the election in Chikum local government area of Kaduna State.

Question 10: Why do you think that people did not come out to vote in the 2019 gubernatorial election?

Responses: The responses to question ten shows that, 43 respondents which represents 61.4% of the population of study says that they refused to come out and vote during the 2019 gubernatorial election in Chikum because they were discourage with the outcome of the presidential election result as it does not reflect the true nature of the votes cast during the election. It implies to them that the same will happen in the gubernatorial election as their votes will not be counted. 13 respondents which represent 18.6% say that, they refused to come out to vote because they are aware of the desperation of the governor in power and he can do anything to win the election. They said they were scared of possible attacked by the security agents and political thuds of the governor in power. 11 (15.7%) respondents refused to come out to vote because of the delay in bringing the election materials in the area by the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) which they observed during the presidential election. While the remaining 3 of the respondents do not answer the question which they represent 4.3%.

Question 11: How do you think turnout during the 2019 gubernatorial elections in Chikum Local Government affected the election result?

Responses: 59 (84.3%) of the respondents says that there was

a low turnout of voters during the gubernatorial election in Chikum local government and the low turnout do not affect the election as those that come out and votes, their votes do not count. Coming out to vote or not does not affect the result as ballot papers were printed and thumb print even before the election. 11 (15.7%) of the respondents do not respond to the question.

Question 12: In your opinion, would you say that the high presence of security in the 2019 gubernatorial elections in Chikum has an effect on voter's turnout?

Responses: 61 (87.1%) respondents says that, the high presence of security in the 2019 gubernatorial elections in Chikum does not have any effect on voter's turnout as the reason for the low turnout was as a result of different factors not security issue while 5 (7.1%) respondents agreed that the high presence of security in the 2019 gubernatorial elections in Chikum has an effect on voter's turnout. The remaining 4 (5.7%) respondents do not answer the question.

Summary of Findings

The statistical analysis used in this study revealed that people came out to vote during the 2019 gubernatorial election in Chikum local government but not as expected. Majority of the respondents believed that they refused to come out and vote during the 2019 gubernatorial election in Chikum because they were discourage with the out come of the presidential election result as it does not reflect the true nature of the votes cast during the election. It implies to them that the same will happen in the gubernatorial election as their votes will not be counted.

5. Conclusion and Recommendations

Whether low voter turnout is a threat to democracy depends largely on the difference between those who participated and those who do not. Majority of the respondents believed that they refused to come out and vote during the 2019 gubernatorial election in Chikum because they were discourage with the outcome of the presidential election result as it does not reflect the true nature of the votes cast during the election. It implies to them that the same will happen in the gubernatorial election as their votes will not be counted.

In view of this, the study proposed a promoting of compulsory voting with provisions for it in the constitution. In this situation, citizens are obliged to register and vote in elections. A situation where an eligible voter does not vote, they should be subjected punitive measures such as fines and imprisonment.

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