JOURNAL OF POLITICAL DISCOURSE
ISSN Print: 2992-2763 – ISSN Online: 2992-4618 | Vol. 3, No. 3 / September, 2025
https://www.jopd.com.ng

ASSESSING THE IMPACT OF VOTERS' EDUCATION ON ELECTION IN NIGERIA: A DISCOURSE OF THE 2023 ELECTION

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Abstract
The imperative of voters' education has become a recurring decimal in Nigeria's political history specifically since the beginning of the fourth republic in 1999. This is not unconnected with the obvious fact that education is necessary for the success of any election in Nigeria. This study interrogates the link between voters' education and election in Nigeria focusing on the 2023 general elections. The objectives were first to ascertain if limited level of knowledge among voters accounted for wrong thumb printing during election.Secondly to find out if poor awareness campaign before election affects voter's turn out during election. Documentary and survey were relied on as methods of data collection, inferential statistics of chi-square (X^2) and content analysis were used as method of data analysis. Under documentary, the study utilized well-researched text books, journals, government document among others for the survey, we draw a sample size of 401 from a total population of ninety-three million four hundred and sixty nine thousand and eight, (93469,008) registered voters for the 2023 general election in 176,846 polling unit. We predicated our analysis on the theory of democratic consolidation. The study found that one, there is a relationship between level of knowledge (education) among voters and wrong thumb printing during election, two, that there is a link between public awareness campaign before election and voters' turn out during election. The recommendations are that firstly, the importance of education must be repeatedly stressed to improve the level of knowledge among voters. Secondly, government should intensify efforts towards improving the magnitude of public awareness campaign before election, finally teachers must be properly paid since they are the people responsible for imparting knowledge from primary school to university level.

Keywords: Election, democracy, voting procedure, electoral process, INEC

Introduction

The termvoterss' education is generally used to describe the dissemination of information, materials and programmes designed to inform voters about the specifics and mechanics of the voting process for a particular election (Adejumobi, 2000). Voter education involves providing information on who is eligible to vote; where and how to register; how electors can check the voter lists to ensure they have been duly included, who the candidates are including how to file complaints (Abbas & Haruna,2022).

In Nigeria the level of citizen participation in the electoral process has dwindled, largely because of poor sensitization, (Nwankwo, 2002).Elections isriddled with tension, conflicts, crises and fraud such that it is difficult to use them as a barometer of the peoples' choice.

They have assumed dictatorial postures.politicians manipulate elections and tend towards sit-tight syndrome (Adejumobi, 2000).

However, Nigeria encountered both progress and challenges in conducting elections and promoting voters' education. The Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC), was established as the body responsible for organizing and overseeing elections in the country. But the early years of democratic elections faced difficulties such as irregularities, voter apathy, political violence, and allegations of electoral fraud.

In response to these challenges, various stakeholders, including civil society organizations, international partners, and the Nigerian government, intensified their efforts to promote voters' education and enhance the electoral process. These efforts involved the development of voter education programmes, the establishment of voter education centres, and the use of media platforms to disseminate information on elections and voter rights(Amao & Ambali 2022).

The functions articulated in the 1999 constitution and Electoral Acts, (2010) as amended has failed to address the issues of voters' education since 1999 till date. One of the primary challenges in Nigerian election is the limited level of knowledge and education among voters. It has been observed that, many citizens, particularly those in rural areas, lack understanding of the electoral process, including voter registration, voting procedures, and the significance of participating in elections particularly the 2023 general election. This lack of awareness impedes the effective exercise of voting rights and undermines the democratic process in Nigeria. Other challenges. include inadequate registration centres, long queues, insufficient registration materials, and technical difficulties in capturing accurate biometric data.

The above issueshad resulted to the exclusion of eligible voters and the disenfranchisement of many citizens. Insufficient polling units, malfunctioning voting machines, inadequatesecurity arrangements, and delays in the delivery of election materials. These hadcontributed to delays, during election, voter frustration, voters' apathy and even violence during the electoral process.In the light of the foregoing, this study becomes imperative as it focus on assessing the impact of voters'education on election in Nigeria a discourse of the 2023 general election. The logical justification for this periodization is that the issue of education as it pertains to election has assumed a formidable dimension in the recent years.

Statement of the Problem

Section 18(1) of 1999 constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria stated that, government shall direct its policy towards ensuring that there are equal and adequate educational opportunities at all levels. Section 18(3) of the same constitution states that, government shall strive to eradicate illiteracy, and to this end it shall as and when practicable provide in paragraph a, c and d free, compulsory and universal primary education, free university education and finally, free adult literacy programme which would have enhanced voting process.

Also, 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria and the Electoral Act (2010) as amended were framework saddled with the following functions: firstly, ensuring the conduct of free, fair, and credible elections by organizing and overseeing the electoral process in a transparent and unbiased manner. It also facilitates voter registration by establishing andmaintaining up-to-date register of voters, assisting eligible citizens in, voter's registration and providing information about the registration process, (Electoral Act, 2022).

Electoral Act also, laid emphasis on the importance of voter education to inform citizens about their rights, responsibilities, and the electoral process. This includes disseminating information on voter registration, voting procedures, candidates' profiles, and other relevant electoral information. Therefore, it developed and publishes an electoral timetable and guidelines that outline the timelines and procedures for various electoral activities, such as voter registration, party primaries, campaign periods, and election day logistics.

Therefore, elections in Nigeria have been marred by incidents of violence and insecurity. Political rivalries, ethnic tensions, and the activities of armed groups leading to intimidation, harassment, and loss of lives during election campaigns and on election day the above problems characterized the 2023 election. This paper argued that low level of knowledge among voters is partly responsible for the above enumerated problems.This does not only undermines the credibility of the electoral process but also discourages voter turnout and participation.

One of the primary challenges in Nigeria 2023 general electionwas the limited level of knowledge and education among voters. It has been observed that, many citizens, particularly those in rural areas, lack understanding of the electoral process, including voter registration, voting procedures, and the significance of participating in elections. This lack of awareness impedes the effective exercise of voting rights and undermines the democratic process in Nigeria. It is this frustrating level of awareness and knowledge among voters that necessitate this studyIn the light of the above therefore The study intends to provide answer to the following research questions:

Does the level of knowledge among voters account for wrong thumb printing during election in Nigeria?

Is there any relationship between public awareness (education) campaign before election and voters turnout during election in Nigeria?

Objectives of the Study

To ascertain whether the level of knowledge amongvoters accounted for wrong thumb printing during voting in Nigeria.

To examine if there is arelationshipbetween public awareness campaign before election and voter turnout during election in Nigeria.

Conceptual issues

The following terms are hereby conceptualized for absolute clarity of this paper. A voter is an eligible Nigerian citizen who has registered and possesses the right to participate in the electoral process by casting a vote during an election, while voter's education involves the provision of information and the promotion of awareness among voters regarding their rights, responsibilities, and the electoral process(Chime 2009).

According to him, Voter registration is the procedure by which qualified citizens register their information with the Electoral Commission to become eligible voters.Independent National Electoral Commissionis the body responsible for the organization, implementation, and oversight of elections by ensuring that the electoral process maintainsintegrity and transparency while enforcing electoral laws and regulations.**A voter card**, also known as a Permanent Voter Card (PVC), is an official document issued by the IndependentNationalElectoral Commission to registered voters which serves as proof of registration and becomes a necessary tool to cast vote during elections, (Nwankwo 2002).

A polling unit is the smallest and most fundamental operational entity for voting in Nigeria which is a designated location where voters go to cast their votes on election day (Nwankwo, 2002).Accreditation is the process of verifying the identity of voters at the polling unit.A ballot paper is a printed document on which voters indicate their preferred candidate or political party which also contains a list of candidates and political parties participating in a specific election (Chime, 2009).Polling Agent is an individual appointed by a political party or candidate to oversee the electoral process at a specific polling unit.

Collation is the process of gathering and summarizing the results from different polling units.Election Petition is a legal action initiated by a candidate or political party to challenge the outcome of an election (Igwe, 2002).Limited Level of Knowledge among Voters are describes as a scenario in which voters have insufficient understanding or awareness of the electoral process, candidates, political parties, or critical issues at stake in an election. Wrong Thumb Printing occurs when a voter mistakenly or inaccurately marks their thumbprint on the ballot paper, resulting to an invalid vote. (Nwankwo, 2002). Public Awareness Campaign is an organized effort to inform, educate, and raise awareness among the general public about the electoral process, voter rights and responsibilities, and encourage voter participation.

Voter turnout refers to the percentage or number of eligible voters who actually cast their votes in an election.Lack of Transparent Competition among Political Parties refers to a situation where there is a perceived or actual absence of fair and open competition among political parties.It involve instances of restricted access to the political arena, unequal distribution of resources or media coverage for different parties, or manipulation of the electoral process to favor a specific party or candidate (Igwe,2002).Political unrest refers to a state of social or political turmoil characterized by protests, demonstrations, violence, or other forms of civil unrest (Nwankwo, 2002).

Voter Registration Procedures encompass the rules, requirements, and processes that eligible citizens must follow to register as voters.Integrity of the Electoral Process refers to the extent to which elections are conducted in a fair, transparent, and impartial manner. It includes factors such as adherence to electoral laws, unbiased administration, prevention of fraud or manipulation, and ensuring equal opportunities for all candidates and political parties. (Igwe, 2002).

Limited level of knowledge among voters indicates a scenario where voters possess insufficient understanding or knowledge regarding the political system, candidates, issues, or the electoral process. It suggests that voters may lack access to accurate and comprehensive information about candidate platforms, their stances on crucial matters, or the potential consequences of their voting decisions.

Voter turnout refers to the proportion or quantity of eligible voters who participate in an election by casting their votes. It serves as a measure of civic engagement and the level of public involvement in the democratic process. A high voter turnout indicates a greater degree of political interest and engagement among the electorate, whereas a low turnout suggests disinterest and apathy. Voter turnout is a significant gauge of the strength and vitality of a democracy, as it reflects the extent to which citizens exercise their right to vote and contribute to the governance of their country or community.

Education is the process of acquiring knowledge, skills, values, beliefs, and habits. It typically occurs through various methods such as teaching, training, story-telling, discussion, and research. Education can take place formally in schools and universities, informally through life experiences and interactions with others, or even through self-study and

reflection. Its ultimate goal is to empower individuals to understand the world around them, contribute meaningfully to society, and achieve personal fulfillment.

Philosophers has made important contributions to the conceptualization of education below. for Plato: "Education is teaching our children to desire the right things., **Aristotle**: "Education is the best provision for old age., **John Dewey**: "Education is not preparation for life; education is life itself.", **Nelson Mandela**: "Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.,**Malcolm X:** "Education is the passport to the future, for tomorrow belongs to those who prepare for it today., **Albert Einstein**: "Education is what remains after one has forgotten what one has learned in school., **John F. Kennedy:** "Let us think of education as the means of developing our greatest abilities, because in each of us there is a private hope and dream which, fulfilled, can be translated into benefit for everyone and greater strength for our nation.These quotations illustrate various perspectives on the purpose and importance of education not only in Nigerian election but that of the world at large.

Education and election in Nigeria

The political parties' campaigns for the 2023 general election in Nigeria began on September 28, 2022, for the Presidential and National Assembly elections, and on October 12, 2022, for the Governorship and State Houses of Assembly elections. According to Section 94(1) of the Electoral Act (2022), campaigns were allowed to run for 150 days before the polling day. Overall, the campaigns and political party activities leading up to the election progressed relatively smoothly, but they were still plagued by longstanding issues.

One major problem with political campaigns in Nigeria is that they often lack focus on substantive issues and instead revolve around hate speeches, indecent language, the exploitation of ethnic and religious sentiments, and personal attacks on specific candidates. This problem is exacerbated by the failure of political parties to adopt clear ideological positions and base their campaigns on those positions. Without clear ideological differences, campaign rhetoric easily descends into personal insults, slander, and heated verbal disputes.

In such circumstances, issue-based campaigns are seen as a solution to personality-driven campaigns that can undermine political stability. An issue-based campaign is an organized effort to educate the voting public about specific issues important to a candidate or party and mobilize voters to support their positions in a responsible manner. In comparison to previous elections, there seemed to be a determination among the candidates in the 2023 general election to focus more on issues rather than personalities.

This determination was evident in their willingness to engage in dialogues, debates, and town hall meetings. However, these efforts were minimal in nature. While many candidates tried to focus on issues, their supporters engaged in personal verbal disputes. The Situation Room, an organization monitoring the election, organized a series of televised town hall meetings involving the presidential candidates and their running mates. However, on social media platforms, especially twitter and whatsapp, supporters of different candidates engaged in vicious personal attacks, slander, and sectional mobilization. The spread of fake news, misinformation, and disinformation online further exacerbated the situation. Social media platforms hosted harmful memes and jokes targeting specific candidates, undermining the essence of election campaigns. Some of the above anomalies was due to low level of education as argued in this paper. The experience with the 2023 election campaigns highlights the need for greater efforts by stakeholders to expand voter education and counter disinformation.

The Situation Room noted that the shortcomings of the February 25, 2023, Presidential and National Assembly elections appeared to have negatively impacted voter turnout during the Governorship and State Houses of Assembly elections held on March 18, 2023. The Situation Room's observations indicated a worrisome level of voter apathy in this election. While voter turnout for state-level elections was historically low.

The disappointment following the conduct of the February 25th, 2023, elections and security concerns in various parts of the country also affected turnout. On February 23rd, 2023, Nigerians received shocking news of the assassination of Mr. OyiboChukwu, the Senatorial candidate of the Labour Party for Enugu East Senatorial District, and five of his supporters by unknown individuals. The Situation Room is concerned that this attack could impact the political atmosphere in the state and increase tension in the South East region of the country. Later that same day, the convoys of Senator. Rabi'uKwankwaso, the Presidential candidate of the New Nigeria People's Party (NNPP), and Abba Yusuf, the People's Democratic Party (PDP) candidate, were attacked in Kofa town, Bebeji Local Government Area, Kano State. In Lagos State, the atmosphere remains tense following violent incidents that occurred earlier in the month. In addition to the absence of issue-based campaigns, the 2023 general election campaigns have witnessed a high level of violence. These incidents resulted in the deaths of 24 people; with over 20 others injured (Abbas &Haruna, 2022).

Methodology

Methodology refers to the basic principles and assumptions of an inquiry (Issak, 1969). For Kaplan as quoted in Cohen and Manon (1980), methodology helps us to understand and in broadest possible terms not the product of scientific inquiry but the process itself.This study adopted the combination of both documentary and survey methods. Documentary report involved the use of text books, articles, online materials and well-researched journal articles among others.

The survey involves the use of questionnaire to generate reliable response from specific questions. We chose the use of questionnaire for this study because of the nature of the research questions which call for such design.This is because survey research has a goal of gathering people's attitude, beliefs and asking them questions (Johnson and Joslyn, 1995).Both primary and secondary sources of data collection were used in this paper.

Data will be presented and analyzed using simple percentage, frequency table, inferential statistics of chi square and content analysis base on thematic presentation. The content analysis will be used to verify the stated hypotheses. Finally, multiple and logistic ex-post facto design analysis based on practical occurrence of incidence will be used to determine the composite effects of some independent variables on some dependent variables. The thematic method will be used in analysis of the qualitative datawhileinferentialstatisticsofchisquarewasusedtoanalyzedthequestionnaire.

Validity and Reliability

Validity refers to, the extent to which a specific measurement provide data that relate to the commonly accepted meaning of a particular concept (Ugbor*et al.* 2018,). For a measuring instrument to have content validity, one has to ensure that the instrument contains a logical sampling of items (questions) that presumably reflect the characteristics to be measured and correspond with it in some consistent fashion.

As regard validity of this study, we adopted the content or face validity method together with the use of external criterion to ascertain the veracity of the findings of the instrument. The content or face validity entails the need to ensure that the questions asked were logically

linked. The external criterion approach, on the other hand, entailed comparing the results of the instrument with the existing knowledge about the issue under investigation or even comparing the results of such findings with available records on the issue.This we did using current happening in contemporary elections like that of 2023.

Reliability on the other hand, is a matter of whether a particular technique applied repeatedly to the sample or object would yield the same results each time. Thus, the questionnaire must be reliable if the questions it contains are repeatedly asked to the sample of people will provide the same answer/result each time (Ugbor*et al.* 2018,). To ensure that the information from the respondents are reliable enough to be used in drawing conclusion, the personnel must be a citizen, registered voters in Nigeria and must be at least eighteen (18) years of age. The above requirements were necessary to ensure accuracy in the result of this paper.

Research Design

A research design is a plan that shows how a researcher intends to fulfill the goals of a proposed study. It indicates what observation will be made to provide answer to the question posed by the researcher, how the observation will be made and the analytical and the statistical procedures to be used once the data are collected (Johnson and Joslyn, 1995). This paper combines the ex-post-facto and descriptive design to cover for the qualitative and quantitative research strategy used.

The ex-post-facto design covers for qualitative and quantitative depending on application. Descriptive design focuses on historical analysis of an event. An ex-post-facto design is used when experimental research is not possible such as when people have self-selected level of an independent variable.

Population of the Study

The population of this study comprises the population strength of the total registered voters of ninety-three million, four hundred and sixty-nine thousand and eight (93,469,008) voters for the 2023 general elections in 176,846 polling units. The voter distribution also reveals that 44,414,846 registered voters were females, and 49,054,162 were males.

Sample and Sampling Technique

A sample is that small part selected from the whole or population, while sampling is the process of selecting a part called (Sample) from the whole (called population or universe) in order to make inference about the whole (Obasi, 1999). We used the Taro Yamane's statistical formula to determine the sample size of the study. This decision was informed by the high level of the formula to control sampling error.

Yamane (1973), stated the formula as follows:
the formula is state below:

$$n = \frac{N}{1 + N(e)^2} + 1$$

Where: n = the sample size

N = the total population (2,523,400)

e = tolerable error normally 0.05% while 1= constant

To substitute here:

1 = constant

$$n = \frac{93,469,008}{1+93,469,008(0.05)^2} + 1$$

$$n = \frac{93,469,008}{1+93,469,008(0.0025)} + 1$$

$$n = \frac{233,672.52}{} + 1$$

$$n = \frac{93,469,008}{233,672.50} + 1$$

n = 400+1

n = 401 This is the sample size

A sample size of 401 was selected using the Taro Yamani formula with 5% error limit of 93,469,008 registered eligible voters in 2023 General Election (INEC, 2023). Likewise the random sampling technique was used for this study to enable adequate representation of the respondents in the different areas the opportunity of being selected.

Theoretical framework

Theory comes from the words “theoria” meaning a well-focused mental look taken at something in a state of contemplation in other to grasp it. In addition,a theoretical framework is a device for adopting or applying the assumptions, postulations, and principles of a theory in the description and analysis of a research problem (Nwanne 2023).

It is that dynamic explanatory devise for linking the problem of a study to relevant theory. Since some theoretical frameworks have higher explanatory power than others, it is important to apply the most relevant one in any research undertaking.However in this study we predicate our analysis on democratic consolidation theory.Juan J. Linz and Alfred Stepan are credited with introducing the theory of Democratic consolidation. They defined it as a situation where democracy becomes so firmly established that no political actor can try to overthrow it.They established five reinstating forces as pillars that support it.Such forces are civil society political society, rule of law, afunctional bureaucracy and economic society.Linz and Stepan (1978) further extensively analyzed the obstacles and procedures associated with establishing and maintaining democratic systems in different parts of the globe. Their research has had a significant impact on the field of comparative politics and the study of democratization processes. This theory focuses on the processes through which democracies establish stability and resilience. Utilizing this framework, one can examine Nigeria's advancements in consolidating its democratic institutions and practices, including the role of voters' education in fostering democratic consolidation.

The theory has made significant contributions to the comprehension and enhancement of democratic processes in Nigeria.The theory establishes a normative framework for assessing the quality and stability of democratic systems. It underscores the importance of democratic norms, institutions, and practices in achieving political stability and legitimacy.

Democratic Consolidation Theory emphasizes the significance of robust and effective democratic institutions, such as electoral commissions, political parties, and an independent judiciary. This emphasis contributes to the development of strong electoral processes and systems. The theory sheds light on the challenges encountered during the transition from an authoritarian regime to a democratic system, underscoring the need for a gradual and inclusive process. It promotes stability by addressing potential threats to democracy, such as military interventions or political violence caused by poor educational background. It is based on the above analytical power that this theory becomes most appropriate in the explanation of the above paper.

Application of the Theory

The application of the democratic consolidation theory to the discourseof assessing the impact ofvoterseducation and election in Nigeria in 2023 is significant. This theory posits that establishing a democratic system is not a singular event but an ongoing process that necessitates various factors for democracy to take root and endure. According to the democratic consolidation theory, several essential components and conditions contribute to the consolidation of democracy.

These encompass the presence of robust democratic institutions like an independent judiciary, a free and vibrant media, and a strong civil society. Additionally, upholding the rule of law, safeguarding human rights, and conducting regular and fair elections are vital elements in the consolidation of democracy. Through the application of the Democratic Consolidation Theory, analysts and policymakers can evaluate the progress and challenges in the democratic development of a country or region. They can assess the effectiveness of democratic institutions, identify areas of weakness or vulnerability, and devise strategies to address them.

According to the Democratic Consolidation Theory, a robust and consolidated democracy necessitates the active participation and informed engagement of citizens. Voter education plays a crucial role in achieving this objective by equipping citizens with the necessary knowledge and skills to make well-informed choices during elections. Its aim is to enhance their understanding of the electoral process, political parties, candidates, and the issues at hand. In the Nigerian context, the application of the Democratic Consolidation Theory to voter education entails developing comprehensive and accessible educational programmes that cater for a wide range of citizens.

By providing citizens with accurate and impartial information, voter education can help counteract the influence of misinformation and propaganda, which can undermine the integrity of elections. It also empowers citizens through politicaleducation to critically evaluate political candidates and parties, encouraging them to make choices based on merit, policies, and the long-term interests of the country.

Moreover, when applying the Democratic Consolidation Theory to elections in Nigeria, emphasis is placed on ensuring free, fair, and transparent electoral processes. This entails strengthening electoral institutions, enhancing their independence and capacity to effectively administer elections. Measures such as improving voter registration systems, ensuring

adequate security during elections, and implementing transparent vote counting and result announcement procedures may be implemented.

Additionally, the theory emphasizes the significance of building trust between citizens and electoral authorities. This can be achieved through open communication, public consultations, and establishing mechanisms for citizens to express concerns and provide feedback on the electoral process

Data Presentation and Analysis

A sample size of 401 was selected using the Taro Yamani statistical formula with 5% error limit of 93,469,008 registered eligible voters in 2023 General Election (INEC, 2023). Likewise the random sampling technique was used for this study to enable adequate representation of the respondents in the different areas the opportunity of being selected.

This section deals with the presentation and analysis of data collected for the purpose of this study. It is divided into two sections: Section one deals with the bio-data of our respondents while section two deals with the test of hypothesis proper. A total of 401 questionnaires were distributed or administered to our respondents, 396 were returned, 2 were not returned and 3 were wrongly completed and found unsuitable for the study. The 396 questionnaires were found valid for analysis.

This study used theRensis Likert scale of measurement popularly called Likert scale, which is a five- point scale in which the intervals between each point on the scale is assumed to be equal. Itis used to register the extent of agreement or disagreement with a particular statement of an attitude belief of judgment (Tuckman, 1972). Example of how theLikert scale is used are SD= Strongly Disagree, D= Disagree, N= neutral, A= Agree and SA= Strongly Agree.

Population OfThe Study

Thepopulation of this study consist of 401 randomly selected person 10 from each states and FCT. 26 persons from Kano and 25 from Lagos making 401. This was done in a random manneras earlier stated see distribution below:

Table 1: SelectionOf Votersin Nigeria

STATE	No. of Selected Voters
Abia	10
Adamawa	10
Akwa-Ibom	10
Anambra	10
Bauchi	10
Bayelsa	10
Benue	10
Borno	10
Cross River	10
Delta	10
Ebonyi	10
Edo	10
Ekiti	10
Enugu	10
Gombe	10
Imo	10
Jigawa	10

Kaduna	10
Kano	26
Katsina	10
Kebbi	10
Kogi	10
Kwara	10
Lagos	25
Nasarawa	10
Niger	10
Ogun	10
Ondo	10
Osun	10
Oyo	10
Plateau	10
Rivers	10
Sokoto	10
Taraba	10
Yobe	10
Zamfara	10
FCT	10
Total	**401**

Source Author's computation and field work 2025

Section One: Socio Demographic CharacteristicsOr Bio-data Of Respondence

Based on our sample size, a total of 401 questionnaire were distributed to our respondents 396 were returned, 2 was not returned, and 3 was wrongly completed and found not suitable for the study so 396 questionnaire were valid for this study

Table2: Frequency Distribution of Respondent According to Sex

Gender	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	235	59
Female	161	41
Total	**396**	**100**

Source: field survey, 2025

From the table1 above, it is observed that 235 respondent are male representing 59% while 161respondent are female representing 41%.

Table 3 Frequency Distribution of Respondents According to Age

Year	Frequency	Percentage (%)
18- 20	23	6
21- 30	47	12
31- 40	93	23
41- 50	154	39
51 and above	79	20
Total	**396**	**100**

Source: Field Survey, 2025

From table 2 above, it is observed that 6% of the respondents are 18- 20 years of age, 12% are between 21 and 30 years of age, 23% between 31 and 40 years, 39% are between 41-50 years while 20% are above 50 years of age.

Table 4: Frequency Distribution of Respondent According to their Educational Qualifications

Educational Qualification	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Primary, WASCE or its equivalent	47	12
OND, NCE/Diploma Certificate	55	14
HND/B.SC. DEGREE	164	41
M.BA, M.A/M.SC. ED.	113	29
PH.D, Professor	17	4
Total	**396**	**100**

Source: Field Survey, 2025

The table above shows that 12% of respondent hold primary, senior certificate examination or its equivalent, 14% holds OND, NCE/Diploma Certificate, 41% hold HND, B.SC, LLB OR degrees, and 29% hold M.A, M.BA/M.SC OR M.ED. Qualification and 4% hold Ph. D/ Professors.

Marital Status

Table5Frequency Distribution of Respondents According to their Marital Status

Response	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Single	166	42
Married	212	54
Divorce	18	4
Total	**396**	**100**

Source: Field Survey, 2025

From the above table it was observed that 166 respondents are single representing 42%, 212 of the respondent representing 54% were married with majority while 18 respondents are divorce representing 4%.

Table 6 Testing hypothesis one **There is a relationship between level of knowledge (education) among voters and wrong thumb printing. During election in Nigeria**

RESPONSES	**FREQUENCY**	**PERCENTAGE (%)**
SA	153	39
A	166	42
N	9	2
D	23	6
SD	45	11
TOTAL	**396**	**100**

Table 7 Testing hypothesis two **There is a relationship between public awareness campaigns before elections and voters turnout during elections in Nigeria.**

RESPONSES	**FREQUENCY**	**PERCENTAGE (%)**
SA	163	41.2
A	168	42.4
N	4	1
D	28	7.1
SD	33	8.3
TOTAL	**396**	**100**

Table 8: Calculation of Chi-Square X^2 to test hypothesis one. **There is a relationship between level of knowledge (education) among voters and wrong thumb printing during election in Nigeria**.

The statistical formula for chi square is mathematically stated below
Formula

Thus $^{x2} = \sum \frac{(o-e)^2}{e}$

Where $\sum$ = Summation of the scores or zigma

$_0$ = Observed frequencies

e = Expected frequencies

Responses	0	E	o – e	$(o-e)^2$	$\frac{(o-e)^2}{e}$
SA	153	79.2	73.8	5,446.44	68.77
A	166	79.2	86.8	7,534.24	95.13
N	9	79.2	-70.2	4,928.04	62.22
D	23	79.2	-56.2	3,158.44	39.88
SD	45	79.2	- 34.2	1,169.64	14.77
TOTAL	396				280.77

Decision rule

Level of significance assumed is 5% that is, 0.05,.Rejectthe null hypothesis if the X^2 calculated is greater than X^2 table value and accept it, if the reverse is the case. Since the calculated value of chi-square (280.77) is greater than the table value (9.488). the null hypothesis is rejectedwhile the alternative hypothesis is accepted, which states that, there is a relationship between level of knowledge (education) among voters and wrong thumb printing during election. Based on the analysis and evidence given in this work, we thereby validate our hypothesis and restated it as the fact thatthere is a relationship between level of knowledge (education) among voters and wrong thumb printing during election in Nigeria.

Table 9: Calculation of chi square toTest Hypothesis two

There is a relationship between public awareness campaign before election and voters turnout during election

Responses	0	E	o – e	$(o-e)^2$	$\frac{(o-e)^2}{e}$
SA	163	79.2	84	7,056	89.09
A	168	79.2	88	7,744	97.77
N	4	79.2	-75.2	5,655.04	71.40
D	28	79.2	-51.2	2,621.44	33.09
SD	33	79.2	- 46.2	2,134.44	29.95
TOTAL					321.24

The decision rule

Level of significance assumed is 5% that is, 0.05, Reject the null hypothesis if the X^2 calculated is greater than the table value at 0.05 and accept it, if the reverse is the case. Since the calculated value of chi-square (321.24) is greater than the table value (9.488). The null hypothesis is rejected and alternative hypothesis accepted, which states that, there is a relationship between public awareness campaign before election and voter turn out during election in Nigeria. Based on the analysis and evidence given in this paper, we thereby

validate our hypothesis and restate it as a fact that there is a relationship between public awareness campaign before election and voters turn out during election in Nigeria.

Findings

The study was set to interrogate the nexus between Voters education and election in Nigeria, from our finding we discovered that there is a relationship between level of knowledge (education) among voters and wrong thumb printing during election in Nigeria as revealed by our respondents The above findings conform with the idea of Chime (2009), Park and Lee (2022) Abbas and Haruna (2022). This fact is real because when a man is educated it will definitely reflect in his voting pattern. Our findings also revealed that there is a relationship between public awareness campaign before election and voters turn out during election in Nigeria. in Nigeria we used contemporary examples to demonstrate the above assertions especially taking a clue from the state of education in Nigeria which can best described as parlous and pitiable

State Of Education In Nigeria

Added to the above findings is the fact that state of education in Nigeria could be best described as unhealthy and below standard. This is so because education standard is fast dropping on daily bases. A situation where a West African school Certificate holder may not be able to express himself well is not good enough and it is not encouraging especially when compared with a standard six certificate holder in the 1960's and 1970's. We were then the envy of many developed and developing nations". That was when education was given adequate attention by both the government, the parent and the students but these glory lost as a result of neglect, corruption and mismanagement.

Concluding Remarks

This study accessed the impact of voter's education on election in Nigeria specifically on the 2019 and 2023 general elections. Issueslike level of knowledge (education) and wrong thumb printing during election, public awareness campaign before election and voters turn out during election were concretely discussed

In the course of this study, especially concerning voter's education and election in Nigeria, focusing on 2019 general election we arrived at the conclusions that it is the absolute lack of knowledge or education among voters that led to wrong thumb printing during election. Again that the inability of government to increase public awareness before election was responsible for low turnout of voters during election, couple with paucity of real recognition of the outstanding performance of teachers ranging from primary school to university level. All these issues amount to the fact that poor education constituted the problem which inform the basic argument of this paper.

Recommendations

Given the identified challenges and logical arguments of this paper as reflected in our research questions, we recommend as follows firstly, the importance of education must be repeatedly stressed to increase the level of knowledge among voters especially on how to do effective thumb printing.This will reduce the volume of rejected votes during election. Secondly, government should intensify efforts at improving the level of public awareness campaign before election since this has positive relationship with voters turn out during election conducted in the country. More importantly teachers must be properly renumerated since they are the people responsible for impacting knowledge, teachers include primary to University level must be well renumerated at this juncture. If the above recommendations are

strictly adhered to, the quality of election will improve,whilevoters education will have more relevance in our democratic experiment.

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