

Election And Voting Pattern in Nigeria: A study of 2015 governorship Election in Bauchi State

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ABSTRACT: *This paper examined the election and voting pattern in Nigeria with particular reference to 2015 Governorship election in Bauchi state. This study adopted quantitative means of data collection. Two research question were raised and answered in the study. The findings of the research empirically proved that voting pattern in Bauchi state is more greatly influenced by ethnic and kinship affiliation than party, issues and ideology. On the basis of findings of this study, it is recommended that, there is urgent need for public enlightenment by appropriate authorities on the dangers of voting based ethnic consideration. Voting a candidates is supposed be based on credibility and competence of contestant not ethnicity, religion and other parochial sentiments.*

KEYWORDS: *Election, Voting Pattern, Nigeria, Bauchi state.*

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I. INTRODUCTION

In life today, many things comes with a pattern. In fashion designing, designers follow a pattern, also shapes in mathematics comes with a pattern, same way with many other variables in life's endeavours. Also in voting, there is a clearly and a visible pattern that electorates follow knowingly or unknowingly in determining who to vote for and who not to vote for. In the United State of America, a clearly visible voting pattern is the tagging of states into Blue and Red states. Red states are those states whose residents predominantly vote for the Republican Party while the Blue state are state that the residence predominantly vote for the Democratic Party as presidential candidates. Voting pattern have a great impact on the outcome of elections but there are some certain factors that determines voting pattern by electorates. In the United States for instance the major factors that influences their voting pattern are "Race, Ideology i.e. liberal, moderates and conservative, also party influences voting pattern. Coming now to the Nigerian polity, the major influential to the voting pattern are Tribe, Party affiliation and Religion, others variables are minimal.

Elections in Nigeria are marred with a political behaviour of rigging, the manipulation of religion, ethnicity, regionalism and nepotism as observed by Olayode (2015), Metumara (2010), &Rufa'I (2011). Voters are voting during elections based on their affinity with leaders that belong to the same religious groups, ethnic cleavages, region and other sentiments. Elections were marred with the culture of rigging, malpractices, intimidation of both voters and opposition, use of violence and political thuggery most especially by the ruling party using the power of incumbency. This at times invited military to overthrow the civilian regimes. This process leads to many Republics in the country emerging and disappearing constantly.

The history of Presidential elections in Nigeria which took place ten times; twice during the First Republic, Twice during the Second Republic, once in an Aborted Third Republic and five times in the present Fourth Republic is characterized with impunity, religious bias, ethnicity, regionalism, tribalism and rigging. Voting pattern is mostly based on the above qualities instead of issue-based campaign and elections. The political behaviour of voters is that of having their votes casted on those whom they belong to the same ethnic, religious and regional affiliation even if the other candidate is better and has an outstanding record of better performance.

Historically, in the world, Nigeria and Bauchi in particular, several factors such as historical experiences, new happenings and performance of previous regime determine the voting pattern of the populace. In Nigeria, for instance, people voted for Obasanjo for the first and second term election that is 1999 and 2003 elections to show their support to his regime. In Bauchi electorates voted for Ahmed Adamu Mu'azu of PDP in the first and second term but shifted their votes to IsahYuguda of ANPP during 2007 governorship election. During April 11,2015 Governorship election, the people of Bauchi state decided to shift their support to All People Congress(APC) instead of the ruling People Democratic Party (PDP). These changes in Bauchi populace's voting pattern indicates the influences of electoral behaviour by voting out PDP Administration and consequently replaced it with Muhammad Abdullahi Abubakar under the banner of All people congress (APC) as Bauchi state Governor.

Statement of the Research Problem

Since the return of democracy in 1999, the factors influencing political behaviours in Bauchi State have been left to speculation. This is largely due to political development in the state which many describe as unpredictable. Unlike 2015 presidential election in which the PDP candidates (president Goodluck Jonathan) graciously concede defeat to APC candidates (president Muhammadu Buhari) before the official announcement of the winner of the election by INEC. In Bauchi State, 2015 Governorship election left many people unsatisfied. This is largely due to what happened before, during and even after the election. This irregularities and unlawful behaviours include stuffing of ballot box, changing of result, violence and malpractice. Infact, new style of rigging which involved political office holders getting their security personal use force in full public view to rig the election has been introduced by some incumbents. The governorship election result is still in court as result of people dissatisfaction.

Research Questions

Fundamentally, this study will attempt to answer the following questions.

- I. What are the reasons that led electorates to vote out PDP candidates in 2015 gubernatorial election in Bauchi State?
- II. What are the conditions which influence one's decision to vote in a particular election?

Objectives of the Study

The objective of the study are:

- III. Find out the reasons that led the electorates in Bauchi state to vote out the PDP candidates in the April 11, 2015 governorship election.
- IV. Identify possible conditions which might have influence people's propensity to vote in an election in Bauchi state.

II. LITERATURE REVIEW

Many scholars have argued and written much on election and voting pattern in Nigeria. This leads to a large and continuously expanding literature on voters and their behaviours during elections. Voting behaviour is one of the major forms of political behaviour. It is however always discussed in relations to elections. One of the first studies in the field was conducted by Cutright and Rossi (1958) where they stated that the election outcome is a bundle of several factors; "the characteristic of the candidate, the activities of the competing party organizations, the processes of communications and the influence involving the mass media and informal groups, and finally, the social and psychological characteristics of individual voters.

Olayode (2015) opined that general elections are generally portrayed with dominance of ethno-religious sentiments as determinants of voting behaviour and political participation across the country. According to Olayode (2015): "From the presidential through gubernatorial, national and state assemblies' elections, aspirants were largely chosen on the basis of ethno-regional identities. In the presidential election, the president and vice president elect received almost 90 per cent of their votes on the basis of ethno-regional identity. Similarly, the incumbent president received en masse votes from his ethno-regional zones". This has been the culture in Nigerian political theatrical arena where votes are allotted according to ethnic allegiance and religious sentiments by each particular section or group in the country where their candidate emerge irrespective of whether he will win through their votes or he will loss.

Tenuche (2009) indicates that political behaviour in Nigeria is full of incinerating and abusive language by both the contestants and the electorates. He cited former President Olusegun Obasanjo in 2007 elections where he said elections is a war and you must win by all means possible. This further interpreted revealed that, in order for the incumbent to win elections, they did not rely on voters' power but through the use of coercive and subjugative method such as political thuggery, rigging and even political assassination. The electorates are inculcated with such attitude too and it formed a kind of political behaviour among the voters during an election process. Thus, the voting pattern is such in a way that voters are sometimes coerced to vote for a particular candidate or even abandon voting because it will not even count.

Wogu et al (2015) also believed that democracy and elections in Nigeria is affected by poor institutionalisation of democratic values and culture. According to them, inter-ethnic competition or tribalism is a great weakness which leads to instability in Nigeria's democracy. In addition, constitutional democracy became so fragile in Nigerian state because it was imported. For instance, the Second Republic came to an end as a result of rioting in the Southwest and Southeast that followed the Northern candidate was announced as victorious in the 1984 Presidential election. The military took over immediately. This was as a result of political behaviour and voting culture of the electorates on the perception that only a candidate that emerges from their ethnic or regional or even religious groups can win or rule.

Metumara (2010) examined that political behaviour and voting pattern in Nigeria is affected by an amalgam of rival ethnic groups that were set against each other in a fierce rivalry in a struggle for power and

competition for control of scarce resources and this has been visible in the political processes. This sometimes even threatens the corporate existence of the country. This scenario has been rooted since colonial era and any political arrangement during colonial administration that is convincing failed. It takes the intervention of military to avoid the full eruption of ethno-religious conflict into national war. But, with the resurgence of democracy in 1999 exploded the politics of ethno-religion where voting pattern is anchored around ethnic and religion choice of candidate.

One other main issue that determines political behaviour and affects voting pattern in Nigeria is religion. Nigeria is mainly divided among Muslim/Christian dichotomy. For instance, Ukiwo (2004) observed that since Nigeria's political independence in 1960, ethno-religious factor determines largely who becomes what in Nigerian politics. Onapajo (2012) believed that Nigerians are more loyal to religion than state. This according to him can be observed from the trend of what he termed "Religiosity of politics" where religious affinity determines the outcome of election in a democratic dispensation. This affects voting behaviour of the electorates and one can never imagine doing away with the influence of religion in Nigerian election.

Apart from ethnicity and religion, other issues that determine political behaviour and voting pattern of electorates in Nigeria include rigging of elections, Prebendalism, manipulation and political violence. Osayi (2015) and Apowoghaga (2014) examined that Godfatherism is the major factor in determining who will get the platform of contest among political parties and to a larger extent, the emergence of the winner in the general election. Some powerful cabals constituted themselves into a gangster that influence who should be elected. They sponsor these godsons and manipulate the electoral process to ensure he emerges by hook or crook means.

In some other time, politics of money influence voters' behaviour as observed by Orji (2009) that then politics of give and take is very much influential in the emergence of winners in any election in Nigeria. Politicians indulge in the habit of giving out money during campaign and elections in order to secure the votes of the electorates and this culture has been normalized to the extent that, no matter how good a candidate is, if he could not give out money he may likely lost out in the elections.

Aluko, M (2002) submitted that 'no matter how popular you are, your honour, reputation, integrity, records and desire to render selfless service if you do not have money, you are a joker .Elective posts usually go to the highest bidder.'

Ademowagun (2015) submitted that 'some people think Nigerians only vote based on ethnicity and religion, however, the voting behaviour is not so one-directional. He identifies six types of voters that are most prevalent in Nigeria:(1)The revolutionist(2)The partisans(3)The ethicists(4)The devotees(5)The sophisticated(6)The cynics.

Theoretical Framework

Depending on the motives during voting, which are given attention, in the sociology of politics and political science there is a domination of three theories: the sociological theory of voting, which is also called Columbia school of explanation of voting, the Psychological theory of voting i.e. the party identification theory, which is often called the *Michigan school* and the Economic theory of voting.

While many scholars have employed variety of analytical models to examine voting pattern empirically, this research adopted conflict theory to explain the voting behaviour of the population. Broadly, theoretical perspectives on classical Marxism and third world radical tradition were employed. People in Bauchi state, they struggle between themselves in order to gain power. In military set up is by force or coup de tat while in a democratic system, of government is through election. The electorates make election in order to gain their social, or economic wants satisfied. However, among the electorates, there are two contending classes of people common man and political elites that struggle in order to achieve their interest.

In addition, the voting behaviours of these two classes of people will be in a continues conflict situation as their wants differs. For these reasons, the research adopted Marx and Engels conflict theory which perceived society as follows; Society mostly composed of two people, the masses – who were not ready to accept an establish authority as reflecting the general interest and the 'ruling elite' who exercised this authority for the supposed advantage of the entire community. For Marx and Engels, state are categorized into four,

Fist as coercive organization or and organised coercion used by the ruling class of the opposition of another (exploited) class; secondly, a class rule as a result of inconsolable class of conflict. Thirdly, as a mechanism of social co-operation in which the ruler and the ruled have some common interest and lastly as a means of government machine, a special organism separated from the civil society through the social division of labour (In Selucky, 979;57).

For this, in line with the second conception of a state, Braji further observed that;
Conflicts are inevitable in any society due to simple diversity of ideas or different material or non-material interest. They also compete because government create and allocate values and usually not every done throughout the society. (1983; 1).

The reasons for chosen this theory was as result of political development in Bauchi State which is characterized by series of intra and inter-party conflict and rivalry. The justification of the above conflict can be seeing clearly on the political activities in the state before, during and after the election.

To ascertain the above assertion, the political atmosphere in the state created series of conflict which force many supporters or electorates to change from one political party to another. Even Barrister M.A.Abubakar the present Governor of Bauchi state was among the people who was force by intra-party conflict to change from his original political party (P.D.P) to APC with his supporters. Again, the immediate Governor of Bauchi state, Malam IsahYuguda was also a victim of conflict, before contesting for Governorship election in 2007 election, he was also force to change from People Democratic Party (P.D.P) to All Nigeria People Party (A.N.P.P)

III. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Sources of Data, sample and sampling methods

This research involved the use of both primary and secondary sources data while the Sampling method entails the “way sample units are selected from a parent population”(McNabb, 2009:127).This study used a combination of cluster and systematic sampling techniques in determining the unit and size of the population and questionnaires distribution. The area of study, Bauchi state has twenty local government areas and three senatorial zones. Furthermore, the three senatorial zones constituted the units of the study.For each of the three units of the study, one local government was systematically selected, making the sum of three local government areas. The three local government areas selected are Bauchi Local Government, as the state capital, representing Bauchi South Senatorial Zone; Ningi Local Government, representing Bauchi Central Senatorial Zone and Katagum Local Government, representing Bauchi North Senatorial Zone. The selection of these local government areas, to represent their respective Senatorial zones, is due to the fact that they are well known centres of politics, trade and commercial activities in their senatorial zones. Accordingly, the local governments are also divided into wards and three wards are selected on the basis of raffle draw which represented the local government area. The selected wards are Dankade, Dawaki and Dan-amar, representing Bauchi Local Government Area; Ningi east, Burra and Kurmi wards, representing Ningi Local Government Area; and Nasarawa, Kafinkuka and Yaju, wards representing Katagum Local Government Area.

Questionnaires are also distributed fairly among the three local governments. The 2011 population projection provided that Bauchi local government area has 228,325, Ningi local government has 181,366 and Katagum Local Government Area has 137,577 population of 18 years and above.; and the total number of the projected population of 18 years and above in the three local government areas is 547,268 and thus, 547,268 formed the actual population size in this research.

Statistically, to get the actual number of questionnaires that were administered in each local government area, the research divided the projected population of 18 years and above of each selected local government to the actual population size of this research which is 547,268 and multiply it with the number of questionnaires generated from Krejcie and Morgan (1970) scale which is 384. For instance, if one taken says Bauchi Local Government, the result shown that 228,325 divided by 547,268; it gave us 0.4172088 and multiplied it by 384; one got 160.2 into one significant figure. Therefore, 160 questionnaires were administered in Bauchi Local Government Area, and the same formula were used in arriving at the number of questionnaires administered in other two local government areas, Ningi and Katagum, 127 and 97 questionnaires respectively.

IV. RESULTS

The factors influencing political behaviour in Bauchi State have been left to speculation. This research is based on three hundred and eighty four (384) questionnaire distributed out of which only eight hundred (380) were duly collected or returned back. All the findings was discussed based on three hundred and eighty (380) questionnaires successfully collected from the respondents. Data would be presented in table of numbers on left and percentages on the right followed by a brief analysis.

TABLE 1: SEX OF RESPONDENTS

SEX	NUMBER	PERCENTAGES
MALE	230	60.50
FEMALE	150	39.50
TOTAL	380	100

Source: survey research, 2017.

In the question of sex 230 (60.50%) of the respondents were males while 150 (39.50%) were females. That is the electoral activities involves and effects both male and female. For example, the political activities like elections, campaigns and registration of voter entails both male and female.

TABLE 2: AGE DISTRIBUTIONS OF RESPONDENTS

Age Group	Male	%	Female	%	Number	%
21-30	50	22	22	15	72	19
31-40	70	30	43	29	113	30
41-50	50	22	35	23	85	22
51-60	35	15	30	20	65	17
61 & above	25	11	20	13	45	12
Total	230	100	150	100	380	100

Source: survey research, 2017.

From the above table 72 (19%) of the respondents are between the ages of 21-30, 113 (30%) of the respondent fall within the age range of 31-40, while 85 (22%) are within the range of 41-50, 65 (17%) of the respondents fall between 52-60 years only 45 (12%) are 61 years and above. This clearly reveals that majority of the respondents are youths. Therefore, the youth being the vanguard of any project or programme, play important role in Bauchi State election activities. This is because they have the zeal and determination for ensuring credible, free and fair election in Bauchi State. Likewise they serve as a watch dog against political domination.

TABLE 3: OCCUPATIONAL DISTRIBUTION OF RESPONDENTS

Occupation	Male	%	Female	%	Number	%
Civil/Public Servant	50	22	40	27	90	24
Politicians	60	26	20	13	80	21
Academicsians	20	19	10	7	30	8
Private/Self Employed	70	30	50	33	120	31
Others	30	13	30	20	60	16
Total	230	100	150	100	380	100

Source: survey research, 2017

The above table of the occupational distribution reveals that 120 (31%) of the respondents are private/self employed (with higher percentages) compared to other professions like civil/public service with 90 (24%), politicians 80 (21%), Academicsians, 30 (8%) and others 60 (16%). This variation occurs due to the fact that majority of the Bauchi State electorates are self/private employed and have more interest or rather are more interested than the rest of professions, this may be due to their political awareness.

TABLE 4: RESPONDENTS EDUCATIONAL LEVEL

Qualification	Male	%	Female	%	Number	%
Primary	50	22	20		70	18
Secondary	60	26	60		120	32
Tertiary	45	19	15		60	16
Qur'anic/ Islamiyyaa	75	33	55		130	34
Others	Nil	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
Total	230	100	150	100	380	100

Source: survey research, 2017.

Table 4.4 illustrates different level of educational background of the respondents. That is 70 (18%) have primary education while those with secondary leaving certificate constituted 120 (32%), those with tertiary education were 60 (16%) and those with Qur'anic/ Islamiyya were 130 (34%) and there were none with the others qualification. This clearly indicated that those with Qur'anic/Islamiyya education participated more in responses of the questionnaires distributed and Bauchi Populace have high number of such people. On the other hand those with secondary qualifications are second in number of people followed by Primary certificate and tertiary institution respectively. They are therefore, competent enough to make reasonable inferences from their observations.

TABLE 5: DID YOU TAKE IN THE 2015 GOVERNORSHIP ELECTION?

Respondents	Male	%	Female	%	Number	%
YES	228	99	149	99	377	99
NO	02	1	1	1	03	1
TOTAL	230	100	150	100	380	100

Source: survey research, 2017.

When asked whether they had voted during 2015 governorship election, in fact, majority 377 (99%) of the respondents said “yes” and only 03 (1%) indicated “No”. It’s clear from the available records that, the majority of the respondents participated in 2015 governorship election in the state.

IF NOT, WHY WERE YOU NOT ABLE TO VOTE?

With regard to the above question, most of the respondents indicated that they were in the school during the election period that is why they were unable to vote. This means that some school still remain in operation during governorship election in Bauchi State. This makes a lot of electorate’s unqualified to votes as they registered at home, not in school and school pooling unit recognized only those that registered there.

TABLE 6: IF YES WHICH PARTY DID YOU VOTE FOR?

Parties	Male	%	Female	%	Number	%
APC	160	70	100	67	260	69
APGA	18	8	9	6	27	7
PDP	50	22	40	27	90	24
OTHERS	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
TOTAL	228	100	149	100	377	100

Source: survey research, 2017.

As seen in the above 260(69%) of the respondents had voted APC, followed by PDP 90 (24%) then APGA 27 (7%) and non for others. This confirm the authenticity of the result release by INEC during 2015 governorship election in which APC candidates emerge victorious with a total 654,934 votes,PDP became second with a total of 282,650 votes and APGA third with a total of 5,460 votes.

TABLE 7: WHAT FACTOR ENCOURAGES YOU TO VOTE THE ABOVE MENTIONED POLITICAL PARTY IN 2015 GOVERNORSHIP ELECTION?

Factors	Male	%	Female	%	Number	%
To change governmental/political leadership	100	44	55	37	155	41
To maintain democracy	40	18	20	13	60	16
To bring justice	38	17	22	15	60	16
To promote progressive idea in the state	26	11	25	17	51	13.5
All of the above	24	10	27	18	51	13.5
None of the above	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
Total	228	100	149	100	377	100

Source: survey research, 2017.

From the above, 155 (41%) respondents who were the highest in figures and percentage opined that they Okayed a change of government and political leadership lead by people Democratic Party (PDP).This in fact shows that the electorate in Bauchi State prefers a political leadership with implementation of democratic ideals. As such, the electorates offered all their necessary support for change of political leadership wherever it did not fulfil the promises undertaken.

Second category of the respondents were 60 (16%) they voted in order to have democratic government due to their level of political awareness, thus, they expect to see and have a democracy which allows people to elect their leaders and peaceful change of government by votes. Also, those need just government constituted 16 (16%) of the respondents. This means that then expectation for doing election was to have a just and fair government or political leadership.

On the same vein, there are those with 51 (13.5%) respondents, who support progressive idea in the state. This means their expectations from political leadership after election was to be progressive in nature.

On the whole there are some respondents who made elections in order to have all of the above mentioned, they were 51 (13.5%). This means that in a general vote, they believed that all the options were among the factors that can make electorates to cast his/her votes in addition; they are all good means for achieving a political leadership that would solve electorate’s problems.

On the other hand from the questionnaires distributed there are none who opined that none of the above was among the factors that encourage them to make their elections.

WHAT DO YOU THINK WAS THE FACTOR THAT MAKES BAUCHI STATE ELECTORATE TO SHIFT THEIR VOTE FROM PDP TO APC IN THE 2015 GOVERNOR ELECTION?

With regard to the question above majority of the respondents believed that, they made their election in 2015 Governorship election in order to change the political leadership of Bauchi State due to the failure to fulfil campaign promises by PDP led administration headed by Governor Isah Yuguda.it is quite clear that mass

participation in the 2015 Governorship election was to change the political leadership of PDP and replace it with APC, this happened as a result of political awareness and education of the electorates as well as bad leadership experienced during PDP Six years rule.

TABLE 8: DID YOU AGREE THAT THE FACTORS MENTIONED ABOVE ARE ACHIEVABLE IN THE UPCOMING ELECTION?

Response	Male	%	Female	%	Number	%
YES	150	65	90	60	240	63
NO	80	35	60	40	140	37
TOTAL	230	100	150	100	380	100

Sources: Survey research 2017

Table 4.8 when asked whether the factors mentioned above can be achieve in the upcoming governorship election. In fact, Majority 240 (63%) of the respondents said ‘‘ and YES’’ and 140 (37) indicated ‘‘NO’’. It means that, the electorates in Bauchi State are ever ready change the regime who fail to fulfil campaign promises and replace it with more competent hand.

TABLE 9: ARE OF THE OPINION THAT THE REASONS THAT LED PEOPLE OF BAUCHI STATE TO VOTE OUT THE RULING PARTY IN APRIL 11,2015 GOVERNORSHIP ELECTION CAN BE A CONTINUOUS AND APPLICABLE TO ANY POLITICAL PARTY?

Response	Male	%	Female	%	Number	%
YES	170	74	110	73	280	74
NO	60	26	40	27	100	26
TOTAL	230	100	150	100	380	100

Sources: Survey research 2017

Table 4.9 when asked whether the reasons that led people of Bauchi state to vote out the ruling party in April 11, 2015 governorship election can be continuous and applicable to any political party. Majority of the respondents 280 (74%) indicated ‘‘YES’’, 100 (26%) indicated ‘‘NO’’. Therefore, one cannot dispute the fact, that the voters in Bauchi state are ready to change any bad regime regardless of party inclination.

TABLE 14: WHAT IS THE FACTOR THAT INFLUENCES YOUR CHOICE OF CANDIDATES?

Response	Male	%	Female	%	Number	%
Party affiliation	70	30.4	40	27	110	29
Credibility and Competence	60	26.1	30	20	90	24
Ethnic or kinship consideration	100	43.5	80	53	180	47
Total	230	100	150	100	380	100

SOURCE: Research survey, 2017.

When asked about factors that influence their choice of candidates 180 (47%) indicate ethnic or kinship consideration of candidates as influencing their votes, 110 (29%) identified party affiliation while 90 (24%) indicated credibility and competence of contestants influencing their votes.

TABLE 15: TO WHAT EXTENT DO YOU THINK MEMBERS OF YOUR ETHNIC GROUP INFLUENCED YOUR VOTING BEHAVIOUR?

Response	Male	%	Female	%	Number	%
To a greater extent	140	61	70	47	210	55
To some extent	60	26	45	30	105	27
No extent at all	30	13	35	23	65	17
Total	230	100	150	100	380	100

Sources: research survey 2017.

From table 4.15 above, majority of the respondents 210 (55%) indicated that, members of their ethnic group influencing their voting behaviour and 105 (27%) indicated to some extent, only 65 (17%) identified no extent at all. In conclusion, when going through the research questions the data analysis revealed that people in Bauchi State participated in election because of the awareness of the candidates(s) contesting in the elections. And that the conditions which influenced people decision to vote in election is not competence of contestants or party affiliation but ethnic and kinship consideration, therefore, lack of voting in an election do not reflect incompetence or poor qualification of candidates.

V. CONCLUSION

In conclusion, when going through the research questions the data analysis revealed that people in Bauchi State participated in election because of the awareness of the candidates(s) contesting in the elections. And that the conditions which influenced people decision to vote in election is not competence of contestants or party affiliation but ethnic and kinship consideration, therefore, lack of voting in an election do not reflect incompetence or poor qualification of candidates.

Having noted the perception of the election by the community members of the area under study i.e. Bauchi state and from my observation the following recommendations is hereby made. Bauchi State political leadership should put more effort in order to fulfil their promises which entails provision and maintenance of good governance. There is a need for cordial relationship between electorates and political leadership both at federal and state to foster democracy and good governance.

In order to improve the Bauchi State electoral behaviour upon what it is, political leadership must be committed by improving the electorate's political education, likewise, orderly conduct of elections for the whole state should be in conformity with the rules and regulation of Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC)

As for the campaigns before elections, there is a need to use the good language or terms in order to achieve the aims of democracy in the State. Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) should make special provision for student which would qualify them to vote at any place of learning or school authority should give them a chance to go and vote in their home or where they have registered. Because a large number of student were in School during election period. Therefore, there is need for strong law which would ensure the closure of school during election or any other alternatives by INEC so that student would not be disfranchised

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