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E-Voting & Electorate Attitude in 2023 Election in Nigeria

¹ Charles, Chinedu, Nzenwa
(Ph.D. Student)

² Prof. Henry Ozuru

³ Prof. Emeka J. Okereke

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¹ University of Port-Harcourt Business School,
Sani Abacha Road, GRA, Port Harcourt,
Rivers State, Nigeria
c.nzenwa@yahoo.com

² University of Port-Harcourt Business School,
Sani Abacha Road, GRA, Port Harcourt, Rivers
State, Nigeria

³ University of Port-Harcourt Business School,
Sani Abacha Road, GRA, Port Harcourt, Rivers
State, Nigeria

Abstract: The successful implementation of electronic voting or counting in an election should have as a first step a comprehensive project management plan. The management plan should detail the steps necessary for effective implementation, the schedule for these steps, as well as the personnel responsible for carrying them out, and should identify risks associated with the implementation and how these risks can be addressed. The study's three aims are to determine the impact of electronic voting on voter attitudes in the Rivers State election of 2023. TAM was utilised as the study's theoretical framework. A closed-ended Likert-Scaled questionnaire was used to collect the data, and descriptive statistics and simple percentages were employed to analyse the results. The results showed that religion, culture, technology, and ethnicity all had an impact on the opinions of the electorate in Rivers State. It was most concluded that votes are cast during elections with ethnicity as the major determining factor. Among other issues, the paper recommended that, because the country needs major restructuring, the people of Nigeria need to look inward to elect the best among all aspirants devoid of any ethnicity, religion and culture sentiments..

Key words: E-voting, Technology, Ethnicity, Religion, Culture, Voting Behaviour, TAM.

Introduction

Corruption and monetary policy, ballot box robbery, ballot box stuffing, ballot inflation, brawls, violence and manipulation of election results have led to the introduction of electronic voting, tech, e-voting and trustworthy elections in Nigeria (Arthur, 2014; Serdült, Germann, Harris, Mendez & Portenier, 2015). Electronic voting is an electoral procedure that enables electronic balloting, ballot counting, and transmission of election results from polling stations to the headquarters of the elections administration (Alvarez, Hall & Trechsel, 2009; Saglie & Segard, 2016). Voting is an important part of any election and entails the processes of electing leaders or representatives into positions of authority in a democratically arranged system of government. According to scholarly observation, many developing nations of the world, this process of voting is usually marred with manifold irregularities such as falsification of results,

identity theft, stolen of ballot boxes, multiple voting problems, double voting, over voting, and electoral fraud just to mention a few (Ahmad, Abdullah & Arshad, 2015; Musa, Ayo & John, 2011; Folorunso, OgunseyeO, OkesolaJ & Olaniyan, 2010; Momodu & Omogbhemhe, 2013; Moses, Charles, Samuel, & Aderonke, 2015). A dependable and interference-free voting system is ensured by the use of Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) placed at polling places. In July 2021, the two chambers of the nation's legislature approved a bill that amended the electoral legislation.

In order to address the issues that arise during elections, electronic voting technologies are being used in Nigeria. According to Alvarez, Hall, and Trechsel (2009), electronic voting technology is anticipated to hasten ballot counting, lower the cost of staffing a manual counting station, and increase accessibility for voters with impairments. Additionally, we expect spending to be lower in the long run. Faster reporting and publication of results are possible. This e-voting requires Nigeria to pay close attention. It is vital to determine the bare minimum of knowledge held by citizens. Nevertheless, the creation of a legislative body under new election guidelines has allowed individuals to make more informed choices (Trechsel & Gasser, 2013). There haven't been many studies that look at how people feel about various voting laws. The implementation of electronic voting was required by the problems with Nigerian elections (Alvarez, Hall, & Trechsel, 2009). E-voting and voter attitudes in Nigeria are examined in this study. The study's focus is only on Rivers State in southern Nigeria because of the country's extensive geography.

Statement of the Problem

Because it is more transparent than traditional voting, electronic voting has been essential to raising voter turnout. Election-related issues that are significant to Nigerians include: safety, the economy and corruption, tribal components, religion, ballot theft, political assassination, etc. Multiple voter registration, falsifying names to cast ballots, registering children and those who aren't entitled to vote, printing, filling out, or destroying ballot boxes, and wilfully withholding election materials are all prohibited. Multiple and minority ballots; unauthorized falsified reporting of results; Harassing candidates, party agents, and/or voters, among others. The negative aspects of elections fall under the issue of election administration. Elections and election campaigns have therefore become emblematic of the problems of democracy in Nigeria. This study advised thinking on the following issues: How will voter attitudes in Nigeria impact the e-voting elections in 2023? In terms of participation, preparation, procedures, feelings, and attitudes, how do young people who would vote view the usage of the 3-Day Voting? Voter perceptions of the use of electronic voting systems are an intriguing question. Nigeria, a nation beset by so many challenges on all fronts, deserves competent governance that ensures electronic voting will bring in a legitimately elected administration. Any nation's democracy depends on voter participation, and using electronic voting is very advantageous to Nigeria and Rivers State specifically.

Aims & Objectives of the Study

The purpose of the study is to determine how e-voting would affect voter attitudes in the Rivers State election of 2023, with the following particular goals:

- I. Examine how technology will affect voter attitudes in the Nigerian election of 2023.
- II. Analyse how culture affects voters' attitudes in Nigeria's elections in 2023.
- III. Analyse the impact of religion on voter attitudes in Nigeria's 2023 elections.
- IV. Analyse the impact of ethnicity on voter attitudes in Nigeria's 2023 elections.

Scope of the Study

The 23 local government areas in Nigeria's Rivers state will be the primary area of focus for the study, which has a narrow scope. More than 3.6 million people in Rivers State are registered to vote.

Theoretical Framework

Davis (1985) proposed the Technology Acceptance Model (TAM), which serves as the foundational framework for this essay. Information technology adoption is explained by the TAM, a behavioural paradigm (Davis, 1989). The idea contends that behaviour is a result of perceived utility and perceived simplicity of use, claiming that these two elements have a linking influence with peoples' intended applications of technology (King & He, 2006; Dez, Valencia, & Bermdez, 2017). Therefore, a person's perception of a technology's utility is linked to their assumption that doing so will improve the technology's performance. The assumption that adopting technology will involve less effort to perform a task is also linked to perceived ease of use (Davis, Bagozzi & Warshaw, 1989; Chalela, Valencia, Bermdez & Ortega, 2016). These two elements have a direct bearing on one's attitude towards using technology, which, in accordance with Ajzen & Fishbein (1977), is a learned inclination to react favourably or unfavourably to a given item. Therefore, from a general perspective, the adoption and use of e-voting technology depends on its applicability. Since several scholars have discovered that technologies with less complexity have a higher likelihood of adoption, these factors should and must be core areas in terms of a system's functionality.

Literature Review

E-Voting Concept

Voters can cast and have their ballots counted electronically (referred to as "electronic voting" or "EV"). It comprises direct-recording electronic systems (DREs), optical scan systems, punched cards, and electronic voting machines (EVMs). It equally applies to the transmission of votes using private digital networks, the telephone, or the internet (Freyer, 2017). According to the author, there are typically a couple of primary kinds of electronic voting available: supervised electronic voting, which is done in front of election officials (for example, using a machine at a polling place), and remote electronic voting, which is done in the voter's home or other private location without the election officials' direct supervision (for example, using a personal computer or a mobile device to cast a ballot). In an electronic voting system, election data is primarily recorded, stored, and processed as electronically transmitted data. Electronic voting, often known as electronic balloting, is the process of casting a ballot using modern technology.

E-voting has been deemed to have a tendency to foster civic responsibility in the next generation of leaders since it has been essential in enhancing member participation and facilitating the accomplishment of the most significant civic duty. E-voting has also been noted to improve community resilience by uniting community sectors that are unlikely to have interacted otherwise (5). According to a report (Sylvia et al., 2013), the design and execution of electronic voting have the potential to reduce the wait times and expenses associated with voting for residents who might otherwise need to travel to the community to cast a ballot or who would vote by mail if that option was available. Nnaeto and Ndoh (2018) claim that e-elections increase electoral participation; specifically, they claim that Nigerian youths will be more likely to use e-voting due to its accessibility and convenience.

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The main e-Voting Systems Types:

The voting equipment that electronically marks and casts ballots is known as a Direct Record Electronic (DRE). The term "ballot marking device" (BMD), sometimes known as "electronic ballot marker" (EBM), refers to a technology that allows voters to cast their ballots online. Makhora (2018) claims that government agencies are currently working to educate youth about the legislation and create youth-focused policies to help them participate in more political campaigns. Voting rights courses are taught in educational institutions and these institutions frequently host educational activities that include students, professors, and local politicians (Mityunova, 2020; Mursi et al., 2016). In a consensus-based society, voting is a crucial tool for making decisions, and democracy depends on effective election administration (Vasil et al., 2016). Electronic voting has been found to have a huge potential to raise turnout and reduce participation requirements due to the prevalence of prevarication on the internet and usage patterns, but its technical complexity also creates hurdles to voting. As participants in democratic structures, people's political cultures influence their actions and reactions (Okeke 2015). As the demand for trustworthy voting systems has increased over the past 20 years, voting systems have advanced dramatically worldwide (Goodman, 2014). The suspected voter fraud that consistently results in disputed election results, particularly in Nigeria and Rivers State, is the root cause of this requirement. Think about the disputed 2000 US presidential election results. According to Bal (2000), Bush Side Assails Recount, Washington Post, there were numerous judicial battles to challenge the election results following the contentious 2007 Nigerian general election at various levels across the nation.

E-Voting Experience of some Notable Countries

The use of computerised voting systems in Germany was the only issue raised by voters who questioned its constitutionality. The use of electronic voting devices was ruled to be unconstitutional by the Federal Constitutional Court as a result of this. Elections are legally conducted with voting machines in nations like India, Kazakhstan, Brazil, Peru, Russia and the United States, the United Arab Emirates, and Venezuela.

Technology

Technology is considered one of the company's intangible assets. It is ingrained in daily operations and difficult to transfer because tacit knowledge must be learned gradually and at a greater cost (Rodasevic, 1999). Additionally, according to Lin (2003), technology is embodied in individuals, products, cognitive and physiological procedures, facilities, equipment, and tools. According to a claim made by Sabo et al. (2015) and Brown (2005), infrastructures, which comprise hardware and software, are the fundamental components of technology that can be used to understand the objectives of contemporary public administration. A necessary condition for the introduction of e-voting in Nigeria is the lack of extensive biometric data for identification and election monitoring (Umoru, 2012). It's also crucial to consider if Nigeria has the experienced engineers required to handle sophisticated technologies like e-voting. Some pessimists continue to argue that e-voting is not ready for Nigeria due to the dire state of necessary ICT infrastructure, logistics, and knowledge (Iferi, 2011). Currently, a new electronic device that allows for electronic voting has been introduced. It has been suggested that this device carry out the accreditation procedure quickly and communicate the overall number of accredited voters to the main server.

The Senate's approval of a recently passed electoral reform law in Nigeria is a brave, creative, and smart step towards the realisation of credible, open, and free elections in that country. Electronic voting improves representative elections, group decision-making, and participation by offering technology capabilities that enable and ensure openness, confidentiality of votes, and integrity of results. We require electronic democracy in this age of IT and telecommunications, which enables us to use computers and electronic voting devices during elections. EVR and SCR were thus implemented by INEC to increase the legitimacy of Nigerian elections. Each delegate can vote quietly and with confidence that their vote was

cast exactly as they intended thanks to the safe, encrypted two-way communication provided by electronic voting systems.

Culture

Let's start by defining culture. Why is it important? Who is the voter in terms of culture? Culture can be viewed fundamentally as "a way of life" and a set of values that permit preferred interpersonal interactions (Wildavsky, 1987). According to Dreitzel (1977) and Wildavsky (1987), culture has an impact on American politics because it shapes social identities, behavioural norms, and standards of political legitimacy. Political subcultures need to be distinguished from one another because these tend to differ by state and location, according to cultural experts like Daniel Elazar.

In river states, digital voting is frequently seen from a distinct angle that emphasises the social implications of its deployment (Trechsel et al., 2010). The Kalabaris are affected by the traditional beliefs and traditions associated with the Kalabaris due to the diversity of ethnic nations in Rivers State. The different cultures of the Ogonis, Ogbaland, Ikwerres, and others will have a significant impact on how they view electronic voting. Due to the extensive campaigning and electoral reforms implemented, the 2023 e-voting election in Rivers State is predicted to be a success, however concerns have been voiced regarding a lack of public confidence in the system. Electronic voting has not increased the public's involvement in politics or the delivery of public services, despite significant investments made to increase public faith in the system. Considering that many Nigerians including millions of indigenous people in Rivers State still experience poverty and illiteracy, criticism has also been levelled at the government's choice to implement the technology.

Religion

A religion is defined by Oxford Dictionary as the belief in and worship of a supernatural power or powers, particularly a God or gods; a specific system of faith and worship or a pursuit or interest that is pursued with a lot of fervour. The Jehovah's Witnesses, the Catholic community, the Pentecostal community, the Muslim community, and traditional religious worshippers all oppose politics on the grounds that Christians shouldn't become engaged in politics and that doing so is a "dirty play." Nevertheless, because both theology and politics are viewed as being connected, a number of religious communities have started to turn around and involve their adherents in politics. The inference is that there is a significant amount of bias since, in most circumstances, people of the same faith or religion don't care about the character of the candidate they wish to support because they belong to the same religion. From the perspective of Nigeria, the results of this haven't been great for our people's overall well-being.

Ethnicity

Being a member of an ethnic group bestows a sense of ethnicity on all members of the community today's varied society. An identity founded on shared historical and cultural presumptions is called ethnicity. The term "ethnicity" refers to a sense of group identification as well as the traits that make up a group as determined by its members. These conceptions imply that sociocultural phenomena, such as ancestry, culture, and national identity, are what define ethnicity. Negative variables discovered include a lack of confidence in governments and politicians, which was found to be a contributing factor to Election Assumptions.

Nigeria's national politics may be traced to the Clifford Constitution of 1922, which made it possible for parties to form and partisan politics to flourish. As a result, Alfred Diete Spiff of the Ijaw ethnic nationality initially administered Rivers Province prior to the establishment of Bayelsa Province. The individuals that came after him included Dr. Peter Odilli (1999–2007), Sir Celestine Omejia (May–September 2007), Rotimi Chibuike Amaechi (2007–2015), and Nyesom Wike (2015–present). Melford Okiro, who is also of Ijaw descent, Rufus Ada George, Dr. Peter Odilli, and Dr. Peter Odilli were all

Ijaw. This demonstrates unequivocally that upland governors have ruled Rivers State since 1999. It follows that additional ethnic minorities, such the Ogoni and Karabari, were not included in the government's agenda and that they will benefit from this in the elections of 2023.

Concepts of Electoral Attitudes

Voters' involvement in the electoral process and result has an impact on both. Challenges, particularly low voter turnout, must be considered while implementing severe electoral reform measures to guarantee free, fair, and legitimate elections. The nature, causes, severity, and effects of low voter turnout must therefore be thoroughly studied in order to develop ways to solve the issues in the Nigerian context with greater knowledge. Strategies to encourage public involvement and effective electoral participation have been meticulously thought out and should be carefully devised in a country that is working to strengthen democracy after a protracted period of authoritarian military rule. To do this, it is necessary to look at, analyse, comprehend, and take into consideration people's perceptions and attitudes.

Voting Behaviour

In any specific political system, elections have emerged as the most effective means of changing the leadership. Elections are also used to gauge how well-liked political leadership and government are among the general public. As a result, during or prior to any election, voter/electorate attitudes vary from state to state and can be based on socioeconomic-cum-political traits of a particular group of people or nation (Eberechukwu & Boris, 2019). Democracies rely on elections to ensure the legitimacy of their political systems and to promote the representation of popular opinion. The best way to change the leaders in any given political system is through elections, which are also used to gauge public opinion on the effectiveness of the executive branch and political leadership. Accordingly, the attitude of the electorates before or before any election varies from state to state and may be dependent on the socioeconomic-cum-political traits of those individuals or their nation (Eberechukwu & Boris, 2019). In democracies, elections support popular will representation and uphold the political system's legitimacy. Because of how the leader is portrayed in the media as the party's branded image of him, this is very significant (Heywood, 2004).

Before the upcoming election in 2023, when it has been noted that there is a greater desire and interest among the populace to engage in the election and its campaign methods, there has been a significant reduction in party and involvement in electoral processes and politics in Nigeria for some time now; this is notably caused by the assertions below:

Nigeria is among the nations with less successful election management and results because of the electoral laws' ambiguity, constant change, or susceptibility to manipulation; the electoral body's structural weakness; the political actors' and agencies' behaviour resembling that of gladiators; and the populace's frequent helplessness in the face of political and electoral misdeeds. In Nigeria, casting a ballot does not equate to making a decision since political oligarchs make their decisions outside of the confines of established electoral norms, laws, and practises. In such cases, the contest's winners and losers have frequently already been decided, and voters are essentially acting as a rubber stamp for the predetermined choices. (Fawole, 2015:15).

Methodology

To gather data for this study, the survey design was used. The intended audience consisted of citizens of voting age in Nigeria's Rivers state. The research goals were met by collecting data from sources that are both secondary and primary. The collection of primary data involved the administration of questionnaires and interviews, whilst secondary data came from books, reports published by the government, newspapers, periodicals, and online resources. Ten closed-ended surveys and three open-ended queries were included in the questionnaire's design, and it focused on questions pertaining to the research's topic

as well as inquiries concerning the respondents' biographical information. 15 of the 23 local government areas in the three senatorial districts of Rivers State received the questionnaire. In total, 1,244 (3,500) questionnaires were distributed, and 3,350 were collected. Simple percentages and the descriptive statistical approach were used to analyse the data collected. The questions were written in a way that reflected the Likert scale's five possible responses: strongly disagree, disagree, undecided, agree, and agree strongly. The weight assigned to them is given below:

Strongly Disagree	-	1 point
Disagree	-	2 points
Undecided	-	3 points
Agree	-	4 points
Strongly Agree	-	5 points

Tables, frequencies, percentages, averages, and standard deviations were used to summarise, interpret, analyse, and record the data obtained from the well-organized survey that was used.

Population of the Study

The total set of events, people, or interesting objects that the researcher wants to study is referred to as the research population. It is the culmination of all elements that have a particular set of established characteristics. The twenty-three (23) LGAs of Rivers State are the study's target population. However, there are 3,350 telecommunications company personnel who are easily available. A summary of the population is given below.

List of the Twenty-Three Local Government Areas:

Abua-Odual - 100
Ahoada East- 150
Ahoada West- 100
Akuku Toru- 100
Andoni- 100
Asari-Toru- 100
Bonny - 150
Degema - 100
Eleme - 100
Emohua- 100
Etche- 150
Gokana - 200
Ikwerre- 150
Khana - 150
Obio/Akpor - 400
Ogba/Egbema/Ndoni - 100
Ogu/Bolo - 150
Okrika - 150

Omuma - 150

Opobo/Nkoro – 100

Oyigbo – 150

Port-Harcourt a - 350

Tai - 200

Sampling procedure and Sample size, determination

The study used a basic random sampling methodology. The benefit of using this sampling strategy is that it ensures that all possible respondents have an equal probability of being chosen for the study. A relatively tiny, homogeneous finite population is studied using this fundamental probability sampling design.

In determining the sample size, Yamane's (1968) formula was used. The formula is given as;

$$n = N / (1 + N (e)^2)$$

Where,

n = Sample size

N = Population size

E = the error of sample

Applying the formula in determining the sample size of this study, we have;

$$n = (3,350) / (1 + 3,350 (0.05)^2)$$

$$n = 3,350 / (1 + 3,350 (0.0025))$$

$$n = 3,350 / (1 + 8.375)$$

$$n = 3,350 / (9.375)$$

$$n = 357.333$$

Hence, the sample size for this study is 357 electorates.

In determining the distribution of questions to each firm the Bowleys (1964) formula was used, given as;

$$nh = nNh/N$$

Where; nh = The number of questionnaire for each firm

Nh = The number of employees in each firm

n = The total sample size

N = The population.

$$\text{Abua-Odual} = \frac{357 \times 100}{3,350} = 10.66$$

$$\text{Ahoada East} = \frac{357 \times 150}{3,350} = 15.99$$

$$\text{Ahoada West} = \frac{357 \times 100}{3,350} = 10.66$$

$$\text{Akuku Toru} = \frac{357 \times 100}{3,350} = 10.66$$

$$\text{Andoni} = \frac{357 \times 100}{3,350} = 10.66$$

$$\text{Asari-Toru} = \frac{357 \times 100}{3,350} = 10.66$$

$$\text{Bonny} = \frac{357 \times 150}{3,350} = 15.99$$

$$\text{Degema} = \frac{357 \times 100}{3,350} = 10.66$$

$$\text{Eleme} = \frac{357 \times 100}{3,350} = 10.66$$

$$\text{Emohua} = \frac{357 \times 100}{3,350} = 10.66$$

$$\text{Etche} = \frac{357 \times 150}{3,350} = 15.99$$

$$\text{Gokana} = \frac{357 \times 200}{3,350} = 20.11$$

$$\text{Ikwerre} = \frac{357 \times 150}{3,350} = 15.08$$

$$\text{Khana} = \frac{357 \times 150}{3,350} = 15.08$$

$$\text{Obio/Akpor} = \frac{357 \times 400}{3,350} = 40.23$$

$$\text{Ogba/Egbema/Ndoni} = \frac{357 \times 100}{3,350} = 10.66$$

$$\text{Ogu/Bolo} = \frac{357 \times 150}{3,350} = 15.08$$

$$\text{Okrika} = \frac{357 \times 150}{3,350} = 15.08$$

$$\text{Omuma} = \frac{357 \times 150}{3,350} = 15.08$$

$$\text{Ogba/Egbema/Ndoni} = \frac{357 \times 100}{3,350} = 10.66$$

$$\text{Ogu/Bolo} = \frac{357 \times 150}{3,350} = 15.08$$

$$\text{Okrika} = \frac{357 \times 150}{3,350} = 15.08$$

$$\text{Omuma} = \frac{357 \times 150}{3,350} = 15.08$$

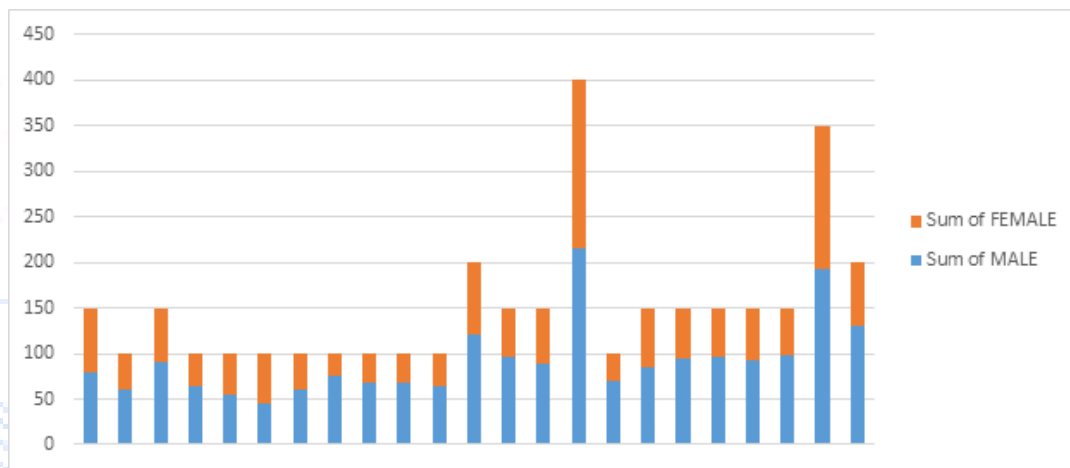
$$\text{Opobo/Nokoro} = \frac{357 \times 100}{3,350} = 10.66$$

$$\text{Oyigbo} = \frac{357 \times 150}{3,350} = 15.08$$

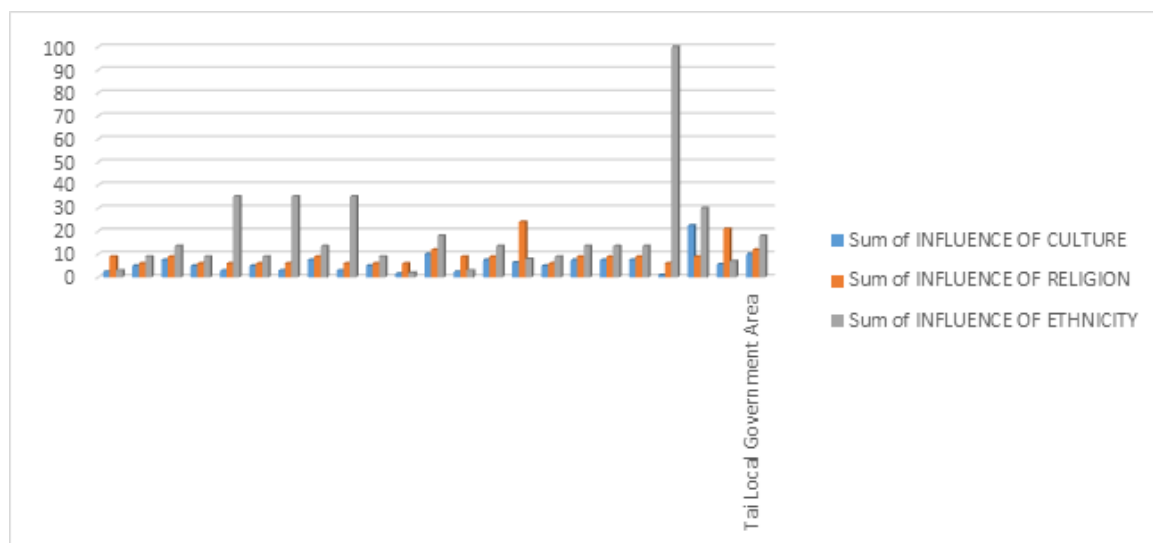
$$\text{Port-Harcourt} = \frac{357 \times 350}{3,350} = 35.20$$

$$\text{Tai} = \frac{357 \times 200}{3,350} = 20.11$$

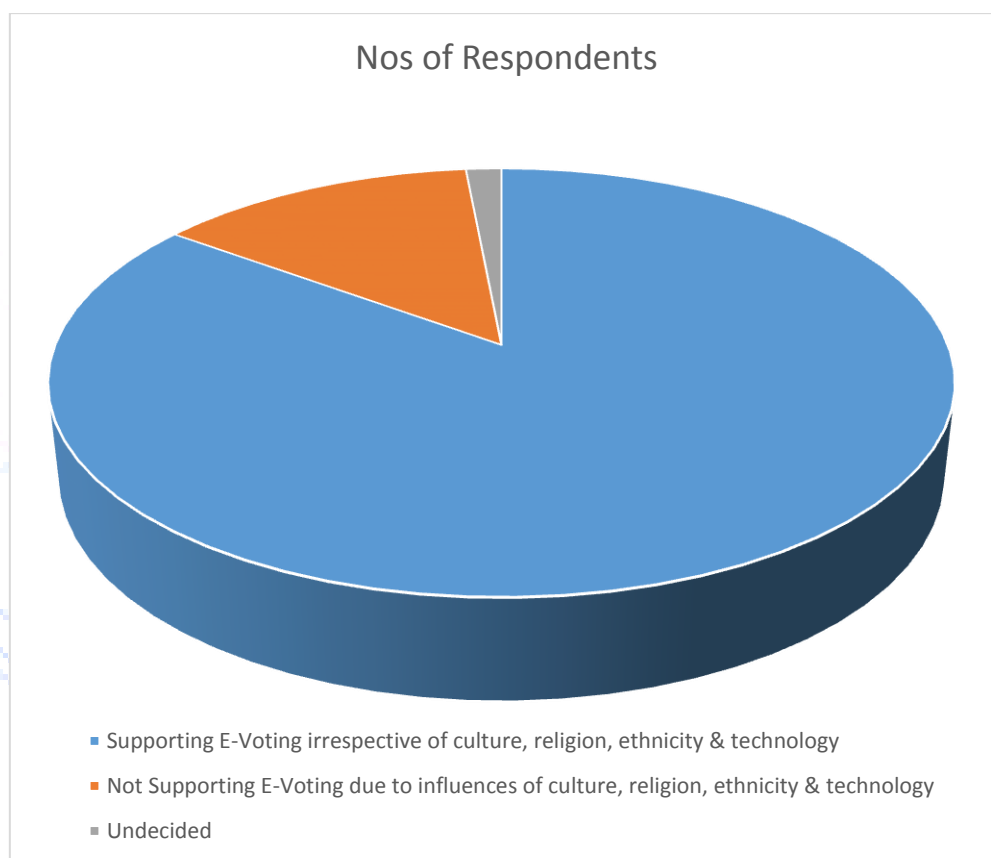
CHART SHOWING THE GENDER DISTRIBUTION



Showing the Influences of Culture, Religion & Ethnicity on Electorate Attitudes in the Twenty-Three Local Government Areas of Rivers State.



Description	Nos of Respondents
Supporting E-Voting irrespective of culture, religion, ethnicity & technology	2,975
Not Supporting E-Voting due to influences of culture, religion, ethnicity & technology	473
Undecided	53
Total	3,500



Analysis of the Results

Figure 1: Using a basic random procedure, the survey respondents were chosen at random. The table displays the overall distributions among the twenty-three Local Government Areas, the gender split, and the impact of culture, religion, and ethnicity on voter opinions in Rivers State.

Ethnicity definitely plays a major role as it significantly affects the sentiments of the electorate in Rivers State, according to the chart that illustrates the influence of culture, religion, and ethnicity. Alfred Diete Spiff, an Ijaw, was the first head of state of Rivers State prior to the establishment of Bayelsa State. He was followed by Melford Okilo also of Ijaw extraction. (1979–1983). Rufus Ada George from Okirika (1992–1993). Dr. Peter Odili (1999 – 2007), Sir Celestine Omehia (May – September, 2007)

Rotimi Chibuike Amaechi (2007 – 2015). NyesomWike (2015 till date). These facts demonstrate how other ethnic nations, such as the Ogonis, Kalabaris, etc., have been blatantly excluded from the government process, and they will influence how they behave during the elections in 2023.

The ethnic influence on Opobo/Nokoro Local Government Area, where the People's Democratic Party flag bearer is from, can also be used to support this. This will have an impact on the level of support a candidate receives.

The last graph illustrates how religion, culture, technology, and ethnicity have an impact on voter opinions in Rivers State. 2,975 (85%) of the 3,500 surveys that were randomly distributed around the State support electronic voting, regardless of the influence of religion, culture, technology, or ethnicity. The sentiments of the electorate towards e-voting will not be impacted by these considerations. A total of 473 people (14%) indicate that religion, culture, technology, and ethnicity will all have an impact on their decision to use electronic voting in the 2023 elections. And finally, 53 people (2%) are still unsure.

Discussion

Therefore, it is important to focus fully on the use of innovative technology in the electoral process. Our ability to create innovative applications that solve many other problems can be extended to improve voting systems through the power of digital technology. Electronic voting, or technological advances in electronic voting, is often advocated to protect the integrity of national voting systems and enable free and fair elections with full transparency and integrated electoral performance. It's been done. The use of electronic voting speeds up vote tallying, reduces the labor costs of manual tallying, facilitates voting for people with disabilities, and reduces election funding. Electronic voting is an electoral process that enables voting, counting of ballots, and transmission of election results from polling stations to the central office of elections administration. This includes the use of Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) installed at polling stations to ensure a reliable and interference-free voting system. With this in mind, the launch of Wardchat, a social networking platform created to digitize Nigeria's voting community, is quite remarkable. Researchers pay little attention to how citizens rate different voting systems. This reflects the limited public knowledge of alternative voting arrangements.

Conclusion

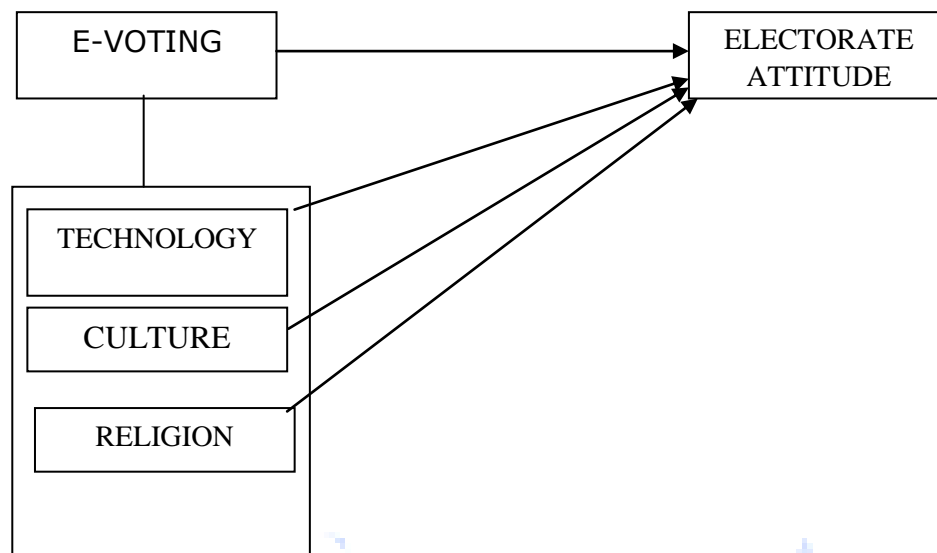
Over twelve languages and ethnic fragmentation are features of Rivers state. This has led to an increase in ethnic militias and violence across the state, and ethnic voting in the form of ethnic blocs has continued to obstruct the democratic process in Rivers State. Since Rivers State's independence, ethnicity has played a significant role in the political environment. Ethnicity does, in fact, have an impact on how political parties are formed in Nigeria, since political parties of the Nigerian First Republic had interests in the numerous ethnic groups that make up the nation, giving political organisations an ethnic character. As a result, voting patterns during elections are largely influenced by ethnicity.

Recommendations

1. Based on the findings, we recommend that voters need serious re-orientation so as to kill this perception of voting based on ethnicity, religion and culture; this is due to the fact that the country is now worse than what it used to be in terms of governance.
2. Because the country needs major restructuring, the people of Nigeria need to look inward to elect the best among all aspirants devoid of any ethnicity, religion and culture sentiments.
3. That the key players in the election processes should as a matter of necessity, be very transparent in the conduct of the election and management of the entire process

Suggestions

This study should be subjected to empirical reviews to further examine the relationship between the Independent variable (culture, religion, technology & ethnicity) & the dependent variable (electorate attitudes). See the conceptual frame work below.



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