

PSYCHO-DEMOGRAPHIC FACTORS AND THE MEDIATING ROLE OF CIVIC KNOWLEDGE ON VOTER APATHY DURING 2019 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION IN NIGERIA

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Abstract

Voter apathy, an aspect of voter behaviour associated with low voter turnout in elections, is a significant challenge to governance across the globe. In Nigeria, voter apathy is a recurring phenomenon particularly in Lagos State. Previous studies on voter apathy in Nigeria have focused largely on specific political issues, with little attention given to individual predisposition. This study, therefore, examined the psycho-demographic (patriotism, fear of election violence, perceived quality of candidate, learned helplessness and age) factors on voter apathy in the 2019 presidential election and the mediating role of civic knowledge among residents of Lagos State. The sequential exploratory mixed-methods (qual-Quant) design involving focus group discussion, key informant interviews and cross-sectional survey techniques were conducted. Simple random sampling was used to identify streets and homes while convenience sampling technique was adopted to select 2340 participants from the six Registration areas (wards) in Lagos State. A validated 54-item questionnaire comprising voter apathy, patriotism, fear of election violence, perceived quality of candidate, civic knowledge and re-validated learned helplessness scales were developed as measuring instruments. The qualitative data were content analyzed, while the quantitative data were analyzed using descriptive statistics, multiple regression and structural equation modeling. Results indicate that patriotism, fear of election violence, perceived quality of candidate, learned helplessness and age increased voter apathy while civic knowledge reduced it. The Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) should create awareness about the civic responsibility of voters towards mitigating voter apathy.

Keywords: Civic knowledge, INEC, Lagos State, Psycho-demographic predictors, Voter apathy, 2019 Presidential election results.

Introduction

In the last couple of decades, the global trends of how countries are governed have tilted towards the use of people's will (democracy). Emphasis has been placed on representative governance in which citizens of the country are empowered to choose those who are to govern them. Countries that practice other forms of governance are increasingly under pressure to change to this universally acceptable type of government. Molutsi and Singh (2003) opined that the pronounced changes might not be unconnected with the collapse of the Cold war in 1989 often referred to as fall of the Iron Curtain (Circa, 1989) which opened the way for the enthronement of democracy in many parts of the world. The only process of enshrining democratic government as reflected in equal or proportional representative of the people begins with the conduct of elections. This means that election is the foundation of democratic rule, and it connotes the act of the people choosing their representatives through voting.

The International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (2000) noted that elections in democracies constitute an important component in ensuring representations of popular will. This process helps to secure the legitimacy of the political system. In the same vein, election is regarded as an important means of political socialization, the practice of political influence and the foundation for democratic stability and renewal (Lindberg, 2006; Diamond, 2010). In fact, elections are described as the hallmark of democratic politics (Dulani, 2005a). Yet, some people choose not to exercise their voting rights, resulting in apathy, which is a prelude to low voter turnout.

In Nigeria, voter apathy is manifested by increase in the number of registered voters who refuse to vote during election, failure to protest election rigging and violence as well as failure to assist security agents with relevant information to address electoral injustice (Yakubu, 2012). High level of low voter turnout is a manifestation of dissatisfaction with the traditional political parties and party structure (Gill et al, 2012).

Nigeria attained independence in 1960 and has witnessed a series of interregnum between the military and politics. The year 1999 marked the beginning of the fourth republic and remained uninterrupted to the extent that the six constitutionally required general elections were held as of 2019. In the year 2007, the general election was regarded as the worst election in Nigeria because of

the imbibed spirit of do-or-die philosophy (Suberu 2007; Omotola 2010; Odio-Akhaine 2009), whereas the 2011 general election was adjudged as the most credible (Egwu, 2011; Gberie, 2011). In 2019 general election, the Presidential election in particular recorded the lowest voter turnout in the annals of Nigeria general elections (Daily trust, 2019). INEC (2019). Reports indicate that the number of registered voters was 82,344,107 while the number of votes cast was 28, 614,190 representing 34.7%. Historical comparison of voters' turnout from the 1st, 2nd and 3rd republics made the 2019 voter turnout marginally similar to the 1979 Presidential election with the recorded number of registered voters as 48,633,782 and votes cast at 16,846,633 representing 34.6% (Vanguard, 25th April, 2011).

The voters' turnout in the general election of 2019 was the lowest in Nigeria since the advent of the fourth republic in 1999 (INEC, 2019). Between 2015 and 2019 general election, over sixteen million (16.8 million) Nigerians grew up to become eligible voters, yet there was a tremendous reduction in the number of voters that participated in the 2019 general election (Nwankwo, 2019). In fact, Nkutt (2019) reported that despite the large number of permanent voter's card (PVC) distributed and collected by registered voters, the turnout during the election was unimpressive.

Although, voter apathy is caused by some citizens (eligible voters), its impact is felt by every citizenry more so when the competencies of those elected representatives are in doubt. This is a citizen deficit that exerts considerable influence on public policies. Studies have confirmed large relationship between the effect of voters' turnout and public policies (Anzia, 2012).

To address the challenge of voter apathy, political parties, civil societies, electoral bodies, government and international agencies usually embark on enlightenment campaigns to inform eligible citizens of the need to register as voter and cast their vote during election. This is in addition to keeping the people abreast of the current affairs of the country.

But as the global perspectives of voter apathy continue to rise despite its negative consequence on the people's choice, it then means there is something fundamentally wrong. Whatever might have brought about the alienation, indifference, disinterest, seclusion, illusion, in a way that the society harbors disenfranchised voters in a large number, regardless of the age- long belief that all human beings are political animals striving to either vote or be voted for, truly deserve attention.

In addition, among the various studies carried out on voter apathy, only few had emerged from Africa and specifically in Nigeria where it exists most. Also, the few studies conducted had methodological inadequacies, as many of them are largely descriptive with restricted quantitative analysis. This study is set out to fill these gaps. Therefore, this study is designed to examine how voter apathy is influenced by psycho-demographic (patriotism, fear of election violence, perceived quality of candidate, learned helplessness and age) factors and the mediating role of civic knowledge on voter apathy.

Voter apathy is manifested by poor or low voter turnout during elections. It encompasses the degree to which eligible citizenry declines to participate in an election. Lindberg (2004) refers to voter apathy as the percentage of registered voters who could vote but did not. According to IDEA (2016), voter apathy is operationalized as voter registration (vote/reg %) which is the percentage of registered voters versus those who turn out to vote on election dates. Yakubu (2012) opined that voter apathy is manifested by increase in the number of registered voters who refused to vote during elections, failure to protest election rigging and violence and failure to assist security agents with necessary information required to address electoral injustice while Omotola (2010) posited that voter apathy is reflected on voter turnout which is dependent on accurate voter register that is presently not in existence in Nigeria.

Umeh, et al. (2025) conducted a study interrogating INEC and electoral outcome in Nigeria with emphasis on voter apathy in the South-East of Nigeria. Using both primary and secondary sources of data that involved content analysis of registered voters and votes cast from 1999 to 2019 in the five States of Anambra, Abia, Enugu, Ebonyi and Imo States as well as interview through social media handle of 30 participants of 6 each from the States. Results indicate that poor electoral management and low level of voter mobilization were the causes of voter apathy in the South-East region. In her study, Ezeabasili (2025) examined voter apathy and political participation during the 2023 gubernatorial election in the Southeast region of Nigeria. Using secondary data collection methods involving textbooks, journal articles, bulletins, working papers, and Independent National Election Commission (INEC) website, findings from the study reveal a generally low voter turnout across the regions with Abia State recording the lowest turnout. The result also shows that the proportion of rejected votes were minimal in three

States (Abia, Ebonyi and Enugu) while more than three quarters of registered voters did not vote. In addition, Alahira and Abubakar (2025) carried out a study to examine the effect of electoral violence and political apathy during the 2019 and 2023 gubernatorial election in Gombe State, Nigeria, specifically, to ascertain how electoral violence influenced voter turnout and political disengagement in both elections. The study adopted a comparative research design combining both quantitative and qualitative methods among 400 participants of residing in Gombe metropolis, Akko, Billiri, Nafada and Dukku. Findings of the study indicate that electoral violence contributed to political apathy in both the 2019 and 2023 elections with voter intimidation, harassment and destruction of electoral materials as major causes. Report also indicates that the 2023 election witnessed reduction in violence and an increase in public trust in the election process because of measures put in place by the election agency (INEC). In a different study, Hugues (2025) adopted the desktop literature review and observation method to find out the probable causes of voter apathy and specifically among young people and women. The author reported that voter apathy cannot purely be tied to elections, but mostly related to the democratic, economic and social development of a country. The absence of a genuine democracy, the belief that individuals cannot influence the political agenda, and a general lack of interest in political life play different roles in low voter turnout.

Furthermore, the type and nature of social network an individual belongs to could have influence on political participation, while the importance of such network varies among individuals (Brady, Schlozman and Verba, 2015). Also, reduction in the number of voters performing their civic duties of voting has been reported to occur more in young people than the elderly (Smets, 2012). This is in consonance with the view of Bhatti and Hansen (2012), who adduced that the surge of voting decline among the youth at the individual level of interaction had to do with their family, friends, peer group in school or workplace or membership of social associations.

Although voter apathy is caused by some citizens, its impacts are felt by every citizenry especially when the competencies of those elected representatives are in doubt. Accordingly, the correlational studies carried out revealed large relationship between the

effect of voters' turnout and public policies (Anzia, 2012; Fowler, 2013).

Voter apathy and Psycho-demographic factors

Psycho-demographic (patriotism, fear of election violence, perceived quality of candidate, learned helplessness and age) factors as well as civic knowledge can be significant variables in explaining voter apathy. These factors constitute part of the psychological make-up of the individual that are inherently likely to shape political participation – voting. Individuals with high patriotic zeal are conversant with government activities and are more prone to participate in determining who governs them. The assumption that individuals with high sense of patriotism are more likely to engage in political participation has many validations. According to Sekerdej & Roccas (2016), patriotism is such that places emphasis on individual effort to actively contribute to and benefit from the nation's goal.

Secondly, heightened election violence has negative relationship with voter turnout, and it has been found to be a prominent predictor of low voter turnout especially in the third world countries. In Africa as a continent, the countries often experienced violence from time to time, which usually necessitates setting up committee to investigate such occurrence but does not prosecute offenders (Cylloy et al., 2014).

Thirdly, how individuals evaluate candidates, either real or imagined, goes a long way in their political participation, especially as it behooves on them at ensuring that their preferred candidate is elected. Even the trend of given preference to candidate over political parties as a platform for seeking elective office is becoming prominent. It is argued that voting practices, especially in the western democracies, have evolved in such a way that evaluation of candidates rather than institution formed the basis for political participation (Brunnerova, 2018). In contrast, Sharma and Shiavangi (2026) carried out a study focusing on the form of dissent in electoral system across four Indian States of Bihar, Gujarat, Sikkim and Delhi. The study uses a quantitative survey-based approach among Active dissent that is characterized with disaffection with policies, governance and candidate but without withdrawing from the elections and Passive dissent that is characterized by abstention or withdrawal from the electoral process reported that voter fatigue, political distrust, procedural complexity and logistical barriers influence voting decision.

Fourthly, there is a relationship between learned helplessness and voter turnout. This is dependent on

experience. An individual with good experience in the past is most likely to repeat an act in a similar future situation and vice versa. Cherry (2017) refers to learned helplessness as a concept that exists both in human and animal that is associated with coping with discomfort. Individuals who previously cast their vote and never benefited from the dividend of democracy will not be willing to cast vote in future elections.

Another factor of interest to this study is age, which connotes the chronological number of years an individual lives and has been in existence. Politically, age of an individual is the number of years attained which confers certain rights to him/her. Wolfinger and Rosenstone (1980) reported low level of political participation during the attainment of matured political age (18) and a gradual or increased participation in middle-age and a decline at old-age.

Similarly, the more the individual understands the activities of government, the higher the tendency to engage in political activities. According to Brenna (2017), civic knowledge provides a comprehensive understanding of the structure and function of government, civic rights, civic responsibilities and the modalities for the enactment of law and policies. It equally involves the policies that shape the present and its effect on local, State, National and International government.

Meanwhile, the civic voluntarism model was used as a theoretical basis for this study. The Civic Voluntarism Model theory developed by Verba, et al (1995) highlights the political participation of the citizenry and attempts to answer the fundamental question of why citizens don't vote. According to Verba, et al (1995), three factors provide explanation for political participation: resources (time, money and skill), psychological engagement (interest, desire) and recruitment (social network). That is, individuals participate in politics based on capability (resources), willingness (engagement) and request (recruitment).

In the domain of the study on voter apathy during election, Civic Voluntarism Model possesses the uncompromising means of providing explanation into voter's desirability to vote, during election. Voting behaviour in this context connotes the relationship between social contextual factors and voting. Here, voting is volitional, easily performed and complex with the outcome depending on the efforts of other external series of essential other behaviour. Civic Voluntarism Model is based on the premise that individual decision to vote or not is determined by his socio-economic, personality and social interaction. In

this connection, the citizen decides not to vote because he/she lacks the means to do so; because he/she does not possess such thought and because nobody asked him/her to do so or not mobilized to do so.

Within the social context, especially social networking, pressure could mount on the individual to engage in politicking and such pressure could be from within or outside of the individual. According to Rogers, *et al* (2013), the desire for a sense of belonging can make an individual to act in a way that is expected of others. In other words, if it is a conviction that voting is part of the norms within a group they associate with, they are most likely to act in accordance with the dictates of the group without considering their political interest.

Hypotheses

Method

Participants

Two thousand three hundred and forty (2340) respondents participated in the study. Table 1 indicates the profile of the participants.

Table 1: Summary of Participants' profile

Category	Level	N (%)
Age	18-27 years	764(32.6)
	28-37 years	935(40.0)
	38-47 years	376(16.1)
	48-57 years	219(9.4)
	58 years and above	46(2.0)
Gender	Female	1253(53.5)
	Male	1087(46.5)
Level of Education	Primary	82(3.5)
	Secondary	720(30.8)
	ND	780(33.3)
	Others	758(32.4)
Length of stay	2-4 years	1198(51.2)
	5-9 years	374(16.0)
	10-14 years	503(21.5)
	15-19 years	186(7.9)
	20 years and above	79(3.4)

Instrument

Items for the scale were generated from the data analyzed at the qualitative phase of the study. Specifically, responses from Focus Group Discussions of 15 participants, and 10 Key informant interviews were coded, theme obtained and the quotations obtained were developed and converted as items of the scale. Experts from the Departments of Psychology and Political Science of the University of

- Psycho-demographic factors (patriotism, fear of election violence, perceived quality of candidate, learned helplessness and age) will jointly and independently predict voter apathy among residents of Lagos State.
- Psycho-demographic factors (patriotism, fear of election violence, perceived quality of candidate, learned helplessness and age) will jointly and independently predict civic knowledge among residents of Lagos State.
- Civic knowledge will significantly mediate the relationship between psycho-demographic factors (Patriotism, fear of election violence, perceived quality of candidate, learned helplessness and age) and voter apathy among residents of Lagos State.

Ibadan rated the appropriateness of the items and established its content validity.

The results of the reliability test revealed as follows: Voter apathy ($\alpha = 0.67$), Patriotism ($\alpha = 0.79$), Fear of election violence ($\alpha = 0.83$), Perceived quality of candidate ($\alpha = 0.82$), Civic knowledge (0.91) as well as adapted Learned helplessness ($\alpha = 0.74$). The factor analysis results for Patriotism showed that communalities of variable's variability ranged

between 0.69 and 0.75. Principal Component Analysis (PCA) showed that all the items were loaded as one factor with eigenvalue of 2.91 and cumulative percentage of 72.89. Sample item includes: “I love my country”, I am proud to be a Nigerian”. The score ranges from 4 to 20 with high scores indicating high level of patriotism and low score reflecting low patriotic zeal.

Similarly, the communalities of Fear of Election Violence variability ranged between 0.51 and 0.67. Principal Component Analysis (PCA) indicates all the items loaded as one factor with eigenvalue of 2.36 and cumulative percentage of 58.99. Sample item includes: “I don’t discuss election matters with strangers”, I try to avoid political gathering outside my consistency”. Score range from 4 to 20 with high score showing high level of fear and low signaling less perceived fear.

In addition, the factor analysis result of Voter Apathy showed that communalities of variable’s variability ranged between .34 and .57. Factor Analysis using principal component analysis (PCA) revealed that all the items loaded as one factor with eigenvalue of 2.79 and cumulative percentage variance of 46.55. Sample item includes: “The manifesto of the contestants that directly affected my needs determined my willingness to vote; the closeness of the polling booth influenced my desire to vote on election day”. Score ranges from 6 to 30 with high score indicating high voter turnout and low score expressing voter apathy.

For Perceived Quality of Candidate, the Principal component analysis (PCA) using Varimax with Kaiser Normalization rotation method yielded 3 factors with eigenvalues ranging from 5.51 – 1.83 with cumulative percent variance of 56.81. Items 1, 2, 3, 5 and 6 loaded on factor 1 which is labeled Compassion, while items 4, 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11 loaded on factor 2 which is labeled Respect and items 12 and 13 loaded on factor 3 with the label Experience. Sample item includes: “A good leader should be able to motivate others”, I prefer candidate who does not compromise integrity”. Score ranges from 13 to 65.

Furthermore, Civic Knowledge showed Principal component analysis (PCA) using Varimax with Kaiser Normalization rotation method producing 4 factors with eigenvalues ranging from 6.754 – 1.017 and cumulative percentage variance of 53.98. Items 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, 17 and 19 loaded on factor 1 which was labeled Governance while items 7, 9, 11, 13 and 15 loaded on factor 2 and labeled Diaspora. Items 1, 3 and 5 loaded on factor 3 with the label National while items 16, 18 and 20 loaded on factor 4

labeled Local. In addition, the reliability coefficient of each of the four composite factors was established. Sample item includes: “I know that election takes place every four years, “I am aware that Nigeria practices presidential system of government”. High scores indicate excellent understanding of the role of public institutions while low scores show poor understanding of the function and structure of public institutions.

Finally, the re-validation of Learned Helplessness showed that communalities of variable’s variability ranged between 0.13 and 0.63 while the Principal Component Analysis (PCA) indicates that all the items loaded as one factor with eigenvalue of 3.11 and cumulative percentage of .51. The scale indicates that the higher the score the higher the level of helplessness.

Procedure

Data was collected through primary and secondary sources. The secondary data was collected from the Independent National Election Commission (INEC), specifically; the 2019 presidential election results while the primary source was collected through qualitative and quantitative design. The qualitative phase involved the use of Focus Group discussion (FGD) and Key Informant Interview (KII). These two methods were suitable to complement other data collection methods (cross-sectional technique). There was discussion guide for the Focus Group Discussion and interview template for the Key Informant Interview during the sessions which enabled the researcher to have a proper coordination and moderation. The theme for both instruments (discussion guide and interview template) focused on the probable causes of voter apathy, how voters would describe civic knowledge as well as provide insight into the results obtained at the quantitative stage.

The Focus Group Discussion comprised fifteen participants who were divided into three groups of five members each through the process of randomization. The researcher acted as a moderator during the session while the research assistants oversaw notetaking and tape recording. Responses from the tape recorder were transcribed and compared with the notetaking. Their responses were synthesized and then reported in bullet format. Leaders were chosen from the groups to sign the consent form after notification.

Similarly, Key Informant Interview (KII) was conducted involving ten (10) key informants who were members of staff of INEC, civil society

organizations (three) and politicians (four). The interview was aimed at obtaining detailed information about their experience on psychological and demographic factors as probable causes of voter turnout. Recording gadgets and jotting paper were available during the interview session with a duration not exceeding twenty-five minutes per person. Responses obtained were charted, based on content, while theme developed formed the bases for further action. In all, the responses obtained from the qualitative phase were coded and sub-coded. Quotations were identified and used for theme development. Consequently, the data derived from this phase was used to generate items for scale development.

The quantitative phase was divided into three stages: pilot study, content analysis of INEC presidential election results and cross-sectional survey. In the first phase, a pilot study was carried out to test the research instruments, which were developed by the researcher, and used to prepare logistics for the main survey. The second phase is the content analysis of INEC presidential election results. It encompasses the sequential evaluation of the total number of registered voters and total number of votes cast at the Federal, State, Local government and Registration areas, (wards levels). This analysis allows for the identification of the population of study. Table 2 provides an analysis of the presidential election results.

Table 2: Summary of the 2019 Presidential election results

Level	Reg. Voters	Votes cast	%	Remarks
Federal (Nigeria)	82,344,111	28,620,190	34.75	
State (Lagos)	6,570,291	1,156,590	17.60	
Senatorial Districts:				
Lagos East (Kosofe)	443,048	75,790	17.10	
Lagos West (Oshodi/Isolo)	443,948	65,730	14.80	
Lagos Central (Eti-Osa)	360,529	54,471	15.10	
Kosofe Local Government (Registration Areas):				
RA06 Ikosi/Ketu/Mile12/Agility/Maidan Registration Areas (106 polling units)	93,896	13,455	14.32	Lowest
RA 08 Agboyi 1 Registration Areas (6 polling units)	3,257	820	25.16	Highest
Oshodi/Isolo Local Government (Registration Areas):				
RA06 Mafoluku Registration Areas (37 polling units)	31,834	1,526	4.79	Lowest
RA08 Shogunle-Alasia Registration Areas (42 polling units)	26,829	4,871	18.11	Highest
Eti-osa Local Government (Registration Areas):				
RA02 Victoria Island II Registration Areas (36 polling units)	49,308	4,806	9.74	Lowest
RA 04 Lekki/Ikate & Envs Registration Areas (33 polling units)	63,043	11,504	18.24	Highest

The last stage of the quantitative phase is the cross sectional survey which entails the use of multi-stage and non-probability sampling techniques to select 2340 respondents who were purposively chosen from Ikosi/Ketu/Mile12/Agility/Maidan and Agboyi 1 Registration areas (wards) of Kosofe local government area, Mafoluku and Shogunle-Alasia Registration areas (wards) in Oshodi-Isolo local government area as well as Victoria Island II and Lekki/Ikate and its environs Registration areas (wards) of Eti-Osa local government area of Lagos State on the basis that these Registration areas (Wards) had the least and highest number of voters' turnout (% of registered voters / % of votes cast) in the three

Senatorial districts of Lagos State. areas (wards). Yamane (1967) sample size formula was used to select 2340 participants across the six registration areas (wards) in Lagos State. Agboyi 1 = 354; Ikosi/Ketu/Mile12/Agility/Maidan = 398; Mafoluku = 400; Shogunle/Alasia = 394; Victoria Island II = 397 and Lekki/Ikate and its Environs = 397.

In all, there were 260 polling units spread across the streets in the Registration areas (wards) and simple random sampling technique was adopted to select streets and houses based on the number of polling units in each of the registration areas (wards): Agboyi 1 has six polling units, Ikosi/Ketu/Mile12/Agility/Maidan with 106 polling

units; Mafoluku 37 polling units, Shogunle/Alasia 42, Victoria Island 11 36 and Lekki/Ikate and its Environs 33 polling units. The Researcher verified all the streets, where the polling units were situated and through balloting randomly selected some of them. Furthermore, the total number of houses in the randomly selected streets were counted with a view to systematically identify those houses from where participants would be drawn using the Nth approach. The Researcher and his Assistants entered the selected houses, introduced themselves, obtained their informed consent on the study and engaged them based on the inclusion criteria. Any resident accosted in the selected house and willing to participate was engaged. Depending on the number of systematically selected houses, Research Assistants were recruited and assigned the task of administration of the questionnaire after undergoing necessary training. There was a caveat that not more than one respondent from each selected house participated in the study.

Research Design

The mixed-methods (qual - Quant) design was adopted. The essence was to use the responses obtained at the qualitative phase to develop scales for use at the quantitative stage of the study. In other words, data from the qualitative stage became the bedrock for the second (quantitative) phase and was used in the construction of questionnaire for large scale survey and complex statistical analysis.

Results

Results of the finding from data analysis carried out using IBM (SPSS) Statistics were presented in this section. The study examined the influence of psycho-demographic factors (patriotism, fear of election violence, perceived quality of candidate, learned helplessness and age) on voter apathy and the mediating role of civic knowledge on voter apathy among residents of Lagos State in the 2019 presidential election.

Psycho-demographic factors on voter apathy among residents of Lagos State

Table 3: Multiple Regression Analysis of Psycho-demographic factors Predicting voter apathy among residents of Lagos State

Variable	B	SE B	β	t	P
Patriotism	.110	.025	.091	4.448	.000
Learned Helplessness	.066	.019	.074	3.563	.000
Fear of Election Violence	.280	.032	.182	8.879	.000
Perceived Quality of Candidate	.145	.010	.298	14.375	.000
Age	.016	.007	.041	2.161	.031

$R^2 = .186$, Adjusted $R^2 = .184$, $F(5, 2273) = 62.002$, $p < .001$.

The result as shown in Table 3 above indicates that patriotism, fear of election violence, perceived quality of candidate, learned helplessness and age jointly and significantly predict voter apathy among residents of Lagos State ($F(5, 2273) = 62.00$, $p < .005$, $R^2 = .184$). This shows that patriotism, fear of election violence, perceived quality of candidate, learned helplessness and age jointly had 18% of the observed variance in voter apathy ($R^2 = .186$, Adjusted $R = .184$) and 82% were due to other variables. The result also revealed that patriotism ($\beta = .091$, $p < .005$), fear of election violence ($\beta = .182$, $p < .005$), perceived quality of candidate ($\beta = .298$, $p < .005$) and learned helplessness ($\beta = .074$, $p < .005$) independently predicts voter apathy, suggesting that increase in these factors are associated with a higher likelihood of low voter turnout. Age showed a small but significant positive effect ($\beta = .041$, $p = .31$), indicating that older individuals are slightly more likely to demonstrate low voter turnout behavior.

Psycho-demographic factors on civic knowledge among residents of Lagos State

Table 4: Multiple Regression Analysis of Psycho-demographic factors predicting Civic Knowledge among residents of Lagos State

Variable	B	SE B	β	t	P
Patriotism	.025	.028	.019	.894	.371
Learned Helplessness	.161	.021	.158	7.532	.000
Fear of Election Violence	.006	.036	.003	.156	.876
Perceived Quality of Candidate	.163	.012	.298	14.152	.000
Age	-.038	.008	-.088	-4.564	.000

$R^2 = .162$, Adjusted $R^2 = .160$, $F(5, 2271) = 87.99$, $p < .001$

Multiple regression analysis was performed to assess the influence of psycho-demographic factors on civic knowledge among residents of Lagos State. The model was statistically significant, $F(5, 2271) = 87.99$, $p < .005$ and jointly had 16.2% of the variance in civic knowledge ($R^2 = .162$, Adjusted $R^2 = .160$). This suggests that while the psycho-demographic predictors in the model exert a meaningful influence on civic knowledge, a considerable proportion of the variance remains unexplained, implying the existence of other influential factors not measured in this analysis. Among the predictors, perceived quality of candidate was the strongest and most significant variable ($\beta = .298$, $p < .005$), indicating that individuals who hold favourable perceptions of political candidates tend to score higher in civic knowledge. This may reflect a reciprocal relationship where greater civic knowledge enhances political discernment, or conversely, where positive political perceptions foster further engagement with civic information. Learned helplessness also significantly predicted civic knowledge ($\beta = .158$, $p < .005$), which is somewhat unexpected. The positive relationship implies that individuals who experience a sense of helplessness may paradoxically also demonstrate higher civic awareness. This could be due to a heightened awareness of systemic issues or disenchantment motivating information-seeking behaviour, though further research would be needed to unpack this relationship. Age emerged as a significant negative predictor ($\beta = -.088$, $p < .005$), suggesting that younger individuals in Lagos are generally more civically knowledgeable than their older counterparts. In contrast, patriotism ($\beta = .019$, $p = .371$) and fear of election violence ($\beta = .003$, $p = .876$) did not significantly predict civic knowledge in this model. These findings partially support the hypothesis.

Mediation of civic knowledge on psycho-demographic factors and voter apathy

Table 5: Summary of Model Fit indices

Fit Index	Estimate	90% CI	Interpretation
χ^2 / df	2.10	—	Good fit
RMSEA	.045	[.035, .060]	Excellent
CFI	.971	—	Excellent
TLI	.960	—	Excellent
SRMR	.030	—	Excellent
PCLOSE	.072	—	Model not rejected

Table 4 provides basis for the adoption of Structural equation modeling in the mediation of civic knowledge between psycho-demographic factors and voter apathy. The model demonstrates excellent global fit, meeting all conventional criteria for Structural Equation Modeling (SEM). The following indices indicate that the model provides a statistically adequate representation of the observed data:

- $X^2/df = 2.10$: Below the commonly accepted threshold of 3, indicating minimal discrepancy between the sample covariance matrix and the model-implied matrix. This suggests the model is not over-fitting or under-fitting the data.
- $RMSEA = .045$, $90\% CI = [.035, .060]$: This value falls well below the .06 threshold for good fit. The 90% confidence interval confirms tight estimation and parsimony. A non-significant $PCLOSE = .072$ further indicates that the model could plausibly be true in the population.
- $CFI = .971$: The Comparative Fit Index exceeds .95, meaning that the specified model fits the data substantially better than a null model.
- $TLI = .960$: The Tucker-Lewis Index, which penalizes model complexity, is also above the .95 cutoff, further confirming parsimonious fit.
- $SRMR = .030$: The Standardized Root Mean Square Residual is far below the .08 threshold, suggesting low average residuals across all model-implied vs. observed correlations. Together, these indices strongly indicate that the model is a good statistical fit for the data. Not only does it reproduce observed relationships with high fidelity, but it also does so with minimal complexity. The combination of a low RMSEA and SRMR, alongside high CFI and TLI values, confirms that the model captures both the structure and magnitude of relationships in a theoretically coherent and statistically robust manner. This validates the retained path structure, including the

mediating role of Civic Knowledge and the indirect-only effects from predictors such as Patriotism, Age, and Perceived Candidate Quality.

Table 6: Summary of Structural Equation Modeling Analysis Showing the Mediating effect of Civic Knowledge between psycho-demographic factors and voter apathy

Mediation Pathway	β Coefficient	P	95% CI LB- UB	
Direct Effect				
Civic Knowledge → Voter apathy	.687	<.005	0.643	0.731
Indirect Effects (via Civic Knowledge)				
Age → Voter apathy (via Civic Knowledge)	.439	<.005	0.397	0.481
Patriotism → Voter apathy (via Civic Knowledge)	.147	<.005	0.101	0.193
Learn helplessness → Voter apathy (via Civic Knowledge)	.190	<.005	0.138	0.242
Fear of election violence → Voter apathy (via Civic Knowledge)	.112	<.005	0.063	0.161
Perceived quality of candidate → Voter apathy (via Civic Knowledge)	.442	<.005	0.396	0.488

The result in Table 6 indicates that civic knowledge significantly mediates the relationship between patriotism ($\beta = .14$), fear of election violence ($\beta = .11$), perceived quality of candidate ($\beta = .44$), learned helplessness ($\beta = .19$) and age ($\beta = .44$) on voter apathy among residents of Lagos State. All the predictors in the model impact voter apathy only through their influence on civic knowledge, reflecting full mediation. This highlights the critical intermediary role of political awareness in translating attitudes and demographic traits into civic action. The presence of indirect effects in the model highlights the importance of fostering civic knowledge to enhance voter participation and suggests that interventions aimed at increasing political awareness and understanding could be particularly effective in boosting electoral engagement.

Figure 1 indicates that all the paths from the psycho-demographic predictors to voter apathy are mediated via civic knowledge, implying full mediation. This highlights the critical intermediary role of political awareness in translating attitudes and demographic traits into civic action.

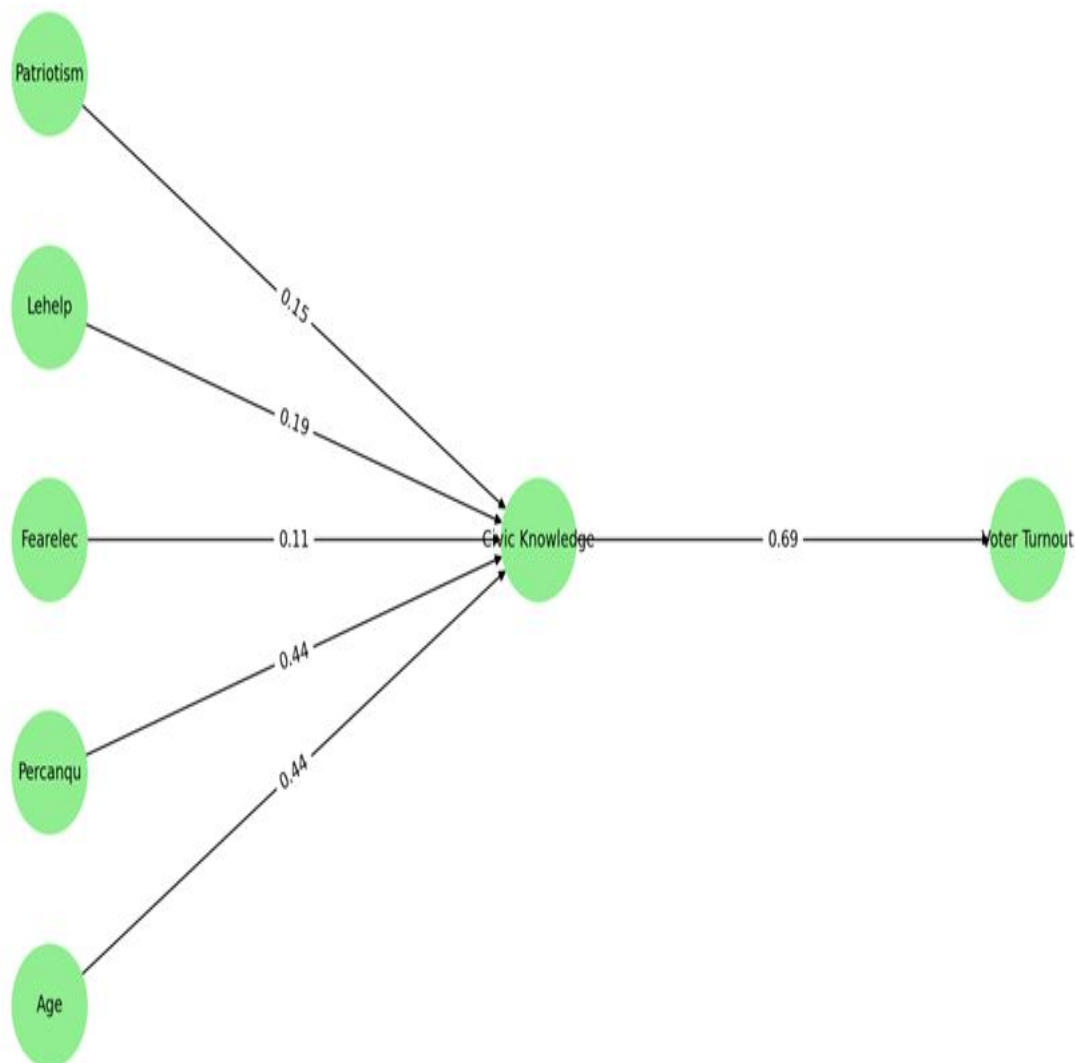


Figure 1:

Pathway showing the mediating effect of civic knowledge on psycho-demographic factors and voter apathy

Discussion

Impact of Psycho-demographic factors on Voter apathy

The result of this study indicated that patriotism, fear of election violence, perceived quality of candidate, learned helplessness and age have a joint percentage contribution of eighteen percent on voter apathy. This result indicates a moderately strong model in which these psycho-demographic variables meaningfully explain voting behaviour, though other variables not included in the model are likely also influential. This finding supports previous studies that many contextual factors can reduce or prevent the participation in political affairs of the country (Bergscholoser & Kersting, 2003; Omotola and Aiyedogbon, 2011; Falade, 2014).

Considering the predictive abilities of each of these variables on voter apathy, result showed that

patriotism can significantly improve voter apathy on its own. This finding supports the underlying principle of patriotism as put forward by Drazanova and Roberts (2020) that individuals with high sense of affection and pride to their nation are usually more politically active citizens that partake in democratic process and civil society. It also supports the work of Rugar, et al (2021) who asserted that patriotism connotes glorification which is idealized belief of the country. Citizens who glorify their country believe that changes in the country are not necessary and as such they may resist, oppose or avoid activities that promote changes and, in this case, voting.

Fear of election violence was also found to be a significant independent predictor of voter apathy. Hence, the degree and extent of election violence determine the decision of individual during election. Ibeogu and Nwusulor (2020) reported that election

violence has been an impediment to political participation, good governance and democratic consolidation. Many political candidates used violence as a weapon to win elections, more so that the violent nature of elections and the threat from terrorist group and bandits have led to reduction of voter turnout (Yusuf and Saminu 2024). This is in addition to ethnic, religious, sectional consideration and as causes of election violence (Mbanusi and Osuagwu, 2024). Azuka (2021) reported that election violence that occur on election days includes bombing and destruction of election materials, firing of gunshots at voting or collation centre, stuffing of ballot boxes with pre-thumbed ballots, arson, inflicting injuries, killing, assassination and twisting of election results. Furthermore, Umar, et al (2023) opined that electoral violence in Nigeria political system has assumed a predictable dimension that are caused by poverty, unemployment and inadequate voter education especially in Kaduna State. In fact, election violence reflects political and social nuances in the society which are predicated on systemic failure brought about by corruption.

Similarly, perceived quality of candidate was found to be another independent predictor of voter apathy. The way or manner individuals see real or imagined candidates goes a long way in their participation in election as it is based on their determination at ensuring that their preferred candidate is elected. This finding supports the work of Townsley, et al (2022) who reported that the importance of candidate is becoming more prominent and more relevant than political parties in influencing voting behaviour. Voter now looks at candidate as object of attraction rather than party affiliation. Voting practices have evolved in such a way that evaluation of candidates rather than institution formed the basis for political participation (Brunnerova, 2018). Although, it is adduced that perceived quality of candidate influences electoral decisions, there is a caution of note that electoral decision based on the traits of the candidate can have consequence for democratic functioning (Nai, 2019). This is more so, as engaging in voting behaviour because of candidate personal characteristics, may lead to potentiate volatile turnout rate and endanger the structure of the party. This is due to the fact that party will nominate candidates who are perceived as appealing to the voters (Da Ferreira, et al, 2020).

Furthermore, learned helplessness was found to be a significant predictor of voter apathy. An individual with bad experience or who witnessed ugly situation,

observed or learned of bad events during past elections will be more unlikely to vote in subsequent elections. This finding lends credence to the work of Benzon (2018) where he referred to those that refuse to vote because of their past experiences in elections as helpless electorates.

Impact of civic knowledge on voter apathy

The result of this study revealed that Civic Knowledge exerts a strong, direct effect on Voter apathy, indicating that individuals with higher knowledge about political systems, elections, and governance are significantly more likely to participate in electoral processes. This finding aligns with the work of Schulz *et al* (2017) that civic knowledge is a good predictor of adult voting and civic participating behavior.

Perceived quality of candidate was found to predict civic knowledge, and this is in line with the work of Vitrol, et al (2018) as they posited that implicit evaluation of candidate has an impact on electoral outcome.

Learned helplessness was found to predict civic knowledge. This finding supports the work of Winch (2019), who opined that learned helplessness explains the conviction of individuals' inability to alter or change their environment and believe their action cannot have any impact whatsoever. This makes the individual stop action and become passive.

Similarly, age was found to be a significant main predictor of civic knowledge. The quest for an understanding of civic activities has a lot to do with the life cycle of the individual. The work of Achen and Sinnott (2007) showed that there are three phases in a life cycle regarding civic engagement. The lowest age acquiring more than slightly young adult, while the older relax below the young adult. In other words, as Individual grows, the tendency is high for political or civic engagement to increase and later begins to decline as the number of years increases.

On the other hand, patriotism was found not to be a significant predictor of civic knowledge. In the work of Sekerdej et al (2023), patriotism was defined as a phenomenon that is characterized by a tendency to overlook or even justify the country's problem, and as such, the inability to see the inadequacies or flaws of the country may prevent individual motivation to act in a manner that can bring about change.

In addition, fear of election violence was found not to be a main significant predictor of civic knowledge. This finding concurs with the work of Mwesigwa (2011) where in Uganda elections, it was reported that fear of election violence alone does not influence

civic knowledge and similar findings played out in Nigeria.

In all, the joint- contribution of the psycho-demographic factors on civic knowledge is positive. That is, when the variables come together, they will increase individual desirability for civic knowledge.

Impact of civic knowledge on psycho-demographic factors and voter apathy

Findings from this study showed that civic knowledge significantly mediate the joint influence between psycho-demographic factors and voter apathy. It also shows that civic knowledge significantly mediated the independent influence of patriotism, fear of election violence, perceived quality of candidate, learned helplessness and age. The mediation role of civic knowledge was an indication that the influence of patriotism on voter apathy is neither static nor an end in itself; rather it can be accentuated by other factors. Previous studies supported this finding (Sekerdej and Roccas 2016; Shook, et al, 2020).

Similarly, civic knowledge was found to mediate the influence of fear of election violence and voter apathy. This means, individuals with fear of violence will try all possible means to abstain from voting during election. However, the result indicated that fear of election violence can be manipulated to bring about increases in voters' turnout and manipulation can be made possible through enlightenment (civic knowledge). Collier and Vicente (2014) posited that election violence, harassment, and voter fraud seems to affect voter apathy, while the mode of mobilization and the get-out-of-vote (GOTV) system is rather than the traditional method of interaction with candidates influence voting (Davenport, 2010).

In addition, civic knowledge mediates the relationship between perceived quality of candidate and voter apathy. Individual who has developed or possesses the judgment of superiority or inferiority about a particular candidate will rate such candidate in that manner. However, the result of this study indicated that perceived quality of candidate can be manipulated to bring about an increase in the desire for appropriate candidate, and this manipulation can be sufficiently done through perception process. What makes perceived quality of candidate easily susceptible to manipulation is the fact that it is a subjective phenomenon which can be done by way of persuasion. As Fowler (2013) put it: voters can be classified into regular, never and marginal which determine the level or intensity of mobilization

needed in convincing them as well as their willingness to cast their votes on election day.

Furthermore, the finding of this study indicated that civic knowledge mediated the relationship between learned helplessness and voter apathy. A helpless voter who resigned to faith on the ground that his vote does not count will mostly likely not be interested in voting. However, the results of this study revealed that learned helplessness can be manipulated to change the individual passivity. This assertion is in tune with the work of Seligman and Maier (1975) who noted that learned helplessness does not occur because the individual cannot control his environment; rather, it is caused by the individual perception. Hence, working or manipulating the individual perception will bring about the desired result- willingness to vote on election day.

There was a significant mediation between civic knowledge and age. This finding showed that age has nothing to do with one's desire to vote to the extent of abstaining from voting. In other words, for an individual who has attained voting age whether early, middle or matured political, age does not influence the willingness to or not to vote. This finding contrasts with series of research on the relationship between age and voter apathy. Kunzelmann, et al (2011) reported that first time voters participate more in voting than second time voters. Similarly, Stolle and Hogbe (2004) asserted that the lackadaisical attitude of the citizens on civic engagement and political processes has been a cause of serious concern to policy makers and scholars, especially as it relates to young people, thus lending credence to the finding of the study.

In general term, these results indicate that when civic knowledge combined with the psycho-demographic factors, the joint percentage predictive ability was a beta value of .69; this is clear evidence that aside from these factors, there are other probable cause(s) that would influence voter apathy. Evidence abounds in the literature in support of these assertions. According to Omotola (2011), electoral institutions, processes and outcomes would bring about high level of turnout. Also, Rogers, et al (2013) observed that the fundamental desire of a sense of belonging can make an individual act in a way that is expected of others. In other words, if it is the convention that voting is part of the norms within a group they associate with; they are most likely to act in accordance with the dictates of that group, without considering their political interest.

Looking at the pattern of findings, there are obvious consistencies in the influence and directions of relationship between the psycho-demographic factors, the mediator and the dependent variable; patriotism, fear of election violence, perceived quality of candidate, learned helplessness and age consistently and significantly predict relationship and were consistently mediated by civic knowledge.

Conclusion

The outcome of this study provided the following conclusions:

Patriotism, fear of election violence, perceived quality of candidate, learned helplessness and age directly and jointly influenced voter apathy.

Patriotism, fear of election violence, perceived quality of candidate, learned helplessness and age had a direct casual linkage with civic knowledge

The direct linkage influence of patriotism, fear of election violence, perceived quality of candidate, learned helplessness and age on voter apathy was mediated by civic knowledge.

Civic knowledge had could have a direct influence on voter apathy.

Perceived quality of candidate and age could have a direct relationship with civic knowledge.

Civic knowledge was discovered to mediate the relationship of patriotism, fear of election violence, perceived quality of candidate, learned helplessness and age on voter apathy.

Implications of the study

A major submission in this study was that patriotism, fear of election violence, perceived quality of candidate, learned helplessness and age directly and jointly influenced voter apathy. This means that a single factor is not enough to predict voter apathy, rather a combination of other factors.

This study examined the connection between psycho-demographic factors and civic knowledge to finding ways to synergizing with voter apathy. Reportedly, psycho-demographic factors exert influence on civic knowledge and a normal relationship between voter apathy and civic knowledge exist. This means, as voter apathy is increasing, the effect of civic knowledge will also be increasing.

The major provides major contributions to knowledge. Many studies conducted on voter apathy relied mainly on secondary sources of data and descriptive statistics which are prone to falsification and casual inferences respectively. This study serves as guide for future research, more so that it used both primary and secondary sources of data collection, and more precise methods of data analysis.

Similarly, this study developed psychometric-enabled culture relevant scales for measuring voter apathy, fear of election violence and perceived quality of candidate. Other researchers especially in the African context can adopt and adapt the scale for use.

This study was set to contribute to the advancement of knowledge in the field of political psychology and to examine ways of enhancing good governance through electing desirable representatives on election days. It is obvious that low voter turnout brings about emergence of candidates who are not people's choice. Thus, politicians now have ways of attracting the sympathy of electorates by turning these impediment factors into motivators.

Limitations: The study used both primary (focus group discussions, key informant interview and administration of questionnaires) and secondary (INEC official records of lists of registered voters and cast votes) in Lagos State as sources of data collection. The secondary sources were used to determine the study population. Any falsification of this record means that the population of study was wrongly selected and as such would affect the reliability of the outcome of this study. Similarly, this study was conducted in locations where participants were expected to be residing for a period of not less than two years. Adherence to this inclusion criterion is at the mercy of the participants as the Researcher using convenience sampling method may not be able to verify their claims. It is suggested that the items in some of the scales developed be improved upon to broaden the perspectives of the constructs under study. Future studies should cover all registration areas (wards) in the other State(s). The use of experimental design to provide cause and effect relationship on voter apathy can equally be explored.

Recommendations

To mitigate the effect of electing candidates that are not preferred citizens, due to high rate of voter apathy, it is recommended that Electoral body should adopt compulsory voting rather than the present mode of voluntary voting.

The importance of civic knowledge in this study is well pronounced. Thus, mass mobilization of individuals, especially in the areas of civic education, is desirable.

Fear of election is a dominant factor causing voter apathy and this can be addressed with the introduction of electronic voting that would reduce the physical presence of voters at the polling booth

Learned helplessness had some linkage with voter apathy. That an individual's past experience was negative does not mean that present or future activities will remain the same. Voters should act and overcome past discomfort by believing and accepting the dynamics of improved service delivery.

Patriotism has some linkage with voter apathy. Ability of the citizens to freely discuss government activities will enhance their patriotic zeal

The findings explicitly show the relevance of perceived quality of candidate as a determining factor on voter apathy. Evaluation of candidate should be given utmost consideration in election. In this regard, the use of primaries by political parties to present candidates for election is desirable. Also, the platform for independent candidacy should be introduced to cater for candidates that possess good quality but cannot contest due to manipulation of the political parties.

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APPENDIX 1: QUALITATIVE RESPONSES

KEY INFORMANT INTERVIEWS

All the participants understood elections as the constitutional and democratic mechanism through which leadership is conferred.

INEC OFFICIALS (4)

They shared their experience in coordinating and overseeing electoral procedures.

Provided institutional insights into voter behaviour and election management. Acknowledged the electoral cycle of 2019 has been characterized by challenges such as ballot snatching, delayed voting commencement and logistics breakdown. Abrupt postponement, fear of election violence especially in political volatile areas.

CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATIONS (3)

They offered grassroot and policy-based perspective on the challenge of voter turnout and civic awareness. They see election as a contract renewal between the leaders and the followers. Reported that voter apathy is becoming widely spread due to unfulfilled promises by the leaders. Imposition of unpopular candidates by political godfather as causes of voter apathy.

POLITICIANS (3)

Their views reflected both the strategic considerations behind political mobilization and interpretation of the public disengagement from politics. They noted that voter apathy is a result of public frustration with governance, insecurity, misinformation, etc

FOCUS GROUP DISCUSSIONS

The consensus among the fifteen participants is that voting is a waste of time since the outcome is predetermined and manipulated. Results are not a reflection of the people's will. Participants see election as a mere ritual rather than tools for change. Many recounted various cases of vote buying.

Role of Civic Knowledge

All the participants overwhelmingly consented to the crucial role of civic knowledge in encouraging voter participation. Continuous civic education before, during and after elections were suggested.

APPENDIX 2: QUESTIONNAIRE

SECTION B: PATRIOTISM SCALE

S/N	STATEMENT	SA	A	U	D	SD
1.	I love my country					
2.	I am proud to be a Nigerian					
3.	I feel great pride in that country called Nigeria					
4.	When I see the Nigeria flag flying, I feel happy					

SECTION C: FEAR OF ELECTION VIOLENCE SCALE

S/N	STATEMENT	SA	A	U	D	SD
1.	I try to avoid political gatherings outside my constituency.					
2.	I am very cautious when I go to vote.					
3.	I don't discuss election matters with strangers.					
4.	I believe that abusive languages used by political					

	parties can trigger crises.					
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SECTION D: VOTER APATHY SCALE

S/N	STATEMENT	SA	A	U	D	SD
1.	I preferred electronic voting to physical voting.					
2	The manifesto of the contestants that directly affected my needs determined my willingness to vote.					
3	The presence of crowd at the polling unit did not prevent me from voting for my preferred candidate					
4	The condition of my health did not affect my desire to vote on election day					
5	The closeness of the polling unit influenced my desire to vote on the election day.					
6	My schedule of work did not affect going out to vote on election day.					

SECTION E: PERCEIVED QUALITY OF CANDIDATE SCALE

S/N	STATEMENT	SA	A	U	D	SD
1.	Voting for candidate with very good qualities is important to me.					
2.	I prefer candidate who is passionate about others.					
3.	A good candidate is someone who listens to other people's view.					
4.	To be able to lead others, a candidate should possess the attributes of empathy.					
5.	I prefer candidate who is desirous to make changes to the lives of others.					
6.	One quality a good candidate should have is the ability to influence others.					
7.	Good quality of a candidate is that he/she must be considerate in dealing with people.					
8.	I prefer a candidate who does not compromise integrity.					
9.	To be humble is a quality that a candidate must possess.					
10.	I cherish a candidate who is versatile about the happenings in his locality.					
11.	A good candidate should be able to motivate others.					
12.	A good candidate should possess a minimum educational qualification of university first degree					
13.	I admire candidates who have international outlook for governance.					

SECTION F: LEARNED HELPLESSNESS SCALE

S/N	STATEMENT	SA	A	U	D	SD
1.	I don't have much control over what happens to me					

2.	One should take life as it comes					
3.	Disaster in life is inevitable; one should expect it					
4.	Life is generally unfair					
5.	Success in life is a mother of luck.					
6.	It is not possible to avoid evil because God created both good and evil.					

SECTION G: CIVIC KNOWLEDGE SCALE

S/N	STATEMENT	Yes	No
1.	I know that election takes place every four years.		
2.	I am aware that Nigeria practices presidential system of government.		
3.	There are three branches of government in Nigeria.		
4.	I know that every state has three senators representing them at the National Assembly.		
5.	The three tiers of government are federal, state and local.		
6.	Every Nigerian who is eighteen years and above is eligible to vote.		
7.	I know that the country is divided into 774 local governments.		
8.	I know that every Nigerian has the right to aspire to any political office.		
9.	The most prominent function of the legislative arm is to make law.		
10.	I know that the Governor appoints the Chief Judge of the State upon confirmation by the State House of Assembly.		
11.	I know that the Constitution made provision for Checks and Balances among the three arms of government.		
12.	The president and the Vice are always from the ruling party.		
13.	There are 360 members that made up the House of representative.		
14.	The judiciary arm of government is responsible for interpreting the law.		
15.	I know that democracy is the only form of government that gives right to every citizen to vote and be voted for.		
16.	Electioneering campaigns always take place before the actual conduct of election.		
17.	It is the duty of Government to protect lives and property of the citizenry.		
18.	I know that it is obligatory to pay tax.		
19.	I know that it is obligatory to recite the National Anthem before and after public functions.		
20.	I am aware that all Nigerian graduates who are thirty years or below are required to serve their fatherland by participating in the National Youth Service Corps Scheme.		