



IMPACT OF BIMODAL VOTERS ACCREDITATION SYSTEM (BVAS) ON ELECTION INTEGRITY IN NASARAWA STATE

Ahmed Usman Egye

Department of Public Administration,

Isa Mustapha Agwai I Polytechnic, Lafia, Nasarawa State, Nigeria

Email: Awajaa1125@gmail.com

Cite this article:

Impact of Bimodal Voters Accreditation System (BVAS) on Election Integrity in Nasarawa State

Ahmed Usman Egye (2024), Impact of Bimodal Voters Accreditation System (BVAS) on Election Integrity in Nasarawa State. Journal of Advanced Research and Multidisciplinary Studies 4(1), 31-42. DOI: 10.52589/JARMS-SGBQXNWWY

Manuscript History

Received: 30 Oct 2023

Accepted: 1 Feb 2024

Published: 21 Feb 2024

Copyright © 2024 The Author(s).

This is an Open Access article distributed under the terms of Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-NoDerivatives 4.0 International (CC BY-NC-ND 4.0), which permits anyone to share, use, reproduce and redistribute in any medium, provided the original author and source are credited.

ABSTRACT: *The election umpire sought to improve election integrity in Nigeria with the introduction of the bimodal voters' accreditation system replaced the earlier Card Reader, which was only intended to identify and recommend voters on election day. BVAS was designed as a game changer since it could identify, authenticate, and validate prospective voters to ensure free, fair, and credible elections in the country. However, the outcome of elections nationwide and the pending litigations on election fraud and integrity are contemporary discourses among scholars and citizens. Therefore, this study examines the impact of the bimodal voters' accreditation system on election integrity in Nasarawa State, Nigeria with a specific focus on the 2023 general election. This study adopted a descriptive research design, primary data were collected through a self-structured questionnaire and interview guide to elicit information from the respondents. The study utilised technology theory as the theoretical framework for the study. Multi-stage sampling techniques were used to select a sample size of ninety (90) respondents for questionnaire administration. The findings of the study revealed that the bimodal voters' accreditation system has eradicated overvoting/double voting, increased public participation in the electoral process, enhanced the public level of trust and confidence in the electoral process and improved electoral transparency and integrity in the study area. The study concluded that though the bimodal accreditation system has helped improve the electoral system, however, there is a need to improve its effectiveness to prevent loopholes. The study recommends among others, the need for the autonomy of electoral umpires to prevent political meddling.*

KEYWORDS: Bimodal Voters Accreditation System (BVAS), Election Integrity



INTRODUCTION

Election Management Bodies (EMBs) around the world have employed a variety of innovations to improve election administration and conduct, some of which are now recognised as best practices. The use of technology in political processes is growing, particularly in Africa. Piccolino (2015) stated that about 25 Sub-Saharan African countries have employed ICT tools for electoral purposes, including Kenya, Sierra Leone, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Zambia, Malawi, Rwanda, Senegal, Mali, Togo, and Namibia. Since 1958, the primary constitutional responsibility of election administration agencies in Nigeria has been, among other things, to supervise free, fair, and credible elections. There appears to have been varying degrees of success over the last few years because of enhanced planning stages, technology, organisations, and administration (Jega & Hillier, 2012). Election integrity must be carefully overseen by an unbiased electoral administration body capable of conducting free and fair elections to ensure its preservation.

According to Kerr (2018), people tend to take electoral officials for granted because they have a long history of conducting free and fair elections in modern democracies. As a result, in developing democracies like Nigeria, electoral administration agencies are met with mistrust, criticism, and scrutiny. Except for the general election in 2023, Nigeria has held nine separate presidential or general elections since independence (Onapajo, 2015). However, voters, political figures, and foreign observers are sceptical about the elections' legitimacy, uniformity, and integrity. Since the return to democratic government in 1999, voter, political candidate, and observer dissatisfaction with the general election has been a recurring topic. Electoral malpractices such as ballot box snatching, vote buying, secret voting, the use of force, fabricated results, and electoral violence were frequent throughout elections. These were reflected in the series of court lawsuits that followed the announcement of the winner and the disclosure of the results, the nullification of the results, and, eventually, the election-related violence that occurred during the whole electoral process (Amao *et al.*, 2022).

To ensure free, fair, and legitimate elections, the use of technology in elections has become increasingly vital. INEC, Nigeria's electoral umpire, has utilised technology to successfully carry out its constitutional responsibilities of arranging, conducting, and monitoring elections. INEC has chosen the Bimodal Voter Accreditation System (BVAS). The BVAS was implemented following the passage of the new Electoral Act of 2022 to ensure the use of voter fingerprints and face recognition technologies for voter identification and accreditation before voting (Monday & Aluko, 2023). The BVAS was used in the 2023 general elections including Nasarawa State. Voters can be confirmed using fingerprint and facial recognition technologies through the BVAS certification system. The BVAS has been lauded for its success in reducing electoral fraud incidences and guaranteeing that only legitimate voters vote in elections. However, it is not void of loopholes.

Election fraud has been shown to undermine voters' trust in election administration around the world (Daxecker *et al.*, 2019). The manual voter registration method in Nigeria has contributed to societal issues such as election violence. It was stated that implementing the Bimodal Voter Authentication System (BVAS) would put a stop to election meddling and manipulation. The recently passed Electoral Act 2022 supports these achievements by adding security measures by allowing INEC more latitude to use technology as needed to conduct elections. Elections have been assured to be credible due to their greater transparency, which has also generated a renewed sense of trust in the process and its capacity to change a person's



political trajectory. It is against this background that this study examined the impact of the bimodal voter accreditation system on election integrity with a specific focus on Nasarawa State 2023 general elections.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Bimodal Voters Accreditation System (BVAS)

The Bimodal Voter Accreditation System (BVAS) is an electronic instrument used to validate voters' eligibility and voters' identity card ownership before an election. The BVAS is an electronic device designed to read Permanent voter cards (PVCs) and employ voter fingerprint authentication to ensure that a voter is authorised to vote at a certain polling site. The Bimodal Voter Authentication System (BVAS) was designed to keep election meddling and manipulation at bay. The BVAS replaces the Smart Card Readers used in past elections, combining fingerprint and facial recognition technologies to authenticate voters (Dii, 2023). Modern technological advancements ensure the legality of voter registration and result management operations, reliability and assistance sufficiency for transparent elections. Multiple voting, PVC theft, and PVC buying and selling will be significantly reduced (if not eliminated). Technology has helped protect election integrity which is an important feature of a democratic society.

The Bimodal Voter Accreditation System (BVAS) is one of the technologies that has recently been employed to increase the accuracy and transparency of the voting process. BVAS is a method that uses both biometric and non-biometric data to verify voters' identities while they cast ballots (Ogundare *et al.*, 2023). This method often employs fingerprint and facial recognition technologies, voter identification cards, personal information, and other data. To determine eligibility, the system compares a voter's biometric data with data held in a central database. Many countries throughout the world have embraced BVAS, including Nigeria, Ghana, and India. BVAS was utilised by the Election Commission of India (ECI) during the 2014 Indian general elections to ensure that voting processes were precise and open. According to Agiri and Morka (2022), the implementation of BVAS was praised for its efficacy in decreasing voter fraud and increasing confidence in the electoral process. For the 2020 Ghanaian general elections, the Electoral Commission (EC) used BVAS to validate voter identification and prevent voter fraud. Furthermore, it was suggested that the implementation of BVAS reduced voter fraud in Ghana (Iguh *et al.*, 2023). The Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) implemented BVAS during the 2015 general elections to increase the legitimacy of the Nigerian electoral process.

The automation of several operations, such as vote counting, voter authentication, and voter registration, is one of the numerous advantages of using technology in elections. Election legitimacy has increased as voting efficiency, precision, and transparency have risen (Ojakorotu *et al.*, 2023). The BVAS is one example of how technology is being used in elections; it gives a quick and easy way to verify voters' identification while attempting to decrease election fraud. Furthermore, the purpose of BVAS is to reduce or remove the flaws of manual certification, which is frequently time-consuming and with error. The automatic BVAS accreditation procedure assures that only eligible voters can vote, lending confidence to the electoral process.



Electoral Integrity

Scholars on this subject have frequently debated what integrity is not rather than what it is. According to Martinez and Van Ham (2015), the incumbent administration attempted to influence the electorate's choice by passing legislation and influencing election umpires to create a biased system that erodes the concept of fair play and tarnishes electoral integrity. According to Henschke *et al.* (2020), electoral credibility is defined as holding a free and fair election and guaranteeing that the electoral process is followed. This includes maintaining the voters' registration list up to date, allowing every one of voting age to vote freely, tallying and sorting ballots impartially, and reporting the results.

According to Ottoboni and Stark (2019), elections would be judged legitimate if they were held and ended without coercion or violence, and if the general public was convinced that their votes genuinely changed the results that were published. They believe that when elections follow UN rules and have the support of academics, media, political figures, and voters, they maintain the integrity of elections. They maintained that integrity is defined as maintaining the electoral process. Breedon and Bryant (2018) argue that the domestic rules and regulations that govern the electoral process and the general administration and conduct of the elections constitute the benchmark for measuring integrity.

According to Ellis (2018), election integrity is a holistic or comprehensive observance of the electoral laws guiding the electoral conduct of a country throughout the electoral cycle through which a collective will of the people can be achieved and upon which the election can meet international standards. What matters most is that these definitions include the nomination and election processes that lead to an effective administration.

According to Linebarger and Salehyan (2020), foreign and domestic observers use different metrics to evaluate elections and the electoral process. It enables individuals to accurately identify the electoral process as corrupted by fraud, manipulation, and unethical behaviour, or as free, transparent, and fair. They underlined that these guidelines would help security and law enforcement agencies identify and prosecute those who break election protocols. The media would also keep spreading the word about election fraud.

Empirical Review

Olonite *et al.* (2023) investigated the use of a bimodal voter accreditation system and Nigeria's electoral integrity: assessment of public opinion and voters' behaviour. The study adopted a survey research design. Primary and secondary data were utilised for the study, and data collected were analysed using descriptive statistics. The findings of the study revealed that public awareness of BVAS and IReV positively influenced voters' turnout for elections. The study also revealed that the introduction of BVAS and IReV in Nigeria's electoral process has reduced electoral violence, increased public participation in the electoral process, enhanced the public level of trust electoral process, promoted electoral transparency, improved the country's electoral integrity, and prevented manipulation of electoral results. The study concluded that the introduction of BVAS and IReV has improved Nigeria's electoral results from the previous years. The study recommends, among others, that the prosecution of electoral misconduct perpetrators would serve as a deterrent to others and would enhance voters' turnout in future elections.



Asoya (2023) investigated the role of electoral commissions in the emergence of a legitimate government, focusing on the 2023 presidential election in Nigeria. The study adopted a descriptive research design, secondary data were utilised for data collection and discussion. The study revealed that ensuring a transparent electoral process, non-violation of voting and electoral rights of citizens and recruitment of competent electoral officers, amongst others, are the roles of INEC in the conduct of credible elections. The findings also revealed that political thuggery and voter intimidation, late arrival of election materials, noncompliance with the electoral laws in the area of electronic voting and transmission of results, and disfranchisement of a lot of eligible voters were bedevilled with the presidential election. The study concluded that the electoral umpire should be alive to their responsibilities. The study recommends autonomy for the Electoral Commission and adequate synergy between stakeholders and the electoral commission.

Bayode *et al.* (2023) investigated the imperative of the bimodal voters' accreditation system in Nigeria's electoral process. Primary and secondary data were utilised for the study. The study adopted a descriptive research design, data collected were analysed using descriptive statistics. The findings of the study revealed that the introduction of BVAS in Nigeria's electoral system improved electoral integrity, reduced duplicate ballots, prevented manipulation of results, and facilitated free and fair elections. The study further revealed that malfunctions of devices, inability to transmit results in some polling units, and inability to recognise the thumbs and faces of some voters were the challenges associated with BVAS. The study concluded that though BVAS has helped improve the electoral system, adequate attention should be given to ensure its effectiveness in future elections. The study recommends, among others, the deployment of technical experts and strategies for effective utilisation of BVAS.

Theoretical Framework

The democratic project is increasingly reliant on information technology. Making civic participation more accessible increases transparency and political space, which is the goal of governance innovation (Abdullahi & Kalgo, 2019). Academics, on the other hand, have developed a variety of views and theories to better understand the role of ICT in democratic processes. Among these are the Democratic Perspective, the Technological Approach, and the Economic Perspective, each with its view on the appropriate role of ICT in elections. However, this study is hinged on the Technology Approach. The Technological Approach is founded on the writings of political communication theorists such as Karl Deutch. Changes in political communication, according to this school of thought, have significant repercussions for people's political engagement (Abdullahi & Kalgo, 2019). To put it another way, there has been a paradigm shift from classical communication theory, which stressed sending and receiving messages up to the feedback loop, to a more specialist technique of integrating disparate systems.

The premise is that technology infrastructure gives free and limitless knowledge, improves and increases citizen participation in public affairs, and removes barriers to political and civic engagement that were previously insurmountable. According to Nwangwu *et al.* (2018), the use of computer-based, electronic Smart Card Reader (SCR) devices for voter accreditation, vote counting, and biometric PVC validation restored confidence in the election process among most Nigerian voters and foreign partners. It could be said that technology equipment such as BVAS may reduce rigging and promote election transparency and integrity.



METHODOLOGY

The study adopted a descriptive research design. Primary and secondary data were utilised for the study. Primary data was obtained from a self-structured questionnaire and interview guide, while secondary data was obtained from journals, published articles, textbooks, and published thesis. Multi-stage sampling techniques were utilised for the study. In the first stage, a stratified sampling technique was used to categorise the local government in the state along the three senatorial districts (Nasarawa-South, West & North). In the second stage, a random sampling technique was used to select one local government area each from the three senatorial districts amounting to three (3) LGAs (Lafia, Keffi & Akwanga). In the third stage, a purposive sampling technique was used to select ten (10) INEC staff each from the senatorial district of the state, amounting to thirty (30). In addition, a random sampling technique was used to select twenty (20) electorate from each of the selected local government areas amounting to sixty (60). Also, three (3) INEC staff and three (3) electorate one each from the selected local government area were scheduled for an interview session.

Socio-demographic Features of Respondents

The study sought information on some socio-demographic attributes of respondents including age, sex, voting experience and qualification. The reason was to enable the researchers to understand their respondents better and to present a general understanding of the nature of the study.

Table 1: Socio-Demographic Characteristics of Respondents

Gender	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Percent
Male	51	60.7	60.7
Female	33	39.3	100.0
Total	84	100.0	
Age			
18-25	17	20.2	20.2
26-33	26	31	51.2
34-41	30	35.7	86.9
42 and above	11	13.1	100.0
Total	84	100.0	
Voting experience			
1-5	19	22.6	22.6
6-10	14	16.7	39.3
11-15	29	34.5	73.8
16 and above	22	26.2	100.0
Total	84	100.0	
Qualification			
SSCE	5	5.9	5.9
ND/NCE	28	33.3	39.2
B.Sc./HND	36	42.9	82.1
Master's and above	15	17.9	100.0



Total	84	100.0
--------------	----	-------

Source: Fieldwork, 2023

The data in table 1 shows the sociodemographic features of the respondents. Results from the table show that 51(60.7%) of the respondents are male while 33(39.3%) of the respondents are female. It also revealed that 17(20.2%) of the respondents are within the age bracket of 18-25 years, 26(31%) of the respondents fall within the age bracket of 26-33 years, 30(35.7%) of the respondents are within the age range of 34-41 years while 11(13.1%) of the respondents are of 42 years and above.

Concerning years of voting experience, 19(22.6%) of the respondents had 1-5 years of experience, 14(16.7%) of the respondents had 6-10 years of experience, 29(34.5%) of the respondents had 11-15 years of experience while 22(26.2%) of the respondents had 16 and above years of experience in voting. It was also noted that 5(5.9%) of the respondents had SSCE certification, 28(33.3%) of the respondents had ND/NCE certification, 36(42.9%) of the respondents had B.Sc./HND certification, while 15(17.9%) of the respondents had Master's degree and above.

Table 2: Impact of Bimodal Voters Accreditation System (BVAS) on Election Integrity in Nasarawa State, Nigeria with Focus on 2023 General Elections

Variable	Strongly Agree		Agree		Strongly Disagree		Disagree		Descriptive Statistics N= 84	
	f	%	f	%	f	%	f	%	Mean Value	Standard Deviation
1. Eradicate overvoting/double voting.	32	(38.1%)	26	(30.9%)	12	(14.3%)	14	(16.7%)	3.20	1.332
2. Increase public participation in the electoral process.	27	(32.1%)	30	(35.7%)	18	(21.4%)	9	(10.8%)	2.63	1.156
3. Prevent manipulation of electoral results.	17	(20.2%)	13	(15.5%)	34	(40.5%)	20	(23.8%)	2.74	1.367
4. Enhance the public level of trust and confidence in the electoral process.	34	(40.5%)	13	(15.5%)	21	(25%)	16	(19%)	2.78	1.371
5. Facilitate free, fair, and credible elections.	15	(17.9%)	22	(26.2%)	36	(42.8%)	11	(13.1%)	2.86	1.280
6. Improved electoral transparency and integrity.	28	(33.3%)	23	(27.4%)	15	(17.9%)	18	(21.4%)	3.36	1.264



7. Reduce electoral violence.	20(23.9%)	19(22.6%)	28(33.3%)	17(20.2%)	2.54	1.362
-------------------------------	-----------	-----------	-----------	-----------	------	-------

Source: *Fieldwork, 2023*

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS OF FINDINGS

This section discussed the impact of the bimodal voter's accreditation system on election integrity in Nasarawa State, Nigeria with a focus on the 2023 general elections. The respondents were asked to agree or disagree with the indicated variables to realise the objective of this study. The questionnaire was designed using Likert scale measurement and was reported using table, frequency, percentage, mean and standard deviation.

The respondents were first asked to either agree or disagree with the assertion that BVAS has eradicated over-voting/double voting. In their responses, 32(38.1%) respondents strongly agreed with the assertion, supported by 26(30.9%) respondents who agreed with the assertion. However, 12(14.3%) respondents strongly disagreed with the assertion while 14(16.7%) respondents disagreed with the assertion. It was observed from this data presentation that 69% of the respondents agreed with the statement. This assertion was with a mean value and standard deviation of ($\bar{\chi} = 3.20$, $SD = 1.332$). This implies that BVAS has eradicated overvoting/double voting and promoted election integrity in the study area.

In responses to the second assertion, 27(32.1%) strongly agreed, and 30(35.7%) respondents agreed with the assertion that BVAS has increased public participation in the election process in the study area. This was contrary to 18(21.4%) respondents who strongly disagreed with the assertion, while 9(10.8%) respondents disagreed with the assertion. The interpretation of the data distribution revealed that BVAS has increased public participation in the election process and promoted election integrity in the study area. This assertion was with a mean value and standard deviation of ($\bar{\chi} = 2.63$, $SD = 1.156$).

BVAS prevent manipulation of election results in the study area. This statement was subject to the opinions of the respondents. In their responses to this third assertion, 17(20.2%) strongly agreed, and 13(15.5%) respondents agreed with this assertion, while it was conversely observed that 34(40.5%) strongly disagreed and 20(23.8%) disagreed with the assertion. Since more participants tended towards disagreement than agreement with mean value and standard deviation of ($\bar{\chi} = 2.74$, $SD = 1.367$), this indicates that the bimodal voters' accreditation system does not prevent manipulation of election results in the study area.

BVAS enhanced the public level of trust and confidence in the election process and was presented to the respondents to either agree or disagree in the study area. In response to the fourth assertion, 34(40.5%) respondents strongly agreed and were supported by 13(15.5%) who agreed with the assertion. However, it was contrary to the opinion of 21(25%) who strongly disagreed and supported by 16(19%) who disagreed with the statement. This assertion was with a mean value and standard deviation of ($\bar{\chi} = 2.78$, $SD = 1.371$). This implies that the bimodal voter accreditation system has enhanced the public level of trust and confidence in the election process in the study area. This was with 47 (56%) respondents on agreement level.



It was queried whether BVAS facilitate free, fair, and credible elections in the study area. Reacting to the fifth assertion 36(42.8%) respondents strongly disagreed, 11(13.1%) disagreed with the assertion while 15(17.9%) strongly agreed, and 22(26.2%) agreed with the statement. This assertion was with a mean value and standard deviation of ($\bar{\chi} = 2.86$, $SD = 1.280$). The data representation revealed that 55.9% of the respondents disagreed that the bimodal voters' accreditation system facilitated free, fair, and credible elections in the study area.

BVAS has improved electoral transparency and integrity in the study area. Reacting to the sixth assertion, 28(33.3%) respondents strongly agreed and were supported by 23(27.4%) who agreed with the assertion. However, it was against the opinion of 15(17.9%) respondents who strongly disagreed and 18(21.4%) disagreed with the assertion. This assertion was with a mean value and standard deviation of ($\bar{\chi} = 3.36$, $SD = 1.264$). This revealed that the bimodal voters' accreditation system has improved electoral transparency and integrity in the study area. This was with 51 (60.7%) respondents on an agreement level.

In responses to the seventh assertion, 20(23.9%) strongly agreed, and 19(22.6%) respondents agreed with the assertion that BVAS has reduced electoral violence in the study area. This was contrary to the responses of 28(33.3%) respondents who strongly disagreed with the assertion, while 17(20.2%) respondents disagreed with the assertion. The interpretation of the data distribution revealed that the use of the bimodal voters' accreditation system has not reduced electoral violence in the study area. This assertion was with a mean value and standard deviation of ($\bar{\chi} = 2.54$, $SD = 1.362$).

SUMMARY OF THE INTERVIEW ANALYSIS

For triangulation, an interview session was conducted with some independent national electoral commission officers and some randomly selected electorate to supplement the information retrieved via the administration of a questionnaire in the study area. Most surprisingly, the 6 interviewees revealed that the introduction of the bimodal voters' accreditation system has increased public participation in the electoral process. It was also noted by the interviewees that BVAS has helped to eradicate overvoting in the study area. This complements the data obtained via questionnaire. It was however noted by 4 of the interviewees that BVAS has not prevented manipulation of election results nor reduced electoral violence in the study area.

One of the interviewees revealed that the electoral system in Nigeria has been bedevilled with manipulation of electoral results since the return to democratic rule in 1999. He further noted that the electoral system is a game of winners take all while losers lose all. He also noted that while the bimodal voters' accreditation system has the prospect of improving the country's electoral system, adequate security measures should be deployed to prevent hackers from gaining access to the server of INEC to prevent manipulation of uploaded electoral results.

One of the electorates interviewed revealed that to enhance the public level of trust and confidence in the country's electoral process, the electoral umpires should be autonomous and independent in the discharge of their duties and responsibilities to Nigerian citizens. He further noted that this will go a long way to prevent political interference in the electoral process. Most



of the interviewees noted that to rewrite the wrongs of the past all stakeholders should come together to improve the electoral system of the country. The electoral umpire, security agencies, the citizens and those saddled with authoritative decisions on government policies and programmes must play their role.

CONCLUSION

The study concluded that though the bimodal accreditation system has helped improve the electoral system in the country, however, there is a need to improve its effectiveness to prevent loopholes for future elections. The bimodal voters' accreditation system has the potential and capacity to improve the country's electoral integrity in the global community of nations. However, it required all stakeholders to be alive to their duties and responsibilities to attain a nation with free, fair, and credible elections.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Arising from the findings of this study the following recommendations were offered to ensure electoral integrity in Nigeria:

There is a need for public education and enlightenment via the electronic and print media to sensitize the populace about the essence of the bimodal voters' accreditation system. This will go a long way to repose the trust and confidence of the citizens in our electoral system. Also, traditional, and religious leaders should help sensitise their followers on the potential of BVAS to the electoral system.

The electoral umpire in the country should employ the service of computer experts to monitor data information on their electoral results portal to prevent hackers from gaining access to their server. INEC must consider the possibility of such attempts to guarantee that the necessary protections are in place to make attempts by criminals to undermine the new processes and other technological schemes extremely difficult or impossible. This will help prevent the manipulation of electoral results in the country.

There is a need for adequate, and periodic training for INEC employees on global best practices. Furthermore, adequate training should be given to INEC ad hoc staff to ensure their understanding of the operation of the BVAS machine.

To ensure transparency and electoral integrity in the country's electoral process, there is a need for autonomy of the electoral umpire. This will go a long way to ensure they discharge their duties and responsibilities without political meddling.

**REFERENCES**

- Adullahi, A. & Kalgo, M. (2019). Digital technology and credible elections in Nigeria: Evidence from the 2019 election. *Sokoto Journal of Social Sciences Conference Edition*, 1(219), 1-12.
- Agiri, E. J., & Morka, B. C. (2022). X-ray of Ekiti State governorship election in Nigeria, 2022. *African Journal of Humanities and Contemporary Education Research*, 5(1), 147-156.
- Amao, A. I., Ambali, A., & Araba, A. (2022). Voters' confidence and good governance in Nigeria: a comparative analysis of 2015 and 2019 presidential elections. *Journal of Administrative Science*, 19(1), 48-69.
- Asoya, N. P. (2023). The role of electoral commissions in the emergence of legitimate governments: A study of the 2023 presidential elections in Nigeria. *Advance Journal of Management and Social Sciences*, 7(6), 1-19.
- Bayode, E. F., Olumorin, E. I., Olorunleke, E. O., & Tolorunsagba, O. J. T. (2023). The significance of BVAS in the electoral process in Nigeria. *Oguya International Journal of Contemporary Issues*, 2(2), 16-24.
- Breedon, K., & Bryant, A. C. (2018). Counting the votes: Electronic voting irregularities, election integrity, and public corruption. *U. Mem. L. Rev.*, 49, 979.
- Daxecker, U., Di Salvatore, J., & Ruggeri, A. (2019). Fraud is what people make of it: election fraud, perceived fraud, and protesting in Nigeria. *Journal of Conflict Resolution*, 63(9), 2098-2127.
- Dii, C. T. (2023). Voters' disposition and the outcome of 2023 general elections in Nigeria. *International Journal of Development and Management Review*, 18(1), 1-17.
- Ellis, A. R. (2018). The dignity problem of American election integrity. *Howard LJ*, 62, 739.
- Henschke, A., Sussex, M., & O'Connor, C. (2020). Countering foreign interference: election integrity lessons for liberal democracies. *Journal of Cyber Policy*, 5(2), 180-198.
- Iguh, N. A., Ewulum, B., Ikpeze, G. N., & Onah, A. C. (2023). Socio-legal implications of the adoption of bimodal voter accreditation system (BVAS) for credible elections in Nigeria. *African Journal of Law and Human Rights*, 7(2), 1-6.
- Jega, A. M., & Hillier, M. M. (2012). Improving elections in Nigeria: Lessons from 2011 and looking to 2015. *Lecture delivered at Chatham House, London*, 5.
- Kerr, N. N. (2018). Election-day experiences and evaluations of electoral integrity in unconsolidated democracies: evidence from Nigeria. *Political Studies*, 66(3), 667-686.
- Linebarger, C., & Salehyan, I. (2020). Electoral integrity and election-related conflict. *Democracy and Security*, 16(3), 260-280.
- Martinez i Coma, F., & Van Ham, C. (2015). Can experts judge elections? Testing the validity of expert judgments for measuring election integrity. *European journal of political research*, 54(2), 305-325.
- Monday, T. U., & Aluko, B. (2023). Information communication technology (ICT) and the management of elections in Nigeria: A study of independent national electoral commission's (INEC) bimodal voter accreditation system (BVAS), 2020-2023. *Contemporary Journal of Politics and Administration*, 2(1), 16-37.
- Nwangwu, C., Onah, V. C., & Otu, O. A. (2018). Elixir of electoral fraud: The impact of digital technology on the 2015 general elections in Nigeria. *Cogent Social Sciences*, 4(1), 1549007.



- Ogundare, Y., Seriki, A. I., & Edun, A. J. (2023). An assessment of the 2023 presidential election in Nigeria: A study of Kwara State. *Hasanuddin Journal of Strategic and International Studies (HJSIS)*, 1(2), 32-38.
- Ojakorotu, V., Erameh, N. I., & Chukwudi, C. E. (2023). The 2019 general elections, digital technology and the democratization process in Nigeria. *Gender and Behaviour*, 21(1), 21381-21397.
- Olonite, A. T., Chidiebere, O. A., & Agbailu, A. O. (2023). Nigeria's electoral integrity and bimodal voter accreditation system: An assessment of public opinion and voting behaviour. *African Journal of Law, Political Research and Administration*, 6(2), 22-40.
- Onapajo, H. (2015). How credible were the Nigerian 2015 general elections? An electoral integrity framework of analysis. *African renaissance*, 12(3-4), 11-39.
- Ottoboni, K., & Stark, P. B. (2019). Election integrity and electronic voting machines in 2018 Georgia, USA. In *Electronic Voting: 4th International Joint Conference, E-Vote-ID 2019, Bregenz, Austria, October 1-4, 2019, Proceedings 4* (pp. 166-182). Springer International Publishing.
- Piccolino, G. (2015). Making democracy legible? Voter registration and the permanent electronic electoral list in Benin. *Development and Change*, 46(2), 269-292.