

Political Participation and Outcome of 2015 General Election: A Study of Ezeagu Local Government Area.

Anikwe Johnson Azubike and Eneasato B. O.

Department of Political Science Faculty of the Social Sciences Enugu State University of Science and Technology (ESUT) Enugu State, Nigeria.
Email: beneasato@yahoo.com

ABSTRACT

The study investigated political participation and the outcome of 2015 general election in Enugu State, a study of Ezeagu Local Government Area. Three research questions and hypothesis in line with the objective of the study were posed to guide the study. Literature related to the study was extensively reviewed. The researcher adopted rational choice theory and game theory as theoretical framework. Descriptive Survey research design was adopted for the study. The area of the study is Ezeagu Local Government Area. The population for the study was 220, 300. The sample for the study was 400 and sampling technique adopted was stratified sampling technique. The instrument for data collection was both primary and secondary data collection. The instrument (questionnaire) was validated by expert from the Department of Political Science, Enugu State University of Science and Technology, Enugu. The instrument was administered and collected on the spot, there was 100% total return. The analysis of the data was done using mean (\bar{x}) with standard deviation (SD). The results of the findings revealed that there was low level of political participation in Ezeagu Local Government Area in 2015 general election, that political parties was the major factors that promotes political participation, and insecurity was one of the major factors that inhibits political participation in Ezeagu Local Government Area in 2015 general election. The study recommended that political awareness is needed to sensitize the people of Ezeagu in order to enhance their political participation, that those factors that promotes political participation in 2015 must be sustained and upgraded, and that those factors that inhibits political participation must be eliminated. The study concluded that government should embark on mass political education in order to inculcate right attitude in the citizens and this will go a long way to ensure that all the success witnessed in 2015 general elections will be sustained for democracy to thrive.

Keywords: Political Participation, General Election, Ezeagu

INTRODUCTION

Globally, the importance of political participation can never be over-emphasized in any country, more especially in a democratic governance. Political participation is a necessary ingredient of every political system and this is done by involving the people in matters of the state [1,2,3,4]. That all political system should encourage political participation through various degrees since political participation fosters stability and order by reinforcing

the legitimacy of political authority [5]. Political participation refers to the different ways in which the public express opinions and ideas, exert influence on political, economic, management and other social decisions [6]. [7] defines political participation as voluntary activities shared by members of a society in the selection of their rulers and directly or indirectly involve in the formation of public policies. In a similar tone, [8] also conceives political

participation in the following words: Is voluntary activities shared by members of a society in the selection of their rulers and directly or indirectly involves in the formation of public policies. From the definition above, political participation appears that, those actions (e.g. voting at elections, campaigning, contesting at election), must voluntarily or willingly come from the individuals before they can be described as active political participants. Otherwise, any attempt aimed at coercing people to get involved in these activities is a contradiction of the above definitions. [9] opines that political participation refers to the playing of active role in the selection of rulers or active part in the politics of one's country. Those citizens participate in the following ways; through voting in election, attending political rally, belonging to a political party, attending political meetings and taking interest in political programmes. Similarly, [10] observed that political participation includes political activities of citizens aimed at influencing the political process. That participation could be either on group or individual basis. The political process may be the ways, directions and methods of governance or the output or the outcomes of the process. These political activities may be in form of selection of leaders, influencing decisions of government, and the process of governance. [11] posited that political participation are those actions by private citizens by which they seek to influence or to support government and politics. He further stated that political participation can either be direct in the sense of being involved in governance or indirect by observing and making contributions to the act of governance. Also, political participation is any activity that shapes,

affects or involves the political sphere. It ranges from voting to attending a rally to committing an act of terrorism, to sending a letter to a representative [12,13,14,15].

However, [16] identified three types of political participation: The conventional participation, these are activities that were expected of good citizens. For instance, volunteering for a political campaign, making a campaign donation, belonging to activist group and serving in public offices. Unconventional political participation actives are those legal but often considered inappropriate. Examples of unconventional participations are signing petitions, supporting boycott and staging demonstration/protest. The third type is illegal political participation [17,18,19]. These are actives that break the law, most times people resort to illegal political participation only when legal means have failed to create significant political change. The examples of illegal political participation includes; political assassination, terrorism and sabotage of an opponent's campaign through theft or vandalism. [20] classified political participation into three namely; gladiatorial activities, transitional activities and spectator activities. Political activities such as holding public or party offices, canvassing for party funds, contesting at elections, etc. While transitional activities also include activities such as attending political meetings or political rally, making monetary contributions to political parties, etc. Spectator activities on the other hand include political activities such as wearing of party badges, caps, uniform or emblems, running errands for political leaders, voting at elections [21,22,23,24,25,26].

Research Questions

The study was guided by three research questions thus;

- 1.To what extent is the level of political participation in Ezeagu Local Government Area during the 2015 general election?
2. What are the major factors that promote political participation in Ezeagu

Local Government Area during the 2015 general election?

3. What are the major factors that inhibit political participation in Ezeagu Local Government Area during the 2015 general election?

Objective of the Study

The broad objective of this study is to: identify voting behavior, influence of culture on political participation, influence of educational status, economic status, religion, ethnicity, leaders, political party, gender, occupation, electoral body, campaign promises, politicians insensitivity, violence in election, level of political awareness, poor performance of political party, desire for change, rule of law and public opinion on political participation in Ezeagu Local

Government Area during the 2015 general election. Specifically, the study sought:

1. To determine the level of political participation in Ezeagu Local Government Area during 2015 general election.
2. To identify factors that promotes political participation in Ezeagu Local Government Area during the 2015 general election.
3. To examine the factors that inhibit political participation in Ezeagu Local Government Area in 2015 general election.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Theoretical Framework

The researcher adopted Rational Choice Theory and Game Theory

Hypothesis

1. The level of political participation seems low in Ezeagu Local Government Area in 2015 general election.
2. Political party promotes political participation in Ezeagu Local Government Area in 2015 general election.

3. Insecurity is one of the major factors that inhibits political participation in Ezeagu Local Government Area in 2015 general election

Research Design

Descriptive survey research design was used for the study. A descriptive research survey design, according to [18], is a design where peculiar character of a known or identified population are studied through a sample, which is deemed to be representative of the population. Similarly [25], opined that descriptive research is that research which specifies the nature of given phenomena, it gives a picture of a

situation or a population. This design was considered suitable for the study because it would be used to collect data from the representative sample of the population based on which generalization can be made. In this study, the opinions of 400 members of Ezeagu local government area were used to make generalization about the entire population of Ezeagu local government area in 2015 general election.

Population of the Study

The population of Ezeagu, according to National Bureau of Statistics 2015 was 220, 300. Out of this number, 400 people

were randomly selected for the study. This number consisted both of male and female above 18 years.

Method of Data Collection

The method of data collection was primary and secondary data collection. The researcher used self-structured questionnaire known as Level of Political Participation Questionnaire (LPPQ) to obtain information. The researcher did it with the help of three briefed research assistants who are prospective political scientists. The instrument was collected

on spot to minimize sample error likely to affect the final outcome of the study and loss of questionnaire. Therefore, there was hundred percent (100%) return of the instrument for data collection. The researcher also obtained information from journals, textbooks, internets, radio and television.

Methods of Data Analysis

The rating scale in the questionnaire was determined through the use of mean statistics and standard deviation. Nominal values were assigned to different scaling

A cut-off was determined by finding the mean of the nominal values assigned to

$$\bar{X} = \frac{\sum fx}{N}$$

where \bar{X} = Mean Score

$$\text{thus, } \bar{X} = \frac{4 + 3 + 2 + 1}{4} = \frac{10}{4} = 2.5$$

statement as follows: Strongly Agree = 4

Agree = 3

Disagree = 2

Strongly Disagree = 1

the options in each questionnaire items using the formula:

Decision Rule

The decision rule is that any mean score of 2.5 and above will be regarded as

accepted while response below 2.5 will be regarded as rejected

Sample and Sampling Techniques

The sample for the study was four hundred (400). The researcher adopted stratified sampling technique. This was to ensure that all the twenty (20) wards in

Ezeagu local government area were covered. The information obtained from these respondents were regarded as the representative of the whole population.

Test of Validity and Reliability

The instrument Level of Political Participation Questionnaire *m* (LPPQ) was validated by expert from Department of Political Science, Enugu State University of Science and Technology (ESUT), Enugu. The expert scrutinized the instrument in terms of clarity of language, appropriateness and comprehensiveness of the items in addressing the specific objectives of the study. Suggestions and corrections by the validator enable the researcher to come up with the final copy of the instrument which was used for data collection. The contributions helped in ensuring that all the item questions address specific issues that concern the subject under investigation, arrange questions in line with the research

questions that guide the study, hypothesis and some editorial corrections. Reliability of the instrument was established by administering 20 copies of the questionnaire to 20 persons in Udi local government. This is because the people of Udi were not part of the study. Their responses to the various items on the instrument were used to compute the reliability (internal consistency) of the instrument using Spearman Ranking Order. Spearman Ranking Order was considered ideal for determining the reliability of the instrument because the items on the instruments were not 'yes' or 'no' options.

LEVEL OF POLITICAL PARTICIPATION AND OUTCOME OF 2015 GENERAL ELECTION

Table 1: Mean ratings on level of political participation in Ezeagu local government area of Enugu State in 2015 general election.

n = 400

S/N	ITEMS DESCRIPTION	SA	A	D	SD	X	SD	DEC
1.	I vote during elections	110	50	165	75	2.05	1.08	D
2.	I belong to a political party	91	88	112	109	2.40	1.11	D
3.	Chairman visit to my community can stop me from going to work	60	70	101	169	2.05	1.09	D
4.	I can demonstrate in favour or against government policies	42	67	99	192	1.09	1.02	D
5.	I pay tax always	31	67	143	159	1.92	0.93	D
6.	I can report cases in the community to the local Government	10	31	170	189	1.65	0.72	D
7.	Demonstration against government is normal	81	97	103	119	2.35	1.10	D
8.	I belong to social group that influence policies of government	17	31	83	269	1.05	0.81	D
	Cluster Mean &SD					2.46	0.65	D

Note: SA = Strongly Agree; A = Agree; D = Disagree; SD = Strongly Disagree

Table 1 shows that mean ratings below 2.50 was obtained from item number one and it indicates that the respondents disagreed "I vote during the elections". One hundred and ten (110) respondents strongly agreed that they vote during the elections, while fifty (50) respondents agreed that they vote during elections. However, one hundred and sixty-five (165) respondents disagree that they vote during election. Similarly, seventy-five (75) respondents indicated that they strongly disagreed to vote during the election. Generally, the respondents disagreed that they vote during election. Also, item number two shows the mean ratings of below 2.50. In item number

two, "I belong to a political party", ninety-one (91) respondents strongly agreed that they belong to political parties while eighty-eight (88) respondents agreed that they belong to political party. More so, one hundred and twelve (112) respondents disagreed on belonging to political party. One hundred and nine (109) respondents strongly disagreed on belonging to political parties. In over all mean ratings, the respondents disagreed on belonging to political party.

Moreover, table number 1 shows that the mean rating below 2.50 was obtained from item number 3. Sixty respondents (60) strongly agreed that chairman's visit to the community can stop them from

going to work while seventy (70) respondents agreed that chairman's visit can stop them from going to work. On the other hand, one hundred and one (101) respondents disagreed on the item insisting that chairman's visit will not stop them from going to work. Also, one hundred and sixty-nine (169) respondents strongly disagreed that chairman's visit to their communities cannot stop them from going to work. Generally, the respondents disagreed that chairman's visit can stop them from going to work. Furthermore, table one indicated that item four "I can demonstrate in favour or against government policies" was generally disagreed. In this respect, forty-two (42) respondents strongly agreed that they can demonstrate against or in favour of government policies while sixty-seven (67) respondents agreed that they can demonstrate in favour or against government policies. Conversely, ninety-nine (99) respondents disagreed on demonstrating in favour or against government policies. In the same vein, one hundred and ninety-two (192) respondents strongly disagreed that they cannot demonstrate in favour or against government policies. Therefore, item four was generally disagreed. More so, item number five was below 2.50. In line with this, thirty-one (31) respondents strongly agreed that they pay their tax while sixty-seven (67) respondents agreed that they pay tax always. However, one hundred and forty-three (143) respondents disagreed on paying tax always. Similarly, one hundred and fifty-nine (159) respondents strongly disagreed on paying tax always. Generally, item number five was disagreed by the people of Ezeagu local government area of Enugu State. The item six, "I can report cases in the community to the local government" was disagreed as indicated in table one. Only ten (10) respondents strongly agreed that they can report cases to the local government while thirty-one (31) respondents agreed that they can report cases in the community to the local government. One hundred and seventy (170) respondents disagreed that they can

report to local government while one hundred and eighty-nine (189) strongly disagreed respectively on reporting cases in the community to the local government in Ezeagu local government area of Enugu state. Similarly, table one indicated that item seven was disagreed. To that extent, eighty-one (81) respondents strongly agreed that demonstration against government is normal while ninety-seven (97) respondents agreed. On the other hand, one hundred and three (103) respondents disagreed on item seven. In the same vein, one hundred and nineteen (119) respondents strongly disagreed. Generally, item number seven was disagreed. Also, in item eight "I belong to social group that influence government's policies", out of the total number of the respondents, seventeen (17) strongly agree that they belong to social group that influence government policies; thirty-one (31) respondents agreed. Conversely, eighty-three (83) disagreed and do not belong to social group that influence government policies. The remaining two hundred and sixty-nine (269) respondents strongly disagree on item eight.

In summary, item 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8 indicated that the respondents disagreed on them. A cluster mean of 2.03, with standard deviation of 1.05 was obtained indicating that the respondents have low level of political participation. However, since the inception of democracy in Nigeria in 1999, the Nigerian populace have been playing role in the democratic processes. These roles can be in form of making support, demands, protest, strike, voting, engaging in some illegal means of demand and supports such as militancy, mass movement, thuggery, social media, radio/television programmes, petition, political party activities, civil service, etc. In all these channels of political participation, voting during the election happened to be the prominent among ways of political participation, in view of this, general elections have been conducted five times: 1999, 2003, 2007, 2011 and 2015. The results of those elections indicated decline in political participation among the people of Ezeagu

local government area. The results supported the findings of this study since the improvements achieved in previous elections were not sustained.

The table below shows the results of general elections in Ezeagu Local Government Area between 1999 and 2015.

Table 2: Results of presidential elections from 1999-2015 in Ezeagu Local Government Area

S/N	YEAR	TOTAL VOTE CAST
1.	1999	20, 444
2.	2003	21,788
3.	2007	20, 553
4.	2011	23,861
5.	2015	22, 444

Source: INEC, Ezeagu Local Government Area (2016)

Moreso, [7] posit that less developed countries were characterized by low level of political participation. This is in line with the findings of this present study as we all know that Nigeria is still a developing country. Also, Nnamani (2005) observed that most Nigerians do not participate in electioneering processes more especially those at the local government. This is in agreement with the findings of this study since Ezeagu Local Government Area is one of the local governments at the rural area in Enugu State. Furthermore, in line with the findings of this study, the INEC residential electoral commissioner, Enugu State Mr. Emeka Ononamadu complained that out of one million, nine hundred registered voters prior to 2019 general elections only five hundred persons collected their voter's card which is the power to vote. [8] asserted that parochial political culture was characterized by citizens seem passive, disoriented from

the government. This is hi line with the findings of this study which identified that most participants in the study did not belong to any political party. Also, [14] posits that due to imposition of candidates on political parties, most of the political holders do not enjoy the supports of their subjects. This is in line with the findings of this study since most of those participants sampled in this study do not honor chairman's visit to their communities. [9] noted that most of the local governments in the country do operate under trees and have no specific function to perform such as collection of levy and tax. In line with this, the current study identified that most people surveyed do not pay tax. [13], asserted that most Nigerians were mainly passive and disoriented and to that extent do not play any role in shaping policies of the government and this is in line with the findings of the study.

Test of Hypothesis One

Table 3: The level of political participation appears low in Ezeagu local government area during the 2015 general election.

ITEMS DESCRIPTION	SA	A	D	SD	X	SD	DEC
Cluster mean and standard Deviation	442	501	976	1281	2.03	1.05	D

Decision Accepted

The cluster mean and standard deviation on level of political participation indicated that the level of political participation in Ezeagu local government area of Enugu state was low in 2015 general election. In summary, four hundred and forty-two (442) respondents strongly agreed while five hundred and one (501) respondents agreed. On the other side, nine hundred and seventy-six

(976) respondents disagreed and one thousand, two hundred and eighty-one (1,281) respondents strongly disagreed respectively. Thus: Number one hypothesis; The level of political participation in Ezeagu local government area of Enugu State was low in 2015 general election. Therefore, the hypothesis was accepted.

Summary of Finding of Objective and Hypothesis One

Results obtained from analysis of data relating to this chapter have shown the following:

1. That the people of Ezeagu local government area did not participate actively in voting process during the 2015 general election
2. The respondents do not actively take part in party politics.
3. That the respondents prefer going to work other than host the local government chairman in the community.
4. The respondents do not engage in demonstration either in favour or against government policies.
5. The respondents do not pay tax.
6. That the respondents do not report cases to the local government
7. The respondents do not support protest against government
8. The respondents do not belong to social groups that influence government policies.
9. On hypothesis 1, it was found that the political participation in Ezeagu local government area of Enugu State was very low in 2015 general election.

FACTORS THAT PROMOTES POLITICAL PARTICIPATION IN 2015 GENERAL ELECTION

Table 4; Mean Rating on Factors that Promotes Political Participation in 2015 General Election in Ezeagu Local Government.

S/N	ITEM DESCRIPTION	SA	A	D	SD	X	SD	DEC
9.	Socio-economic situation made people to vote in 2015	202	150	30	18	3.35	0.80	A
10.	Strong opposition made people to join politics	50	70	150	130	2.62	0.77	A
11.	Desire for change made people to vote	45	110	155	90	2.06	0.45	A
12.	Decamping made election Interesting	101	152	100	47	2.76	0.95	A
13.	The image of INEC made people to take part in election	55	78	145	122	2.16	1.01	A
14.	Introduction of computer made election transparent	151	135	60	54	3.26	0.73	A
15.	Campaign promises made people to take part in the Election	200	150	23	27	3.30	0.85	A
16.	Determination of voters made the election successful	118	120	100	62	2.75	1.04	A

	Cluster Mean & SD					2.70	1.60	A
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Note: SD = Strongly Agree; A = Agree; D = Disagree; SD = Strongly Disagree

In Table 4, the score obtained from the table indicated that all the items on the table promotes political participation in 2015 general election in Ezeagu Local Government Area with exception of item eleven (11) and thirteen (13). Meanwhile, item number nineteen, socio-economic situation made people to vote in 2015 general election. Two hundred and two respondents strongly agreed that socio-economic situation promotes political participation while one hundred and fifty (150) agreed that socio-economic situation made people to participate in 2015 general election. Conversely, thirty (30) respondents disagreed while eighteen (18) respondents strongly disagreed.

On item number ten (10), strong opposition promotes political participation, fifty (50) respondents strongly agreed that strong opposition promotes political participation while seventy (70) respondents agreed that strong opposition promotes political participation. Also, one hundred and fifty (150) respondents disagreed that strong opposition promotes political participation. Meanwhile, one hundred and thirty (130) respondents strongly disagreed that strong opposition promotes political participation. Also, item eleven (11), forty-five respondents strongly agreed that desire for change promotes political participation, while one hundred and ten (110) respondents agreed that desire for change promotes political participation. On the contrary, one hundred and fifty-five (115) respondents agreed that desire for change promotes political participation while ninety (90) respondents strongly disagreed on item number eleven (11).

Moreover, one hundred and ten (110) respondents strongly agreed that decamping made the election interesting while one hundred and fifty two (152)

respondents agreed that decamping played a major role in the election. Conversely, one hundred (100) respondents believed decamping did not play any role while forty-seven (47) respondents strongly disagreed that decamping did not make the election interesting. More so, fifty-five (55) respondents strongly agreed that the image of INEC promotes participation while seventy eight (78) respondents agreed that INEC image promotes participation. On the other hand, one hundred and forty-five (145) respondents disagreed on image of INEC promoting participation while one hundred and twenty two (122) respondents strongly disagreed on image of INEC promoting political participation during 2015 general election. On item 14, introduction of computer made the election transparent; one hundred and fifty one (151) respondents strongly agreed that the use of computer made the election transparent while one hundred and thirty-five (135) agreed that the use of computer made the election transparent. Conversely, sixty (60) respondents disagreed on that. Fifty four (54) respondents strongly disagreed that the use of computer made the election transparent. Also, on item 15, two hundred (200) respondents strongly agreed that campaign promises made electorates to take part in the election while one hundred and fifty (150) respondents agreed that campaign promises made electorates to take part in the election. On the other hand, twenty three (23) respondents disagreed that campaign promises made the people to take part while twenty seven (27) respondents strongly disagreed that campaign promises made the electorates to take part in the election.

Furthermore, on item 16, the determination of the voters made the election successful. One hundred and eighteen (118) respondents strongly

agreed that voter's determination made the election successful. In the same vein, one hundred and twenty (120) respondents agreed that voters determination made the election successful. Conversely, one hundred (100)

respondents disagreed that voters determination made the election successful while the remaining sixty two (62) respondents strongly disagreed that voters determination made the election successful.

Testing Hypothesis Two

Table 5: Political Parties Promotes Political Participation in Ezeagu Local Government Area in 2015 General Election.

ITEM DESCRIPTION	SA	A	D	SD	X	SD	DEC
Campaign promises made people to take part in the Election	200	150	23	27	3.30	0.85	A

Summary of Finding of Objective and Hypothesis Two

Results obtained from analysis of data relating to chapter five have shown the following:

1. That socio-economic situation made people to vote in 2015 general election.
2. That strong opposition did not make people to join politics in Ezeagu
3. That desire for change did not made people to vote in 2015 in Ezeagu.

4. That decamping made the election interesting.
5. That the image of INEC did not make people to take part in election.
6. That introduction of computer made the election transparent.
7. That campaign promises made people to take part in the election.
8. That voters determination made the election successful.
9. The hypothesis was accepted.

FACTORS INHIBITING POLITICAL PARTICIPATION IN 2015 GENERAL ELECTION
 Table 6: Mean Rating on Factors Inhibiting Political Participation in Ezeagu Local Government in 2015 General Election.

S/N	ITEM DESCRIPTION	SA	A	D	SD	X	SD	DEC
17	Insecurity stops people from taking part in election	220	170	7	1	3.55	0.55	A
18.	Card Reader stops people from voting in election	160	111	65	64	2.91	1.09	A
19.	Women should not take part in Politics	210	181	7	2	3.5	0.56	A
20.	Irregularities in election stops people from taking part in Election	150	120	71	59	2.90	1.06	A
21.	Imposition of candidates stops people from joining political Parties	121	117	99	61	2.75	1.05	A
22.	Money politics stops people from contesting elections	271	111	11	7	3.6	0.63	A
23.	Political killing stops people from taking part in politics	251	113	21	15	3.5	0.76	A
	Cluster Mean & SD					3.5	0.76	A

Note: SD = Strongly Agree; A = Agree; D = Disagree; SD = Strongly Disagree

Table 6 shows that the respondents on item 17 indicated that two hundred and twenty (220) respondents strongly agreed that insecurity stops people from taking part in election while one hundred and seventy (170) respondents agreed that insecurity stops people from taking part in election. Conversely, seven (7) respondents indicated that insecurity did not stop people from taking part in election while one (1) respondent strongly disagreed on the same. On item 18, one hundred and sixty (160) respondents strongly agreed that card reader stopped people from voting while one hundred and eleven (111) respondents agreed that card readers stopped people from voting. Conversely, sixty five (65) respondents disagreed that card reader stops people from voting, Meanwhile, sixty four (64) respondents strongly disagreed that card reader stops people from voting. Moreover, in item 19, women should not take part in politics, two hundred and ten (210) respondents strongly agreed that women should not take part in politics while one hundred and eighty one (181) respondents agreed that women should not take part in politics. On the other hand, seven (7) respondents disagreed while two (2) respondents strongly disagreed that women should not take part in politics. Also, item number, irregularities in elections stops people from taking part in election. One hundred and fifty (150) respondents agreed that irregularities stopped people from taking part in 2015 general election while one hundred and twenty (120) respondents agreed that irregularities stopped people from taking part in 2015 general election. On the other hand, seventy one (71) respondents disagreed that irregularities did not stop people from taking part in election while the remaining fifty nine (59) respondents strongly disagreed that irregularities stopped people from taking part in 2015 general election. Furthermore, on item 21, imposition of

candidates stopped people from joining political parties in 2015 general election. One hundred and twenty one (121) respondents strongly agreed that imposition of candidates stopped people from joining political parties in 2015 while one hundred and seventeen (117) respondents agreed that same stopped people from joining political parties. On the contrary, ninety-nine (99) respondents disagreed that imposition of candidate starts people from joining political parties in 2015 while sixty one (61) respondents strongly disagreed that imposition of candidates stops people from taking part in 2015 general election. Also, item 22, money politics stops people from contesting election in 2015. Two hundred and seventy one (271) respondents strongly agreed that money politics stopped people from contesting election in 2015 general election. Meanwhile, one hundred and eleven (111) respondents agreed that money politics stopped people from contesting election in 2015 general election, more so, eleven (11) respondents disagreed on money politics stopping people from contesting election in 2015 general election, while seven (7) respondents strongly disagreed that money politics stopped people from contesting in 2015 general election. Finally, on item 23, political killing stopped people from taking part in 2015 general election. Out of 400 respondents sampled, two hundred and fifty one (251) respondents strongly agreed that political killing stopped people from taking part in politics. In the same vein, one hundred and thirteen (113) respondents agreed that political killing stopped people from taking part in politics. Conversely, twenty one (21) respondents disagreed that political killing stopped people from taking part in politics while fifteen (15) respondents strongly disagreed that political killing stopped people from taking part in 2015 General Election.

Testing Hypothesis Three

Table 7: Insecurity is One of the Major Factors that Inhibits Political Participation in Ezeagu Local Government Area in 2015 General Election.

ITEM DESCRIPTION	SA	A	D	SD	X	SD	DEC
Insecurity stops people from taking part in election	220	170 -	7	1	3.55	0.55	A

Summary of Findings of Objective and Hypothesis Three:

1. That insecurity stops people from taking part in the election.
2. That card reader stops people from taking part in voting.
3. That women should not take part in politics.
4. That irregularities stops people from taking part in politics.

5. That imposition of candidates stops people from joining political parties.

6. That money politics stops people from contesting in election, i

7. That political killing stops people from taking part in politics.

8. The hypothesis was accepted since the majority of respondents agreed to that.

SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

Summary of Findings

The discussions on summary of findings on political participation and outcome of 2015 general election in Enugu State, a study of Ezeagu Local Government Area are presented thus: The findings on level of political participation revealed that Ezeagu local government area of Enugu State have low level of political participation among the sampled respondents. Out of four hundred respondents, one hundred and sixty (160) respondents voted during the election, while two hundred and forty (240) of them did not vote. This is in agreement with the outcome of 2015 general election where twenty-two thousand voters casted their vote during the 2015 general election in Ezeagu local government area [4]. Similarly, Falade (2014); found out that the participants merely registered and got voters registration cards. To him, just about (10%) of those who participated in his study casted their vote during 2007 and 2015 general elections. In the same vein, the findings of this study was in line with the report from Radio Nigeria Report before 2019 general elections where the Independent National Electoral Commissioner for Enugu State Mr. Emeka

Ononamadu complained that out of one million, nine hundred thousand (1, 900, 000) registered voters in Enugu State, only five hundred thousand (500, 000) voters collected their voters cards (Radio Nigeria, 2019). Also, the findings of this study was in line with the outcome of 2019 general election. The population of Nigeria was esteemed at one hundred and eighty million people. The 2019 general election was decided by the population of people less than thirty-five million which represented high level of political apathy. The channel TV on election mandate 2019 indicated that the governorship election in Nigeria witnessed low turnout [9].

In contrast, the findings was not in line with [14]; recommendations which advocated for high level of political participation among women. Also, the current study was in collaboration with the findings of [15]; who observed in his findings that the level of political participation among sampled respondents was very low. However, the study revealed that voting is one of the commonest ways of participating in politics and this is in line with [6]; findings which situated voting as the

commonest means of political participation.

However, this study revealed that one hundred and seventy-nine (179) respondents belong to political parties while two hundred and twenty-one (221) respondents did not belong to political parties. It could be established that political parties are the channels by which people aspire to political positions in democratic state. To that extent, most of the respondents did not belong to a political party. Similarly, [8]; found out in a study in Pakistan that women do not belong to political party mostly as a result of their social engagement in house chores and child birth. This is also in agreement with the findings of this study which indicated that most of the respondents did not belong to political party. It is worth to note that party structures are located in the wards of each local government of which Ezeagu Local Government Area is one of them.

More so, the study revealed that the visit of chairman cannot stop majority of respondents from going to work. One hundred and thirty (130) respondents agreed that the visit of chairman can stop them from work while two hundred and seventy (270) respondents agreed that chairman's visit cannot stop them from going to work. This is in line with assertion of [6]; which stated that parochial political culture was characterized by the citizen seem passive, disoriented from the government, make no contributions and are apathetic in participating in the political process. Similarly, [4]; opines that parochial are totally unaware of politics in the society. In this regard, the two opinions reflected low level of political participation which was also the findings of this study. However, this study revealed that most of the respondents do not engage in demonstration either in favour or against the state. This is not in agreement with [4]; assertion. Nnamani posits that the citizens make input into the political system either by supports, demonstration or demands. One hundred and nine (109) respondents agreed that they

demonstrate while the majority number of two hundred and ninety-one (291) respondents disagreed. In line with this, it appears that the people of Ezeagu local government makes little or no input into the political system by way of demonstration, this is also in agreement with the findings of this study which indicated low level of political participation in Ezeagu local government area of Enugu State. Also, the findings of this study in respect of people participating in politics through demonstration is not in line with the BBC [6] which recommends that citizens should always demonstrate either in favour or against the government policies.

Furthermore, this study revealed that the respondents do not pay tax. Only ninety-one (91) out of total respondents of four hundred (400) pay their tax. This does not ally itself with the assertion of [6] which stated that paying tax is one of the ways by which the citizens do support the government. Also, Madubuegwu (2010); stated that paying tax is one way of supporting the government by the citizen. To that extent, the level of political participation was low since the two-third majority of the respondents do not pay tax. More so, this study revealed that only forty-one (41) respondents can report cases in the community to the local government while three hundred and fifty-nine (359) respondents indicated that they cannot report cases to the local government. This is also in disagreement with Nnamani's assertion which opined that participants make contributions through so many ways [8]. Similarly, [3]; stated that people make inputs through playing active role in governance and this is in disagreement with the findings of this study. Therefore, this portray low level of political participation in Ezeagu local government area of Enugu State.

More so, this study revealed that demonstration against government is not normal. This is in total disagreement with the recommendations of [6]; who recommended that people should demonstrate when the government

programmes and policies were at variance with their expectations. Similarly, the findings of [9]; indicated that citizens demonstrate against policies that have negative impact on them is normal. Also, [4]; while describing how political system work identified demonstration as way of citizens participation in governance which can be in support or against the government. Furthermore, the findings of this study indicated that the majority of the respondents disagreed on belonging to social group that influence policies. This is in total disagreement with recommendations of [8] who recommended that in a democratic society, the civil society and other social groups should influence the policies and programmes of the government. Conversely [14]; identified the role of social groups in influencing policies of the government in his study. Also, [15]; in his study revealed that most of the respondents sampled indicated that they belong to social groups that influences government policies.

The findings of this present study indicated that socio-economic situation made people to vote in 2015 general election and this is in agreement with the argument of [16], "That socio-economic challenges in terms of insecurity, corruption, poverty, unemployment, illiteracy, diseases, ethnic-religious issues made the electorates to oust PDF. Also, strong opposition made people to join politic was found to be true in this study. This is also in line with the findings of [16] that opposition APC provide people with right choice of strong party. [6] posited that the burning desire by Nigerian to replace or change PDF made people to vote but this is not in agreement with the findings of this study. More so, on decamping, [9] found out that decamping made the election interesting with is also in line with the findings of this study.

Furthermore, the image of INEC made people to take part in the election, this is in line with [14,16] who also found that the image of INEC improved in 2011 and that of 2015 and this is not in agreement

with the findings of this study. Also, the introduction of electronics in the conduct of election made election transparent, most of the respondents agreed to that and this is in line with the findings of [9] which found out that the use of computer made the election transparent. The finding of the study also indicated that most of the electorates took part in the election as a result of campaign promises, this is also in line with the findings of [13] who identified that the campaign was mostly on burning national issues and not on trivial issues. More so, most of the respondents surveyed agreed that the determination of the electorates to protect their votes made the election successful. This is in line with Animasham who identified determination of the voters as one of the ingredients that made the election successful.

Moreover, this study identified insecurity as a major challenge during the election and this is in line with [14] who posited that Boko Haram attempted to disrupt the election by attacking voting centers and killing electorates on the spot. The study also indicated that card reader stopped many people from voting and this is in agreement with the reports from Radio Nigeria Election Mandate, which reported that there were incidents of card reader failure in many polling centers. The study also found out that women were not to take part in the election and this is in line with [9] who also identified that the number of women in 2015 election was less than that of 2011. Also, most of the respondents agreed that irregularities stopped people from taking part in election. This is in line with [7] who identified that the two major parties did everything to rig the election in their stronghold while [16] identified that time extension created room for rigging. Furthermore, this study also identified imposition of candidate as the major factor that inhibits political participation and this is in line with the findings of [16,18,19]. The study identifies money politics as one of the factors that deter people from contesting election, and this is in line with the findings of [20,22]

which also identified huge amount of money being paid to parties to obtain form as one of the factors that is hindering people from taking part in election. More so, this study also identified political killing as a factor that

hindered political participation in 2015, and this is in line with most of the studies reviewed. [14,17,19] identified political killing in Nigeria as factors that is inhibiting political participation.

CONCLUSION

Based on the findings of the study, the research questions and hypothesis, the researcher concluded thus: That the government should embark on massive political education in order to inculcate right attitude in the Nigerian citizens and this will go a long way to ensure that all

the success witnessed in 2015 general elections will be sustained. Also, this will ensure that most of those abnormalities in 2015 will be worked upon and guarantee high level of political participation.

RECOMMENDATION

Based on the findings of the study, the researcher recommended the following:

1. That political awareness is needed to sensitize the people of Ezeagu Local Government Area in order to enhance then* political participation.

2. That those factors that promoted political participation in 2015 must be sustained and upgraded.

3. That efforts should be made to eliminate those factors that harm-string political participation in order to make our democracy strive.

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