

## FACTORS INFLUENCING RURAL DWELLERS' INVOLVEMENT IN ELECTORAL PROCESS IN OGUN STATE, NIGERIA

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### ABSTRACT

Voters' apathy has been a serious issue on all elections conducted in Nigeria, particularly in the rural areas. The study assessed factors influencing rural dwellers' involvement in electoral process in Ogun state. Multistage sampling procedure was used in selecting 150 respondents for the study. Data were collected through the use of interview schedule and analysed using descriptive and inferential statistics. Findings revealed that 63.3% of the respondents had high knowledge of electoral process, 53.3% had unfavourable attitude towards electoral process and 56.0% had low level of involvement in electoral process. Inadequate security at voting centers ( $\bar{x} = 1.49$ ) and difficulty in registering for Permanent Voters' Card ( $\bar{x} = 1.37$ ) were considered severe constraints facing respondents' involvement. There was a significant relationship between respondents' primary occupation ( $\chi^2=38.26$ ,  $p=0.000$ ), educational level ( $\chi^2=39.28$ ,  $p=0.000$ ) and membership of groups ( $\chi^2=45.47$ ,  $p=0.000$ ) with level of involvement in electoral process. There was also a significant relationship between knowledge of electoral process ( $r = 0.40$ ,  $p=0.000$ ), constraints to involvement ( $r = -0.66$ ,  $p = 0.000$ ), monthly income ( $r = 0.47$ ,  $p=0.000$ ) and attitude towards electoral process ( $r = 0.29$ ,  $p = 0.000$ ) with level of involvement in electoral process. The major factors influencing respondents' involvement in electoral process were primary occupation, monthly income, knowledge of electoral process and constraints. The study recommended recruitment of community police to augment Federal police to curb electoral violence and more card reading machines and staff should be employed to reduce the long time spent at polling centres.

**Keywords:** Electoral process, Voters' involvement, Electoral violence, PVC registration

### INTRODUCTION

Rural areas are vital sector of every nation's economy. The rapid development and modernization of the rural areas have gained the attention of policy makers and governments all over the world. According to the National Population Commission, Nigeria and ICF Macro (2009), approximately 64 percent of the population lives in rural areas. Similarly, the rural areas are regarded as the most important sector of the Nigeria population because the rural sector is the major source of capital formation for the country and the principal market for domestic and raw materials for industrial processes (Ugwanyi and Chukwuemeka, 2013). Typically, rural dwellers are less vocal and characterized by a culture of poverty as most people live barely above subsistence level. Laah, Abba, Ishaya and Gana (2013), stated that rural areas are usually deprived of basic needs of life such as housing, medical care, postal communication, education, transport etc. Given the importance of rural sector to the country's economy, enhancing the development of the sector should be taken serious by government and public administration.

Cheema and Maguire (2004) opined that development is not sustainable without transparent and accountable institutions (i.e. electoral bodies and government), national and local capacity to formulate people oriented policies and legal and regulatory framework. In order for development to be realised at all level of life (socially, economically, and politically), rural communities needs responsible and accountable leaders that are

elected in a democratic way through a free and fair election.

Meanwhile, electoral process provides citizen with the opportunity to decide those who will represent them at the local, state and national level. Therefore, it is paramount that all eligible voters should participate in all electoral processes, from voter's registration to voting proper. This will ensure proper representation in the helms of government and ensuring that our democracy is viable and meaningful. However, it is quite ironical that elections in Nigeria, over the years till the last general election have been marred with high level of voters' apathy with the inclusion of rural areas. Rural voter apathy goes beyond just lack of interest or passivity of voters towards voting, it is the insensitivity of voters to electoral processes, particularly voting caused by disenchantment arising from dissatisfaction with the political system and sometimes ignorance and lack of proper education. Rural voter apathy thus, results in low voter turnouts. As a result, lack of voting or representativeness in governance from a particular community leading to a low public service delivery in such community, which will in turn limit development in such community.

Broadly, Vergne (2009) and Amdi (2014) have identified some factors that affect political participation and voter turnout. Vergne (2009) holds that, the expected benefit of voting depends on some variables such as the policy packages that the electorates prefer to be carried out and the parties or leaders they prefer to be in governance. Amdi (2014) identifies the institutional arrangement of the Nigerian state as a major factor



for low voter turnout. He maintains that, the democratic process and political participation in Nigeria is a learning one and this is so because, the democratic structures and institutions are very fragile and coupled with low level of democratic culture of the citizens resulting from long years of military dictatorship. These fragile democratic structures have affected the political processes thereby, reducing the measure of confidence in the political process by the citizens.

In a country supposedly run by elected officials, disenchanted and inactive citizens can present a problem. This is because, when very few people vote at elections, the elected persons do not necessarily represent the beliefs and values of the general population. Fewer voters at the polls lessen the impact of the popular vote and strengthen the impact of special interest groups. Various causes of apathy have been identified over the years with little or no effort to tackle it. With this, Nigerians should be more involved in the selection of their leaders by participating in electoral process and ensuring that politicians are been put on their toes to perform as expected. The independent electoral commission saddled with the responsibility of ensuring credible free and fair elections, embarked on various voter education campaign to educate the voters on how to go about the electoral process, with little improvement on voters turn out been recorded, particularly in rural areas. Voter apathy remains one of the central problems in Nigeria politics and election as the values of democracy keep eroding conspicuously with its effect on rural development increasingly visible. This underscores the need to investigate the factors influencing rural dwellers involvement in electoral process.

The main objective of this study is to identify the factors influencing rural dwellers' involvement in electoral process. The specific objectives are to:

1. determine rural dwellers' level of knowledge of electoral process,
2. investigate the attitude of rural dwellers toward electoral process,
3. determine the level of involvement of rural dwellers in electoral process and
4. identify the constraints faced by rural dwellers in involvement in electoral process in the study area.

The study hypothesized that there is no significant relationship between socioeconomic characteristics, attitude of rural dwellers, knowledge on electoral process, constraints and their involvement in electoral process.

## METHODOLOGY

The study was conducted in Ogun State because of high prevalence of voter apathy reported in the state particularly at the rural areas. Ogun is a state in Southwestern, Nigeria. It has borders with

Lagos state to the south, Oyo and Osun states to the north, Ondo state to the east and the Republic of Benin to the west. Abeokuta is the capital and the largest city in the state. The 2006 census recorded a total population of 3,751,140 residents, predominantly a homogenous group of Yoruba extraction. Agriculture is the economic mainstay of the state. The population of the study includes all eligible voters in rural areas of Ogun state who are 18 years and above. Multi-stage sampling procedure was used in selecting respondents for the study. The first stage involved the categorisation of rural and urban Local Government Areas. The second stage was the use of simple random sampling technique to select two local government areas based on their rurality. The third stage was purposive selection of 5 wards with the lowest registration from each of the selected local Government Areas. The fourth stage was random selection of 15 eligible voters from the list of registered voters collected from INEC in each ward to give a total of 150 respondents.

Data was collected with the use of structured questionnaire and interview schedule. Respondent's level of knowledge of electoral process was measured with 14 questions. Correct response attracted score of one while wrong response was assigned score of 0. The mean value was determined and used to categorise respondents into high (value  $\geq$  mean) or low (value  $<$  mean) level of knowledge on electoral process. The respondents' attitude towards voting was measured on a five point likert type scale of strongly agree (5), agree (4), undecided (3), disagree (2) and strongly disagree (1) for positive statement and the reverse was used for negative statements. The mean value was calculated and used to categorise respondents into having favourable (values  $\geq$  mean) or unfavourable (value  $<$  mean) attitude toward involvement in electoral process. Respondent's level of involvement in electoral process was measured on three point scale of always, occasion and never with scores 2, 1 and 0 respectively. The mean value was determined and used to categorise respondents into high (values  $\geq$  mean) or low (value  $<$  mean) level of involvement in electoral process. Constraints were measured on a three point scale of severe constraint (2), mild constraint (1) and not a constraint (0). The weighted mean was calculated and used to rank the constraints based on level of severity.

## RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Results in Table 1 reveals that most of the respondents (64.7%) were within the age brackets of 31-60 years, 28.0% were 61 years and above with mean age of  $50.76 \pm 13.96$  years. This implies that most of the voters in the study area were elderly, so they are expected to have participated in not less than two elections. This is quite similar to

result of Adeleke (2016) who reported the mean age of election participants to be  $52.7 \pm 16.98$  years. The distribution of the respondents based on sex revealed that 51.3% of the respondents were male while 48.7% were female. This indicated that more males were involved in electoral process than females. This could be that the electoral process favours the participation of male more than their female counterparts. This is in consonance with the

findings of Ogbogu (2012) and Nwanna (2014) that reported more male involvement in political activities than females. Table 1 also shows that more than half (55.3%) of the respondents were married. The reason for this could be that the couples encouraged each other to participate in electoral process.

**Table 1: Distribution of respondents by socioeconomic characteristics n = 150**

Variables	Frequency	Percentage	Parameter
<b>Age</b>			
≤ 30 years	11	7.3	Mean = 50.76 S.D = 13.96
31 – 60 years	97	64.7	
≥ 61 years	42	28.0	
<b>Sex</b>			
Male	77	51.3	Mode = Male
Female	73	48.7	
<b>Marital status</b>			
Single	17	11.3	
Married	83	55.3	
Divorced	12	8.0	
Separated	4	2.7	
Widowed	34	22.7	
<b>Educational level</b>			
No formal education	34	22.7	
Primary education	49	32.7	
Secondary education	38	25.3	
Tertiary education	29	19.3	
<b>Household size</b>			
1 - 5 people	63	42.0	Mean = 6.35 S.D = 2.95
6 - 10 people	72	48.0	
≥ 11 people	15	10.0	
<b>Primary Occupation</b>			
Farming	47	31.7	
Trading	51	34.0	
Civil service	11	8.6	
Artisan	24	16.0	
Clergy	1	0.7	
Politician	3	2.0	
Student	7	4.7	
Engineer	3	2.0	
Legal Practitioner	1	0.7	
<b>Membership of a group</b>			
Political group	25	16.7	
Social group	18	12.0	
Religious group	19	12.7	
Professional group	1	0.7	
None	87	58.0	
<b>Monthly Income</b>			
<N 25,000	103	68.7	Mean = N23,233.33 S.D = N29,174.186
N 25,000 - N 50,000	39	26.0	
>N 50,000	8	5.3	

Source: Field Survey, 2018

The respondents' level of education shows that 32.7% had primary education, 25.3% had secondary education, 22.7% had no formal education while the remaining 19.3% had tertiary

education. This shows that the rural dwellers have one form of education or the other; hence they may be knowledgeable on the electoral processes and possibly be involved in the processes. Edegoh,



Ezeh and Anunike (2015) reported a high number of electorates who had primary school education. The result in table 1 reveals that less than half (48.0%) of the respondents had a family size of 6-10 people with a mean family size of  $6.35 \pm 2.95$  people. Availability of family labour to assist in the household livelihood activities could possibly be the reasons for the large household size in the study area. This could also influence their level of involvement since they have higher expectations from the government to meet their household needs. The result also indicates that 34.0% of the respondents were traders, 31.7% were farmers, 16.0% were artisans and remaining were paid workers. This finding agrees with findings of Edegoh *et.al.*, (2015) that most election participants were farmers and traders.

Table 1 also reveals that more than half (58.0%) of the respondents do not belong to any group. It can be inferred that since most of the respondents do not belong to any group, membership of a group may not necessarily influence their level of involvement in electoral process. With regard to the income of the respondents more than half (68.7%) of the

respondents earned below ₦25,000 monthly and mean income per month of  $N23,233.33 \pm N29,174.19$ . This suggests that the respondents may not effectively participate in electoral process because of their low incomes which may serve as a barrier to pay transport to registration and PVC collection centres.

**Level of knowledge of electoral process**

Results in Table 2 reveals that all the respondents were knowledgeable that registration is a prerequisite to voting (100%) and that only INEC can declare result of an election (100%). However, majority were not knowledgeable that vote buying (14%) is not required while physical voting is a requirement in voting process (20.7%). In addition, the categorisation of respondents in Table 3, based on their knowledge on electoral process reveals that 63.3% of the respondents had high knowledge of electoral process while the remaining 36.7% had low knowledge of electoral process. This result was similar to the findings of Ajibade, Ocheni, Mabe and Adekunle (2012) that majority of individuals had knowledge of electoral processes and the political happenings around them.

**Table 2: Distribution of respondents by level of knowledge of electoral process**

Knowledge of electoral process	Right option (%)
Registration is requisite for voting	100
INEC only can declare result	100
Pregnancy not a barrier to voting	96.7
No sex restriction in voting	96.7
One man one vote	96.7
Right of party agent	89.3
Time for accreditation	88.7
Fingerprinting requisite for voting	84.7
Duration of election	62.0
Right to recall representatives	52.0
PVC for voting	41.3
18 years bench mark for voting	26.7
Physical voting	20.7
Vote buying	14.0

**Table 3: Categorisation of respondents' knowledge of electoral process**

Knowledge	Frequency	Percentage
Low level (7-8.92)	55	36.7
High level (8.93-11)	95	63.3
Total	150	100.0

Minimum = 7, Maximum = 11, Mean=8.93 and Standard deviation= 1.14

**Level of involvement in electoral process**

Table 4 reveals that the rural dwellers were mostly involved in registration ( $\bar{x}= 1.63$ ), followed by involvement in presidential election ( $\bar{x}=1.07$ ), accreditation ( $\bar{x}= 0.95$ ) and party rally ( $\bar{x}= 0.81$ ). The reason for their involvement in these activities in the rural areas could be that it is a requisite for them to participate in the electoral process and an opportunity for them to get some

benefits from the politicians in form of money or sometimes for fertilisers allocation. Respondents were least involved in vote counting ( $\bar{x}=0.47$ ) and collation of result ( $\bar{x}=0.27$ ). The least involvement in vote counting and collation is expected as the rural dwellers are not expected to perform these functions which are the exclusive functions of INEC but they are supposed to safe guard their vote

by being present during vote counting and collation of results as observers.

The categorisation of respondents in table 5, based on their involvement in electoral process reveals that more than half (56.0%) of the respondents had low level of involvement in electoral process while 44.0% had high level of involvement. The low participation of respondents

in electoral process could be as a result of lack of interest, lack of time as well as low level of education in the study area. This finding agrees with Falade (2014) that there is low level of political participation in Nigeria and more than half of Nigerian citizens were not actively involved in political activities.

**Table 4: Distribution of respondents by level of involvement in electoral process**

Involvement	Always (%)	Occasional (%)	Never (%)	Mean	Rank
Registration	81.3	-	18.7	1.63	1 <sup>st</sup>
Presidential election	41.3	24.0	34.7	1.07	2 <sup>nd</sup>
Accreditation	36.0	22.7	41.3	0.95	3 <sup>rd</sup>
Party rally	24.7	31.3	44.0	0.81	4 <sup>th</sup>
Gubernatorial election	29.3	15.3	55.3	0.74	5 <sup>th</sup>
National assembly	28.7	14.7	56.7	0.72	6 <sup>th</sup>
State assembly election	24.0	17.3	58.7	0.65	7 <sup>th</sup>
Local government election	14.7	26.7	58.7	0.56	8 <sup>th</sup>
Vote counting	13.3	20.7	66.0	0.47	9 <sup>th</sup>
Collation of result	10.0	7.3	82.7	0.27	10 <sup>th</sup>

**Table 5: Categorisation of respondents' involvement in electoral process**

Level of involvement	Frequency	Percentage
Low level (5-7.86)	84	56.0
High level (7.87-20)	66	44.0
Total	150	100.0

Minimum = 5, Maximum = 20, Mean = 7.87 and S.D = 6.14

#### Attitude towards electoral process

Table 6 reveals that majority of the respondents agreed that their participation is not likely to be based on how much they can get from party agents (87.4%), that although elections take place on holidays, they will still go out to vote rather than using the period to rest / spend the time with their family (78.7%) and that I may not participate even if political agents do not comport themselves (66.0%). This implies that the respondents would be willing to sacrifice their time and money to carry out their civic duty. Furthermore, the categorisation of respondents in Table 7, based on their attitude towards electoral process reveals that more than half of the respondents (53.3%) had unfavourable attitude towards electoral process while less than half (46.7%) had favourable attitude towards electoral process. Respondents' unfavourable attitude is most likely due to the fact that the expectations of the voters are usually cut short by the electoral officers and even election results do not always reflect the true position of voters, in terms of number of votes. Constraints such as inadequate security at voting centers and difficulty in

registering for Permanent Voters' Card (PVC), inadequate facilities at polling centers could also be responsible for respondents' unfavourable attitude towards electoral process. Studies conducted by George-Genyi, (2015) revealed that lack of interest of the electorates is an indicator of unfavourable attitude towards electoral process.

#### Constraints facing rural dwellers' involvement in electoral process

Results in Table 8 shows that the three most severe constraints facing respondents' involvement in electoral process were inadequate security at voting centers ( $\bar{x}$ =1.49), difficulty in registering for Permanent Voters' Card ( $\bar{x}$ =1.37) and inadequate facilities at polling centers ( $\bar{x}$ =1.31). According to the studies conducted by George-Genyi (2015) revealed that majority of eligible voters did not turn out for voting because they were afraid of insecurity and violence. Hence, Attoh (2015) opined that elections by their nature are confrontational and therefore require the assurance of equitable security to retain participants' confidence and commitment.

**Table 6: Distribution of respondents by attitude towards electoral process**

Attitudinal Statements	Strongly Agree (%)	Agree (%)	Undecided (%)	Disagree (%)	Strongly Disagree (%)
My participation is not likely to be based on how much I can get from party agents	34.7	52.7	8.7	4.0	-
Although elections take place on holidays, but I will still go out to vote rather than may use the period to rest and spend quality time with my family	22.0	56.7	8.7	2.0	10.7
I may not participate even if political agents do not comport themselves	22.0	44.0	7.3	16.7	10.0
It is likely I participate, if political parties produce qualified candidates	33.3	29.3	10.0	26.0	1.3
I may not participate if competent presiding officers is provided at my polling unit	22.7	40.7	6.7	18.0	12.0
I will not participate irrespective of the ethnic of the contestants	26.0	32.0	8.7	19.3	14.0
Despite the fact that most electoral process are not free and fair, I will still participate	19.3	38.0	1.3	36.0	5.3
I may not participate if I have difficulty in getting to the polling unit	8.0	46.7	12.0	32.7	0.7
I will not participate if there is poor weather condition on election day	26.7	28.7	8.7	17.3	18.7
I may not participate if enough security is not available on election day	23.3	32.0	5.3	23.3	16.0
I will participate even if eligible members of my family do not vote	24.7	22.0	17.3	17.3	18.7
I will participate irrespective of any candidate the political party of my choice will produce	1.3	44.7	24.7	21.3	8.0
Although past elections have failed to meet my expectation, but I may still participate	7.3	44.7	10.0	18.7	19.3
Past elections have failed to meet my expectation, therefore I will not participate	18.7	19.3	10.0	44.7	7.3
I will not participate irrespective of any candidate the political party of my choice will produce .	8.7	22.0	22.0	46.0	1.3
I may not participate if eligible members of my family do not vote	17.3	18.0	16.7	21.3	26.7
I will participate even if I have difficulty in getting to the polling unit.	1.3	32.7	10.7	46.7	8.7
Due to the fact that most electoral process are not free and fair, I will not participate.	5.3	36.0	1.3	38.0	19.3
I will participate even if enough security is not available on election day	23.3	23.3	5.3	32.7	27.3
I will participate no matter the weather condition on election day	14.7	18.0	8.0	29.3	30.0
I will participate whether or not competent presiding officers is provided at my polling unit	10.7	16.0	8.0	40.0	25.3
I will participate irrespective of the ethnic of the contestants	12.0	16.0	8.7	34.7	28.7
It is not likely I participate, even if political parties produce qualified candidates.	3.3	28.0	9.3	28.7	30.7
I will participate even if political agents do not comport themselves	10.0	15.3	6.7	44.0	24.0
Due to the fact that elections take place on holidays, I may not go out to vote, but use the period to rest and spend quality time with my family	2.0	0.7	8.7	58.7	30.0
My participation is likely to be based on how much I can get from party agents	-	4.7	8.7	51.3	35.3

**Table 7: Categorisation of respondents' attitude towards electoral process**

Attitude	Frequency	Percentage
Unfavourable (48-75.15)	80	53.3
Favourable (75.16-102.0)	70	46.7
Total	150	100.0

Minimum = 48, Maximum = 102, Mean= 75.16 and Standard deviation= 11.56

**Table 8: Distribution of respondents by constraints**

Constraints	Mean	Rank
Inadequate security at voting centers	1.49	1 <sup>st</sup>
Difficulty in registering for PVC	1.37	2 <sup>nd</sup>
Inadequate facilities at polling centers.	1.31	3 <sup>rd</sup>
Distance from home to voting centers	1.29	4 <sup>th</sup>
Long waiting time between accreditation and voting.	1.20	5 <sup>th</sup>
Long queue during voting	1.19	6 <sup>th</sup>
Bad weather condition during electoral process.	1.11	7 <sup>th</sup>
No formal education.	0.48	8 <sup>th</sup>

This is an indication that most voters consider the security of their lives and properties paramount during election process and will not likely turn out to vote unless they are secured. Moreover, the only means of participation is the possession of PVC without which means the person cannot express his/her voting right even if one is interested to be involved.

#### **Relationship between rural dwellers' attitude, knowledge, constraints and their level of involvement in electoral process**

Result of Chi-square analysis in table 9 reveals a significant relationship between respondents' educational level ( $\chi^2=39.28$ ,  $p=0.00$ ), primary occupation ( $\chi^2=38.26$ ,  $p=0.00$ ), group membership ( $\chi^2=45.47$ ,  $p=0.00$ ) and involvement in electoral process. The result of PPMC on table 9 also reveals that there was significant relationship between monthly income ( $r = 0.47$ ,  $p=0.000$ ) and their involvement in electoral process. This implies that respondents' educational level, primary occupation, group membership and monthly

income influence the rural dwellers' involvement in electoral process positively. The relationship between level of education and involvement is expected as an informed person in the society would know the time of elections and the benefits to derive from participation, hence, could influence their level of involvement in the electoral process. The relationship between membership of group and involvement could be explained from the fact that members can encourage each other to actively be involved in electoral process, hence the positive correlation. The relationship between monthly income and involvement indicates that as respondents' monthly income increases, their involvement in electoral process also increases, thus, the higher their monthly income, the higher their involvement in electoral process. This is so because the respondents can use the good income from their jobs to surmount whichever constraints that may influence their involvement in electoral process, hence increase their participation in the electoral process.

**Table 9: Relationship between respondents' selected socioeconomic characteristics and their involvement in electoral process**

Variables	$\chi^2$	df	p-value	Decision
Educational level	39.28	4	0.00	S
Primary occupation	38.26	6	0.00	S
Group membership	45.47	1	0.00	S
	<b>r- value</b>			
Monthly income	0.47	-	0.00	S

#### **Relationship between rural dwellers' attitude, knowledge on electoral process, constraints in electoral process and their involvement in electoral process**

The PPMC results in table 10 reveals that a significant relationship exists between respondents' attitude towards electoral process ( $r=0.29$ ,  $p=0.000$ ), knowledge on electoral process ( $r=0.40$ ,  $p=0.000$ ) and their involvement in electoral process. The relationship indicates that as the rural

dwellers' attitudes towards electoral processes improves, their involvement in electoral process also increases. This could be explained from the fact that as the electoral body begins to put all things right; they will continue to gain the confidence of the electorates and their perception about the electoral process, hence their level of participation in electoral processes. The relationship between knowledge on electoral process and involvement of rural dwellers is



expected as a knowledgeable person will know his right of voting for someone and to be voted for, hence the correlation of the higher the knowledge the higher the level of participation in electoral processes.

Data in Table 10 also reveals that there is an inverse significant relationship between constraints facing respondents' involvement in electoral process ( $r = -0.66$ ,  $p = 0.000$ ) and their involvement in electoral process. This implies that

the higher the constraints experienced by rural dwellers in electoral process, the lower their level of involvement in electoral process. This is expected as the higher the constraints experienced by the voters, the lower their involvement in electoral process. This suggests that if most of these challenges identified by the study were solved, low turn-out/involvement of rural dwellers during electoral process will improve.

**Table 10: Correlation between respondents' attitude, knowledge, constraints and their involvement in electoral process**

Variable	r value	p-value	Decision
Attitude towards to electoral process	0.29	0.000	S
Knowledge on electoral process	0.40	0.000	S
Constraints	-0.66	0.000	S

**Regression analysis on the relationship between selected independent variables and their involvement in electoral process**

The result in Table 11 reveals that the F -value of 18.92 was significant at 0.05% level and an adjusted  $R^2$  -value of 0.62, which implies that the independent variables can explain 62% contribution to rural dwellers involvement in electoral process in the regression model. The table further reveals that primary occupation ( $\beta = -0.141$ ,  $P = 0.032$ ), monthly income ( $\beta = 0.257$ ,  $P = 0.000$ ),

knowledge on electoral process ( $\beta = 0.249$ ,  $P = 0.000$ ) and constraints ( $\beta = -0.370$ ,  $P = 0.000$ ) were the factors influencing rural dwellers' involvement in electoral process in Ogun State. However, there exists an inverse relationship between primary occupation and constraints. The most determinant factors contributing to rural dwellers' involvement in electoral process in Ogun State were monthly income (26.0%) and knowledge on electoral process (25%).

**Table 11: Regression analysis on the relationship between selected independent variables and their involvement in electoral process**

Variables	Beta	t-value	p-value
Constant			
Age	0.01	0.150	0.271
Sex	-0.07	-1.172	0.243
Marital status dummy	-0.02	-0.138	0.751
Household size	0.10	1.639	0.104
Education dummy	0.10	1.342	0.182
Membership of group dummy	0.11	0.761	0.448
Primary occupation	-0.14**	-2.168	0.032
Monthly income	0.26**	4.303	0.000
Knowledge on electoral process	0.25**	4.260	0.000
Attitude to electoral process	-0.02	-0.293	0.770
Constraints	-0.37**	-4.463	0.000

**CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION**

The study concluded that most of the respondents were aged with high level of knowledge on electoral process which is likely to be able to withstand electoral rigors. However, the respondents' level of involvement and attitude towards electoral process was low and unfavourable respectively. The study also attested to the fact that primary occupation, monthly income, knowledge on electoral process and constraints were factors influencing rural dwellers' involvement in electoral process. Most voters consider the security of their lives and properties

paramount and are often unwilling to turn out to vote unless they were secured through provision of adequate security measures as a necessity at voting centers. Other constraints such as difficulty in registering for PVC and inadequate facilities at polling centers should also be eliminated by deploying more card reading machines and personnel to stimulate voters' interest in electoral process. In addition, to ensure increased involvement in subsequent election process, the current political leaders should endeavor to fulfill their promises after being elected into office.



Educational level, primary occupation, group membership as well as monthly income, knowledge on electoral process and attitude towards electoral process had significant effect on the rural dwellers' involvement in electoral process in Ogun State. Educational and social institutions can therefore be harnessed for effective sensitisation and enlightenment about voters' right and the need to participate in election processes.

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