



IMPACT OF EDUCATION ON THE USE OF CARD READER IN NIGERIA POLITICAL SCENE. (A STUDY OF ENUGU URBAN)

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Abstract: *This study was designed to critically investigate influence of education on the use of card reader in Nigeria political scene. The geographical scope was limited to Enugu urban which comprises three local government areas; Enugu East, Enugu North and Enugu south in Enugu state. The study adopted a descriptive research survey approach in which three research questions were posed. The total population of eligible voters in Enugu urban is four thousand 4000 while the target population for the study comprises of four hundred (400) males and females of voting age in the three local governments areas that made up Enugu Urban(Enugu North, Enugu East and Enugu south). Random sampling was also used to sample one hundred and sixty (160) males and female's eligible voters in Enugu South, one hundred and twenty (120) males and females from Enugu East and one hundred and twenty (120) males and females from Enugu North. Questionnaire of four point rating scale was used as the method of data collection. The instrument was adequately validated. Data collected was analysed using mean score. Based on the analysis, the study revealed that card reader education will solve election problems in Nigeria political scene. Based on the findings, it was recommended that the government should make appropriate provisions for card reader education to help the electorate in being acquainted with the election process.*

Keywords: *Education, Card Reader and Nigerian Political scene.*

INTRODUCTION

Education is a systematic process through which a child or an adult acquires knowledge, experience, skills and sound attitude. It makes an individual civilised, refined, cultured and educated. For a civilised and socialised society, education is the only means. Its goal is to make an individual perfect. Every society gives importance to education because it is a panacea for all evils.

Education according to Onuigbo(2002), is the transmission of values and the accumulation of knowledge of the society. It is designed to guide the students in learning culture, moulding their behaviours into adulthood and directing them towards eventual role in the society. Okolie (2004) maintained that education is a process established to help students become useful members of the society and also to help develop and appreciate their cultural heritage and live more satisfying lives. He maintained further that one idea of education is to organise, accelerate and to direct

the process of learning in order to produce individuals who will contribute to the development of the society.

The card reader is a technological device setup to authenticate and verify on the election day a permanent voters card (PVC) issued by Independent National Electoral Commission. The device is cryptographic technology that has ultra low power consumption with a single core frequency of the 1.2 GHz and an Android 4.2.2 operating system (INEC, 2015). In other words, the Independent National Electoral Commission(INEC) card reader was designed to read information contained in the embedded chip of the permanent voters card issued to eligible voters. The work of this card reader, is to further verify the authenticity of the permanent Voters card (PVC) and also carry out verification of the intending voter on the spot with one stored on the PVC (Network team, 2015). The ability of the card reader to perform the above described functions as well as keeping a tally of the total number of voters accredited at the polling unit

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and forwarding the information to the central data base server over a global system for mobile (GSM) network makes the card reader a thing to think about.

The Nigerian political scene is better imagined than experienced. The reality of the attempts to subvert the concept of democracy to serve the interests of a few, rather than a greater majority still looms high. The emerging democracy was artificial and reflexive of external imposition. It is a weak democracy that repudiates inalienable ethos of its true identity. Democracy and political participation are related, good governance are interrelated and complementary but appears to be antithetical in Nigeria and it's practice has proved difficult.

Ogbu (2008) in his own belief in education pointed out that education is the creation of sound mind in a sound body, it develops man's faculty specially his mind so that he may be able to enjoy the contemplation of supreme truth, goodness and beauty

Therefore, this study is set to critically study the impact of education of the electorate on the use of card reader in Nigeria Political scene.

Statement of the Problem

One of the objectives and needs for education is to provide students with academic and vocational skills as well as moral, ethics. Also the school is established as an agent of the society to mould the habits, interests, attitudes and feelings of students to transmit the social norms, culture, values and traditions from one generation to another. The lack of it all will affect the result needed.

Garry (2001) concluded that an educated person is a confident person. Education develops a positive outlook, allows us to believe in ourselves, because self-belief is the most wanted trait in a human being. Education leads us towards relying on ourselves; making us believe that we are ready to take on the world.

From the words of Ukachi(2007), any nation that does not value education is a dead nation and can only be inhabited by no other person's than wild animals. He further stressed that, education is a life-long process, where one keeps learning till death, especially in the world of 21st century where the world is now technologically advanced in all levels and manner of life. He concluded that for a perfect development of the human person to take place, education must be given its place in human society.

The card reader meant for election in the 2015 Nigeria general election could not deliver or solve optimally the aim for which it was introduced. It might be because about 60% of Nigerian electorate cannot read and write and hence cannot use the card reader very well. Is it lack of basic education? It is against this backdrop that the researcher intends to find out if lack of proper education of the citizenry was responsible for the poor recording on the use of card reader on the just concluded Nigerian general election.

Purpose of the Study

The main purpose of this study is to critically investigate the impact of education on the use of the card reader in Nigeria political scene. Specifically, this study intends to:

- i. Determine if card reader education will have any impact toward changing the political scene of Nigeria
- ii. Determine if the Government played any role towards educating the citizens on the importance of the card reader in Nigeria political scene.
- iii. Determine if card reader education can improve the political scene in Nigeria.

Research Questions

1. Does card reader education have impact towards changing the political scene of Nigeria?
2. Have the Government played any role towards educating the citizens on the importance of card reader in Nigeria political scene?
3. Can card reader education improve the political scene of Nigeria?

CHAPTER TWO: LITERATURE REVIEW

The Concept of Education

In English language, the term 'education' has been derived from two Latin words Educare (Educere) and Educatum. 'Educare' means to train or mould. It also means to bring up or to lead out or to draw out propulsion from inward to outward. The term 'Education' denotes the act of teaching. It throws light on the principles and practice of teaching. The term educare or educere mainly indicates development of the latent faculties of the child but the child does not know these possibilities. It is the educator or the teacher who can know these and take appropriate methods to develop those powers.

Taking bearing from the above status quo, Peschke (2006) in this regard stated point blank that



'Education is unilateral as well as bi-polar in nature, it is a continual process, it is knowledge or experience. It is the development of particular aspects of human personality or harmonious integrated growth which is conducive for the good of the individual or the welfare of the society, which makes it a; liberal discipline or a vocational course, in all, it is a stabilizer of social order, conservator of culture, an instrument of change and social reconstruction.

Oluremi (2013) in his view to give meaning to education noted that education cannot be confined to the processes of giving knowledge to children in school only. It is programme goes on from birth to death. In other words, every one learns something or the other through life by various experiences and activities. All this according to him is education. Education is not static but dynamic process, which develops the child according to changing situation and times.

Henry (2007) writes that an individual learns through his experiences, which are acquired throughout life. Education is not merely collection of some information. It is acquisition of experiences through life in the social and natural environment. It includes all the knowledge and experiences through life in the social and natural environment.

Aims of education

Education is a purposeful activity. By education, we intend to bring certain desirable changes in the students. Education is a conscious effort and, as such, it has definite aims and objectives. In the light of these aims, the curriculum is determined and the academic achievement of the students is measured. Education without aim is like a boat without its rudder.

Genevosi (2014) maintains that;

Aims gives direction to activity that absence of aim in education makes it a blind alley. Every stage of human development had some aim of life. The aim of life determines the aim of education.

He concluded that the aim of education have changed from age to age and thus, it is dynamic because the aim of life around dynamic.

Importance of Education

Education is an essential concomitant of all human societies. Addison (2014) posited that "what sculpture is to a block of marble, education is to soul". He went further to say that education is what places us in the society. It's how people

surrounding know how one should be treated by one's activities which can be created by amount of knowledge he or she has. Education is not just a matter of training, the mind, training makes efficiency, but it does not bring about completeness. Knowledge and efficiency are necessary which brings up the education. No human being is able to survive without proper education. By means of education, only one's potential can be used to maximize extent. Education tells men how to think, how to work properly and how to make decisions.

Card Reader:

According to Okongwu (2015), card reader is a portable electronic voter authentication device, configured to read only the permanent voters card issued by the Independent national Electoral Commission. He further maintained that the card was designed specifically for the accreditation process, authentication of eligible voters before voting. The machine was configured to read only the Permanent Voters Card (PVC) of a particular polling unit and can only work on Election Day.

Permanent Voters Card:

Jega (2015) explained that the permanent voters card (PVC) is a registration card; a voter obtains at the registration centre where he/she was registered as a voter which features the voter's name, name of the state the voter is registered in, the name of the local government area, the registration area, centre and code then, the voter's identification number.

Bola (2014) posited that the permanent voter's card contains enough data to confirm the person holding it is the same person that registered under that name. The PVC card reader system completes two simple checks on Election Day.

- i. That a voter is at the correct polling units where they registered.
- ii. That their fingerprints match those on record on their card.

Matching a voter with their correct polling unit is treated as fundamental-if their details for the unit do not match they will not be allowed to vote. If it is not possible to match fingerprints then a manual check will be made against their plots and the register. Voting will be allowed once a short incident report has been issued.

The card reader generates a report for the polling unit that helps confirm the number of people accredited and this information is announced and is to be recorded on result sheets before voting takes place. As an additional transparency measure, the data is



also uploaded to INEC nationally giving them additional capacity to monitor serious cases.

Impact of Education on the use of card Reader

Card reader is a device that authenticates the validity and security of a card. The card within seconds communicates with the smart card reader and decides if the card is valid or not. In the case of INEC the smart card reader actually displays the photograph of the card bearer within seconds of inserting the card into the machine to accredit the electorate before casting his/her vote. The aim of this device is to ensure the principle of one man one vote and to eliminate double voting.

Education is the only answer to this problems, in the curriculum of education information and Communication Technology experts are available they should be employed or engaged to train/educate all the INEC agents on how to properly use the card reader to ensure a perfect and smooth delivery of the intended aim.

If the agents are properly educated, it becomes easy for them to manipulate, operate and use the card reader in a meaningful way. Can the education of the electorate improve on the use of card reader in elections? This is why the researcher delve into this study.

Theoretical Framework

This study is anchored on the Maslow's Theory. Maslow's theory is one of the oldest theories explaining the impact of education to the development of human society.

Maslow refers to education as the basis for the development of man and his society. He posited that education plays an important role in the life of man which then helps him to build up a better society. He maintained that education is the process of imparting or acquiring particular knowledge or skills, as for a profession.

To Maslow, the development of a state is entirely dependent on the level of development of the people that make up such a state, such developments cannot come without proper education. If educationally the human capital has not developed, the tendencies that other parts can develop is in doubt, he then advocated that education should be embraced to get a total fulfillment and development in all human spheres of life.

He vehemently maintained that it is through education that renowned educationists, Engineers, Politicians, Professors of different disciplines are produced, therefore the relegation and

neglect to education will breed a non-viable society thus, creating lapses in total development of human resources.

Education should be the guiding principles of every society thinking of developing rapidly.

Empirical Studies

This section is centered on the review of empirical studies associated with the impact of education on the use of card reader. Gyan(2016) studied the impact of education on the use of card reader in Ghana 2015 presidential election. The study consisted of four local governments with a total population of 2000 males and females of voting age and 200 males and females were randomly selected. The results of the study indicated that card reader education has made the use of card reader very easy and the smooth functionality therein.

Ani (2016) studied the impact of education on the use of card reader in elections. The study comprised of two local governments; Abua and Ahoada Local government areas in Rivers state. The population used was 6000 while 600 were randomly selected for the study. Results of the study showed that the absence of card reader education will negate the proper use of the card reader in election. He therefore, proffered that the government should introduce card reader education for the good and better results in Nigeria political scene.

Okolie (2016) carried out a research on the impact of education on the use of information communication technology in Nkanu West Local Government Area of Enugu state which showed that out of 168 sample students, 20 were identified as ICT compliant while 148 students were identified as ICT non-compliant. This has come to mean that ICT education will help in making the students to cope with the technological advancement and changes in the world of today.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This study adopted a descriptive research design geared at finding out the opinion of people on impact of education on the use of card reader in the Nigeria political scene.

The area of study was Enugu urban. Enugu urban is made up of Enugu-East, Enugu North and Enugu south Local Government Areas. Enugu urban has a population of 722,664 individuals according to the census carried out in 2006. It has an area of 556 km²

POPULATION OF THE STUDY

The target population for this study comprised 200 males and females of voting age in the three local government areas that



made up Enugu urban (Enugu North, Enugu East, and Enugu South).

SAMPLING OF THE STUDY

The sample for the study was 200 males and females of voting age drawn from the population using random sampling techniques. In Enugu South (80) males and females, Enugu East

(60) males and females and in Enugu North (60) males and females

DATA ANALYSIS AND PRESENTATION

This chapter deals with the presentation and analysis of the data obtained from the administration of the instrument (questionnaire) of the study. The data are arranged following the order of the research question that guided the study.

Research question one: what is the effect of card reader on the election credibility on 2015 general election in Nigeria?

Table 1

| S/N | ITEMS | SA 5 | A 4 | SD 3 | D 2 | UN 1 | EX | X | Decision Rule |
|-----|---|-------------|------------|------------|------------|----------|-------------|------|---------------|
| 1 | Card reader education will impact change in Nigeria political scene | 184 920 | 90 360 | 64 192 | 58 116 | 4 4 | 400 1592 | 3.9 | Agree |
| 2 | Political activities of Nigeria could be changed positively through card reader education | 176 880 | 108 432 | 82 246 | 34 68 | 0 0 | 400 1626 | 4.0 | Agree |
| 3 | Could card reader education bring about development in election process in Nigeria | 202 1010 | 120 480 | 126 126 | 52 104 | 1 1 | 400 1720 | 4.0 | Agree |
| 4 | Card reader can work effectively in Nigeria if the political scene can be transformed through education | 150 750 | 80 320 | 44 132 | 120 240 | 6 6 | 400 724 | 3.6 | Agree |
| 5 | Card reader education can stop election crisis in Nigeria political scene | 114 570 | 80 320 | 108 324 | 78 156 | 20 20 | 400 1390 | 3.4 | Agree |
| | Grand mean | | | | | | | 3.78 | Agree |

In table one, Items 1,2,3,4 and 5 have mean score above 3.0. This indication that respondent agreed in all item that card reader education have impacted towards changing the political scene of Nigeria.

Research question 2: have the government played any role towards educating the citizen on the importance of card reader in Nigeria political scene?

Table 2

| S/N | ITEMS | SA 5 | A 4 | SD 3 | D 2 | UN 1 | EX | X | DECISION RULE |
|-----|-------|---------|--------|---------|--------|---------|----|---|------------------|
|-----|-------|---------|--------|---------|--------|---------|----|---|------------------|



| | | | | | | | | | |
|----|--|------------|------------|------------|------------|----------|-------------|------|----------|
| 6 | Government has played a role towards educating the people on the importance of card reader in Nigeria electoral process. | 90 450 | 100 400 | 108 324 | 82 164 | 20 20 | 400 1358 | 3.3 | Agree |
| 7 | Programmes has be organized towards educating the people on the use of the card reader in Nigeria election | 80 400 | 132 528 | 96 288 | 90 180 | 0 0 | 400 1396 | 3.5 | Agree |
| 8 | Political behavior of the citizen could be change through card reader education in Nigeria | 70 350 | 40 120 | 120 360 | 160 320 | 10 10 | 400 1160 | 2.9 | Disagree |
| 9 | Citizen are satisfied with the role of government in educating them on the importance of card reader | 70 350 | 40 160 | 82 164 | 180 360 | 28 28 | 400 1062 | 2.6 | Disagree |
| 10 | Government has impacted development on the state through the use of education on the political scene of Nigeria | 120 600 | 110 440 | 80 240 | 90 180 | 0 0 | 400 1460 | 3.6 | Agree |
| | Grand mean | | | | | | | 3.18 | Agree |

In the table 2, Items 6,7,8,9 and 10 have mean scores of above 3.0. This indicates that respondents agreed on item 6, 7, 8 and 10 that the government have played roles towards educating the citizens of the importance of card reader in Nigeria political scene.



Research Question 3: Can card reader education improve the political scene of Nigeria

TABLE 3

| S/N | ITEMS | SA 5 | A 4 | SD 3 | D 2 | UN 1 | EX | X | DECISION RULE |
|-----|---|------------|------------|------------|------------|----------|-------------|-------------|------------------|
| 11 | Card reader education will solve the election problems in political scene of Nigeria | 110 550 | 130 520 | 84 252 | 70 140 | 6 6 | 400 1468 | 3.6 | Agree |
| 12 | There has been peace in Nigeria elections because of the use of card reader. | 80 400 | 90 360 | 180 540 | 40 80 | 10 10 | 400 1390 | 3.4 | Agree |
| 13 | Can reader education have brought about development in Nigeria political scene | 112 560 | 86 344 | 64 192 | 136 272 | 2 2 | 400 1370 | 3.4 | Agree |
| 14 | Could failure in card reader education bring about failure in election process in Nigeria | 120 600 | 96 384 | 106 318 | 78 156 | 0 0 | 400 1458 | 3.6 | Agree |
| 15 | Card reader education will enhance further development in Nigeria political scene | 115 575 | 101 404 | 100 300 | 80 160 | 4 4 | 400 1443 | 3.6 | Agree |
| | Grand mean | | | | | | | 3.52 | Agree |

In table 3, Item 11,12,13,14 and 15 all have mean score above 3.0. This indicates that respondents accepted in item 11 to 15 that card reader education can improve the political scene of Nigeria.

Results of the Findings

Based on the answers of the respondents, the study revealed that card reader education will enhance further development in Nigeria political scene.

Also in this study, responses from respondents showed that card reader education will solve the election problem in political scene of Nigeria; this indicates that failure in card reader education will bring failure in election process in Nigeria.

It has also been found through the responses of the respondents that there have been peace in Nigeria elections because of the use of card reader and that card reader education will solve the election problems in political scene of Nigeria.

Lastly, the study also revealed that political behavior of the citizens could be changed through card reader education in Nigeria and that programs has been organized towards educating the people in the use of card reader in Nigerian election.

CHAPTER FIVE:

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The main purposes of this study was to establish the impact of education on the use of card reader education in Nigeria political scene. In an attempt to focus on the study, three research questions were posed to guide the study. Some published and unpublished works of earlier researchers were consulted.

To obtain answers to the questions, a fifteen (15) item questionnaire was formulated based on the research questions



and was administered to four hundred respondents (400) upon whose responses data was collected and analysed. The outcome of the analysis was based on the responses of the respondents to the questionnaire items that revealed that impact of education on the use of card reader in Nigeria political scene is seeking for a clarion call in Nigeria.

Card reader education in Nigeria will further balance the problems associated with election and the use of card reader during election in Nigeria.

Therefore, it was concluded that card reader education is very necessary in Nigeria political scene.

Recommendations

Based on the findings of the study, the researcher hereby makes the following recommendations

1. The government should make appropriate provisions for card reader education to help the electorate in being acquainted with the election process.
2. Independent National Electoral Commission should try as much as possible to educate their agents on how to properly operate the card reader machine.
3. Government should establish an agency to help teach card reader education in all geopolitical zones of Nigeria.

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