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## Election Management and Voters Turnout in Enugu State: A Case Study of 2015 Governorship Election.

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### Abstract

This study interrogated Election Management and Voters' Turnout in Enugu State: A case study of 2015 Governorship election. It examined the following research questions: Did poor voter education by INEC account for voter apathy experienced in the 2015 governorship election of Enugu State? Did the use of card reader machine enhance efficient election management during the 2015 governorship election in Enugu state? This research paper was anchored on the theoretical framework of structural functionalism by Gabriel Almond. The study presented the following hypothesis: Poor voters' education by INEC accounted for voters' apathy experienced in the 2015 governorship election in Enugu and the use of card reader machine did not enhance election management during the 2015 governorship election in Enugu. Documentary methods of data collection were adopted together with content analysis of data. This study discovered that poor voters' education by INEC accounted for voters' apathy experienced in the 2015 governorship election and that the use of card reader did not enhance efficient election management during the 2015 governorship election. Finally, it recommended that INEC should improve on voters' education by introducing more electoral platforms with which to educate the citizens on the need for them to participate fully in elections, convince and ensure them, that their votes count. Also a pilot test of the smart card reader machine should be done a month to the main election together with training of both the citizens/staff on how to use the permanent voter card on the card reader machines in order to avoid invalid votes.

**Keywords:** Election management, Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC), Voters Turnout, Voters education, card reader machine, Enugu State.

### Introduction

Election Management involves the critical areas of logistics, staff training and management, Voters' education and mobilization, political parties and candidate management, continuous voter registration, procurement and general support for Election Day. It also serves as a tool developed by the Commission, with the active support of the International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES) and so, it sought to provide a management framework to support the planning, execution, monitoring and output assessment of all activities outlined within an Electoral Cycle. Such a mechanism is built around a number of components or management systems, such as, a financial system, asset system (logistics), election system and human resource system. (INEC 2015)

Election Management has vital implications for electoral integrity because it is used to describe the quality of elections, judged according to international norms and standard throughout the electoral cycle (Norris, 2014). The Worldwide rise of Election Management Body is explained, to a large extent, by the growth of the number of democracies in recent decades and by the desire of these new democracies to pay careful attention to the establishment of transparent electoral processes/ institutions and the role of these electoral institutions include; determination of how elections are organized, how the act of voting results in the election of political representatives and the determination of which political leader (in a presidential system) or set of parties (in a parliamentary system), is to form the executive leadership for the next four years (Cartel & Farrell, 2009).

In the case of Nigeria, the independent Electoral Commission (INEC) is known as the election management body empowered by the 1999 constitution of Nigeria (as amended) to

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organize, undertake and supervise all elections in Nigeria. Prior to the 2015 elections, the systematic drop of voter turnout showed that there was lacuna in the election management which must have caused Nigerians to become apathetic towards elections and the statistics from the Independent National Electoral Commission, INEC captured the trend in voters turnout in the country as: Total votes cast 42,018,735 (52.26) in 1999, 39,480,489, (64.91%) in 2003, 35,397,517(57.49%) in 2007, 38,209,978 (51.97%) in 2011 and 29,432,083 (47.09%) in 2015 (INEC, 2015). Narrowing it down to governorship election in Enugu state, INEC presented a declining statistics of 502,213 (39.54%) in 2011 and 501,880(39%) in 2015.

In addition, Nigeria started a number of technologically based reforms in order to ensure smooth and transparent election and this was embarked upon by the leadership of INEC under Prof Attairu Jega. These included the biometric registration of voters and an advanced fingerprint identification system together with the use of permanent voter card (PVC) system and smart card readers, a device used to scan PVCs to verify the identity of voters at polling booth in order to ensure transparency of the electoral processes. The smart card reader was considered a good innovation for biometric verification though controversial, but it was crucial to the 2015 elections.

### **Statement of the Problem**

Elections are landmark issues in modern democracies because it serves as a crucial instrument for recruiting leaders by the electorate in a democratic system and when it is managed properly, it contributes to the consolidation of democracy in any country (The Electoral Institute, 2014). Again Civic and voter education are major components of the electoral process in Nigeria (Ibeanu, 2015).

It has been statistically proven by INEC (2015) that the 2015 general election puts voter turnout at 43.65% out of 67,422,005 registered votes with over 844,519 rejected votes and the Enugu State Resident Electoral Commissioner (REC) also announced that out of 1,429,221 registered voters, only 501,880(39%) of voters turned out. This implies that INEC having the responsibility of ensuring transparency and credibility of elections, is yet to perform part of their duties effectively particularly as it concerns voter education. (Stated in part 1, section 2 of the 2010 Electoral Act as amended).

The impact of lack of effective voter education is that, it brings about reduction in the voter turnout and increment in invalid votes after elections. (Agbo&Okoli 2016) asserted that, INEC was able to employ various reforms in order to conduct credible election but the problem here, remains that most of these employed personals are ad hoc staff, who are not enriched with knowledge of voter education and strategies of mobilizing populace.

Concerning the electoral or voting behaviour of individuals in the state, some scholars blamed it on the massive electoral fraud witnessed in the past which according to Lopez Pintor (2010) has serious political implications and also undermines the democratic process in Nigeria. In order words, INEC deployment of the card reader machine during the 2015 elections was aimed at reassuring the citizens of credible, transparent, free and fair election.

### **Literature Review**

The aim of the review is to locate the lacuna in existing literature with regards to the major themes in the topic. In this section, various scholastic literatures were critically reviewed.

#### **Element management:**

According to Al-Musbeh (2011) an election management body is an authority charged with administering the electoral process. He further said that due to the complexity and extra ordinary skills necessary for electoral management, a specific institution to be responsible for managing the electoral activities is being required. Al-Musbeh (2011) also identified important functions that are meant to be performed by various election management bodies. Such functions are, determining who has the right and eligible to participate in voting, accepting and validating the nominations of elections' candidates from individuals and political parties, preparing and opening the polling Centres (that includes all the procedural and logistical efforts and preparations), dealing with electoral complaints and disputes, declaring the results of elections or the voting process in general, and electoral boundary delimitations.

Furthermore, Al-Musbeh (2011) discerned 3 models of election management, which are; the Independent, Government and mixed models. The Independent election management body refers to the institutional autonomy of the election management bodies from the executive branch of the state, where the election management body has direct responsibility and authority to manage elections and it has and manages its own budget. In other words, the Independent election management body is not accountable to any governmental ministry or department, while it may be accountable to the legislative branch, judicial authority, or head of state. Secondly, the Governmental election management bodies refer to the situation where elections are implemented and managed through a ministry and/or through local government. Thus, the functions and financial issues of governmental election management bodies are subject of accountability by the executive branch through the usual mechanisms of governmental accountability. Thirdly, the mixed model of election management is when two or more election management bodies work collectively to organize and manage elections. Under the mixed model, there are dual or multiple structures, the division between these structures are based on the functions and responsibilities assigned to each one.

#### **Election Management Bodies and Voter Education**

Polyas (2017) opines that voter education means providing citizens of a democratic state with basic information about participating in elections. Voter education is often provided by the state institutions charged with public enlightenment and national orientation matters. United Nations (2018) pointed out that voter education involves providing information on who is eligible to vote, where and how to register, how electors can check the voter lists to ensure they have been duly included, what type of election are being held, where, when and how to vote, who the candidates are, and how to file complaints.

Ibeanu (2015) indicated that civic and voter education is a major component of the electoral process. The law empowers the Independent National Electoral Commission

(INEC) to conduct civic and voter education around the states. This is provided in sections 2 and 154 of the Electoral Act 2010 (as amended)

- a) Conduct voter and civic education
- b) Promote knowledge of sound democratic election processes.

Ibeanu (2015) further said that voter education is seen specifically as the role of the citizen as a voter. This will include knowledge around several issues including the duties and obligations of a voter, voting procedure, political parties and candidates, electoral offenses, counting procedures, the responsibilities of the election management body and mandate protection. Indeed, voter education is designed to equip the citizen with knowledge about the entire gamut of the electoral process.

#### **Election Management and Card Reader Machine:**

The smart card reader was designed to verify the authenticity of the Permanent Voters Card (PVC) and also to keep a tally of the total number of voters accredited at the polling unit and forwarding the information to a central database server (Engineering Network Team, 2015).

Peters (2015) opined that card reader procedure can prevent or minimize rigging in the sense that there would not be multiple voting but on the contrary, opponents believe that in the peculiar circumstances of the Nigerian situation, the card reader is designed to assist a certain political party to win the election. He maintained that the thrust of the latter argument is that the card reader must have been programmed to assist a pre-determined winner of the election by ensuring that a certain number of votes could not be given to another party and this will ensure victory to INEC preferred party.

Vanguard Newspaper (2015) noted that some INEC officials attributed the failure of card readers to INEC engineers, who could not decode the inbuilt security installation in the devices. The security code in the card reader is reportedly designed to record the time and date of voting. One official claimed that the cards were initially programmed for 14 February and 28 February, so after the postponement of the elections, both state and federal, the engineers started re-programming race which they could not finish before the newly fixed dates of 28 March and April 11<sup>th</sup> for governorship election.

*Some challenges were faced due to the card reader, in its operation for the purpose of accreditation in the 2015 elections. The training given to the ad hoc and INEC staff on the use of the card reader was inadequate. The Majority of the presiding Officers and Assistant President Officers in the polling units were not effectively trained on the proper use and handling of the card reader. In most cases, the venues provided by INEC for their training were crowded and not conducive such that most of the trainees did not properly receive the instructions on the use of the card reader (Alebiosu, 2015).*

Peters (2015) stated that the level of awareness among voters about the card reader was poor because a large number of Nigerians especially the electorates in the rural communities were completely unaware of the device and many of these people had neither seen nor heard about the card reader until Election Day.

#### **Election Management and Voter Turnout:**

Kuenzi and Lambricht (2007) explained the importance of a healthy democracy as a factor that increases political participation especially in terms of voters' turnout. The situation of voter turnout is worse in cases where voter registers, upon which voting and the computation of voter turnout is predicated, are far from accurate.

Omotola and Aiyedogban (2017) analysis reveals that voter turnout since 1999 has generally been low, hovering around 50% or slightly below. The reason for this tends to vary from different elections. The general factors involved in this include the disposition of the government (ruling party) towards free and fair elections, campaign issues, the level of political education and mobilization, voting experience and so on.

Since the return to civil democratic governance in Nigeria in 1999, Enugu State has been controlled by the Peoples' Democracy Party (PDP). All the Governors, senators, House of Representatives and State House of Assembly members in Enugu State and almost all the Councillors and LGA Chairmen in the state have emerged from the platform of the PDP. Its indigenous people have also held prominent positions at the PDP led federal level of administration. Ken Nnamani, an indigenous person of the state was Senate President between 1995 and 1997. Ike Ekweremadu, another indigenous personality of the State is now into his eighth year as the Deputy Senate President. A former Governor of the State between 1991 and 1993, Dr. OkwesiliezeNwodo was once National Chairman of the PDP (Serisite, 2015).

There were anticipations however that the scenario could change in 2015 as other parties could make inroads into Enugu State. One reason for this anticipation was that a former Governor of the State for eight years (1999-2003) and a former Senator (2003-2007) Dr. ChimarokeNnamani who won all previous elections on the platform of the PDP was contesting to return to the Senate on the platform of another party, the Peoples' Democratic Congress (PDC) and Nnamani is credited with the leadership of the Ebeano political structure which has produced winners in several elections in the State in the past (Serisite, 2015)

It turned out that these and other developments only affected the fortunes of the PDP at the federal level and in other states but not in Enugu State governorship election, where the governor emerged the winner with 482,227,000 votes as against other parties. (Serisite, 2015).

Furthermore, INEC (2015) showed its record on the number of votes, in different 17 Local Government Areas of Enugu State in the 2015 governorship elections. The record is shown as below:

S/NO	LGA	PDP	APC	APGA	APC
1	Aninri	39,216	886		
2	Enugu North	17,829	2,050		
3	Enugu South	15,889	1,633		
4	Ezeagu	32,995	1,307		
5	Igbo Eze North	51,948	2,482		
6	Igbo Eze South	18,120	6231		
7	Isiuzo	21,651	1813		
8	Nkanu East	12,571	975		
9	Nkanu West	16,683	1,148		
10	Nsukka	41,625	9416		
11	Oji River	13,484	2,394		
12	Udenu	40120	1463		
13	Udi	26,892	3,934		

14	UzoUwani	17,947	1,915		
15	Awgu	30,123	1,874		
16	Enugu East	63,660	2,062		
17	Igbo.etiti	211,524	2,256		
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>482,277</b>	<b>43,839</b>	<b>3,303</b>	<b>4,814</b>
	Registered votes	1,429,221			
	Voters turnout %	39%			

Source: INEC 2015

After a thorough literature review on election management and voters turnout in Enugu 2015 Governorship election, it has been observed that most scholars such as Agbo&Okoli, (2016), James et al (2016), Odoziobodo (2015) and others have looked into Independent National Electoral management body and election management while Scholars like Ibeanu&Orji (2014), Ejue and Ekanem (2011) have written on voters' education but none has adequately scrutinize the efficacy of voters education by INEC in order to improve voter turnout in the state. These form the lacuna in literature which this study set out to address.

### Theoretical Framework

This study adopted structural functionalism theory propounded by Almond Gabriel in the 1970s as framework for analysis. Structural functionalism assumes that a bounded (nation-state) system exists, and studies structures in terms of their function(s) within the system. The goal is to find out whether something actually does happen in a political system, as opposed to what it is supposed to do.

### Application of the Theory

Applying this theory in the analysis of election management and voters' turnout in Enugu during the governorship in 2015, it is important to note that a political system comprises many structures, all working or performing certain functions to make the system work. For any political system to work, several activities need to be performed and certain institutions are created to perform some of these roles or functions for the society to keep the system going. (Odoziobodo, 2015).

Therefore, the basis of structural functionalism stated that there should be an institution which must constitute the structures that perform certain functions and such institutions in the case of Nigeria is Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) with the function it performs as noted in accordance with section 153 of the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria as amended. As stipulated in part 1 of the third schedule to the 1999 Constitution are; the organization, conduct and supervision of elections and matters pertaining to elections into all elective offices provided in the constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria 1999 as amended or any other enactment or law, registration of political parties in accordance with the provision of the relevant enactment or law, monitor the organization and operation of the political parties, including their finances etc. Also, in part 1, section 2 of the 2010 electoral act as amended, there are also additional functions done by INEC such as voters mobilization, voters education and promoting knowledge of sound democratic election processes (Electoral Act, 2010). The different structures of INEC are expected to perform these functions in order to ensure transparency of the elections together with massive turnout of voters but where

they fail to do the needful, it will automatically result in low turnout of voters and invalid votes.

### Data Analysis

#### Poor Voter education by INEC account for Voter Apathy Experienced during the 2015 Governorship Election in Enugu State

Voter education is designed to equip the citizens with knowledge about the entire gamut of the electoral process and it is most effective when linked with a programme of civil education that puts the election into context for voters and provides an explanation of the election's purpose, issues and their significance. It also includes; knowledge around several issues together with duties and obligations of a voter, voting procedure, political parties and candidates, electoral offenses, counting procedures, the responsibilities of the election management body and mandate protection.

*INEC (2011) conceives voter education as the instrument through which it can increase voter turnout during elections improve voter knowledge of new accreditation procedures based on electronic voter's card as well as reduce the number of invalid votes during elections. It is important for citizens to have adequate knowledge of the democratic and electoral processes as well as the responsibilities in them. INEC should work towards institutionalizing civic and voter education.*

According to the NDI (2007), In Adamawa, Bauchi, Benue, Cross River, Enugu, Kaduna, Katsina, Ogun and Oyo States, NDI Observers noted serious irregularities that undermined the integrity of the electoral process, caused by inadequate voter education. Example of such irregularity is the massive disfranchisements due to errors in the voter register. Many of the voters lack the knowledge of the law that says, your finger print should not touch the line separating the voting point and as a result of that, their votes were counted as void. Corroborating this fact, INEC (2015) statistically produced 844,519 rejected votes as against 29,432,083 number of cast votes during the 2015 general election.

INEC (2015) reported mix-up in the result sheets in many Local Government Areas of Enugu State, which had rippling effects that took time to resolve. This failure manifested itself in the area of inadequate staff education on how to compute the results to avoid mix-up.

Again, the percentage of voters' turnout in Enugu State during the 2015 governorship election was extremely low at (0.39%) with registered voters of 1,429,221 to compare (38.54%) of 2011 turnout percentage of governorship election with registered voters of 502,213.

Ejue and Ekanem (2011) arrived at a conclusion that citizens have not been adequately educated to know their as voter, hence the electoral problems that have been witnessed in Nigeria. So, there is a need to embark and design a virile citizenship education curriculum. This citizenship education must be anchored on philosophy of essentialism that will instill basic spiritual values and qualities on the citizens. This will therefore, help to develop self-confidence in the voters so as not to allow themselves to be bought over and be used to orchestrate conflict during elections.

The discussion above is supported by the result of the data gotten from the questionnaire which shows that INEC has not effectively performed their duty on educating voters on how to vote.

**Question: INEC has effectively performed their duty on educating voters on how to vote.**

**Responses of respondents on the effectiveness of INEC on voter education**

Valid	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
D	84	21.0	21.0	21.0
SD	163	40.8	40.8	61.8
A	54	13.5	13.5	75.3
SA	99	24.8	24.8	100.0
Total	400	100.0	100.0	

Source: Researcher’s Field work 2021.

Based on this result, according to the response of the respondents, 84 or 21.0 percent respondents disagreed with the fact that INEC has effectively performed their duty on educating voters on how to vote. 163 or 40.8percent respondents strongly disagreed that INEC has effectively performed their duty on educating voters on how to vote. Furthermore, 54 respondents which is an approximate value to 13.5 percent agreed that INEC has effectively performed their duty on educating voters on how to vote while 99 or 24.8 percent respondents strongly agreed that INEC has effectively performed their duty on educating voters on how to vote.

**Question: INEC has educated people in your locality on how to thumbprint, fold their ballot papers and deposit the marked ballot paper into a ballot box: Responses of respondents whether INEC has educated people on how to thumbprint, fold their ballot papers and deposit the marked ballot paper into a ballot box**

Valid	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
D	95	23.8	23.8	23.8
SD	183	45.8	45.8	69.5
A	65	16.3	16.3	85.8
SA	57	14.2	14.2	100.0
Total	400	100.0	100.0	

Source: Researcher’s Field work, 2021.

According to the result of this table, out of the total of 400 respondents, 95or 23.8 percent respondents disagreed that INEC has educated people in their localities on how to thumbprint, fold their ballot papers and deposit the marked ballot papers and deposit the marked ballot paper into the ballot box. 183 or 45.8 percent respondents strongly disagreed, 65 or 16.3 percent respondents agreed and 57 or 14.2percent respondents strongly agreed that INEC has educated people in their localities on how to thumbprint, fold their ballot papers and deposit the marked ballot paper into the ballot box.

**Question: INEC has made people aware of offences that can't be tolerated in election: Responses of respondents on whether INEC has made people aware of offences that can't be tolerated on Election Day.**

Valid	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
D	90	22.5	22.5	22.5
SD	182	45.5	45.5	68.0
A	43	10.8	10.8	78.8
SA	85	21.3	21.3	100.0
Total	400	100.0	100.0	

Source: Researcher’s Field work, 2021.

Out of 400 respondents, 90 or 22.5 percent respondents disagreed that INEC has made people aware of the offences that can't be tolerated on Election Day. 182 45.5 percent respondents strongly disagreed that INEC has made people aware of the offences that can't be tolerated on Election Day. 43or 10.8 percent respondents agreed and 85 or 21.3 percent respondents strongly agreed that INEC has made people aware of the offences that can't be tolerated on Election Day.

**Election Management and Voters Apathy:**

The concept of voters’ apathy is the display of disinterest towards politics. It is a condition whereby people are no longer interested in the political situation in the country which leads to absconding from participating in election, political parties and laws of the country. The consequence can be devastating in the economy where there is stagnation in the political system of the nation and loss in the democratic values of the country. The consequence is further worsened by the fact that political apathy could lead to blackmail among politicians, dishonesty, corruption and dissatisfaction among the people as well as lack of social flexibility.

In describing political apathy situation in Nigeria, AttairuJega maintained that the existing voter apathy in Nigeria is no longer contentious and he continued that Voter turnout in the just concluded 2015 elections had provided a scientific and empirical evidence of the existence of voter apathy and disinterestedness of sections of the electorates in elections and this ugly scenario has implications for popular participation (Odebode, 2011).

Again, Falade (2008) argues that, politicians make promises during election campaigns. Most of these promises are often not fulfilled after they have been voted in to power and as a result many voters lose interest in elections and generally become indifferent. Unfulfilled promises by political leaders also discouraged a number of Nigerians from participating in electoral process.

**Use of Card Reader Machine did not impact on efficient Election Management in 2015 Governorship Election in Enugu.**

The smart card reader is an electronic technology-based device, introduced into Nigerian electoral process in 2015 to help improve and deepen electoral democracy. It authenticates and verify voters with PVCs. The device uses a cryptographic technology that ultra-low power consumption, with a single care frequency of 1, 2 GHz and an Android 4.2.2 operating system. The INEC staff operating the card reader scans the PVC of each of the voters to verify its genuineness before allowing the voter to get accredited. It takes an average of 10 to 20 seconds to authenticate a voter. The card reader is designed to read information contained in the embedded chip of the permanent voter card issued by INEC to verify the authenticity of the PVC and carry out verification of the intending voter, by matching the biometrics obtained from the voter on the spot with the ones stored on the PVC. The card reader performs these functions while also keeping a tally of the total number of voters accredited at the polling unit and forwarding the information to a central database server over a global system for mobile (GSM) network. (Engineering Network Team 2015).

**INEC and Impact of Smart Card Reader in 2015 Elections:**

First, the use of the card reader increased and reinforced public confidence and trust in the electoral process. Public confidence in each step of an election process is critical to the integrity of an election.

Secondly, the smart card reader created much more realistic data on election turnout of voters in 2015 elections. Also electoral fraud was reduced with the undemocratic attitude of politicians in the polling-boot electoral malpractice checked.

The Nigeria civil society situation Room (2015) described the device as a game changer in the 2015 elections. According to the situation room, politicians and candidates were unfamiliar with and even afraid of the card readers, as they had not learnt how to manipulate it. This fact in itself limited their ability to rig the elections.

Electoral conflict and violence was minimal as the election was seen to be transparent and credible, owing to the use of smart card reader. Tension was also reduced among political gladiators.

**Challenges of Election Management and Card Readers in 2015 Elections:**

In spite of the positive impact of card reader machine, it really posed serious challenges that undermined 2015 election management with low voters’ turnout because of INEC lack of preparedness both on the side of its staff not being adequately trained and the electorates ignorance of how to use the card reader as noted by numerous scholars and also from the low voters’ turnout.

Peters (2015) stated that the level of awareness among voters about the card reader was poor because a large number of citizens especially the electorates in the rural communities of Enugu were completely unaware about of the device and many of these people had neither seen nor heard about the card reader until Election Day.

Vanguard Newspaper (2015) noted that some INEC officials attributed the failure of card readers to INEC engineers, who could not decode the inbuilt security installation in the devices. The security code in the card reader is reportedly designed to record the time and date of voting. One official claimed that the cards were initially programmed for 14 February and 28 February, so after the postponement of the elections both state and federal, the engineers started re-programming race which they could not finish before the newly fixed dates of 28 March and April 11<sup>th</sup> for governorship election.

Enugu State that has 17 LGA, was given few number of technical staff to provide support in the field (One per LGA) which was grossly inadequate, one support staff per local government area could not scratch the numerous technical glitches that arose in the field.

The 2015 governorship election at Enugu State witnessed smart card reader failure in themajority of the cases during the election exercise, and the directive to resort to manual accreditation was received late in the state and this information could not reach certain parts of the state before the close of the exercise; also some of the corps members were reported to have refused to implement the directive insisting that they must get written order from INEC, a conviction the commission could not meet due to the short notice (INEC 2015). The negative impact of this card reader failure manifested itself in the low voters’

turnoutpercentage of 39 % out of 1,223606 registered votes in 2015 governorship election in Enugu as compared to that of 2011 voters’ turnout of 39.49% with 1,324,197 registered voters.

The table below shows that even though the electronic card readers had issues on not recognizing voters’ cards, voters still voted.

Valid	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative percent
D	45	11.3	11.3	11.3
SD	50	12.5	12.5	24
A	128	32.0	32.0	56
SA	177	44.3	44.3	100
Total	400	100.0	100.0	

Source: Researcher’s Field work, 2021.

45 or 11.3 percent respondents disagreed and 50 or 12.5 percent respondents strongly disagreed that they did not vote because the electronic card reader machine did not recognize their cards. 128 or 32.0 percent respondents agreed that they did not vote because the electronic card reader machine did not recognize their cards while 177 or 44.3 percent respondents strongly agreed that they did not vote because the electronic card reader did not recognize their cards.

This implies that the use of card reader machine did not impact on election management during the 2015 governorship election in Enugu State and also INEC inability to effectively manage the conduct and administration of elections and other electoral processeshas had deleterious effects on the nation’s efforts at enthroning credible and virile democratic system (Luqman, 2009

**Conclusion with findings:**

- 1) Election is seen as a very important democratic principle and the good management of an election is a first step to the fulfillment of this democratic principle. INEC’s voter education remains essentially one of the good electionmanagement strategy through which citizens’ massive voters’ turnout could be achieved.
- 2) Furthermore, the use of card reader machine introduced by INEC during the 2015 elections was meant to prevent or minimize rigging in the sense that there would not be multiple voting but on the contrary INEC failed in two vital areas concerning the card reader device. First, they failed to carry out a pilot run test of this card reader early enough in order to have time for fixing the challenges and secondly, INEC could not provide adequate training of its staff/ Ad hoc staff

**Recommendations**

Based on the findings, the study recommended the following;

1. INEC should improve on voter education by introducing more electoral platforms with which to educate citizens of the need for them to participate fully in elections, convince and ensure them that their votes count.
2. INEC should endeavor to do the pilot test run of the card reader one month before any future election and it should also provide adequate training of the citizens and staff both permanent and ad hocstaff on how to use the permanent voters card on the smart card reader machine in order to avoid lots of invalid votes.

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