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# Assessment of Social Acceptability of Modern Technologies for Electoral Activities in Nigeria

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***Abstract*** **– The paper examined the social acceptability of the technologies for electoral administration with a view to determining the level of preparedness of electorates in accepting new technologies among others. The study covered six states, namely: Anambra, Bauchi, Benue, Kano, Lagos and Rivers states selected from the six geopolitical zones. A set of questionnaire was administered on 820 registerable adults in the selected states to elicit information on factors determining the acceptability of the technologies among others. About 0.05% of registrants according to the 2006 voters' registration in each of the Local Government Councils with the highest registrants from each state were purposively selected. Secondary data were sourced from Electoral journals of Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) and the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. The results among others showed that majority of respondents in Anambra (56.7%), Bauchi (73.8%), Benue (84.4%), Kano (74.8%), Lagos (86.8%) and Rivers (86.0%) preferred modern technological devices to manual techniques ($F = 3.71$, $p < 0.05$). Without prejudice to manual technology, most respondents believe that adoption of new technology or improving on the current one would guarantee efficiency and effectiveness of electoral process in Nigeria.**

***Keywords*** **– Electoral Administration, Government, Independent National Electoral Commission, Social Acceptability and Technology.**

## I. INTRODUCTION

A number of elections were held in Nigeria in the colonial period. These elections started with the legislative council in Lagos and calabar from 1922 [1] and [2]. The first elections that were conducted in 1922 to the legislative were won overwhelmingly by the newly formed Nigerian National Democratic Party of Herbert Macaulay. There was no serious election in the country until 1951. [3] observed that the 1951 election was massively rigged by the British colonial people. For example, Sir Brian confessed that in the election of 1951, he did not only help to prepare Northern Peoples Congress's manifesto, slogan and strategies but that "in the case of more than a dozen, I had to hold and guide the pen hand, after cajoling from them the names of those for whom they wished to vote". Similarly, the 1958/1959 elections were controversial, characterized by massive rigging. [4] pointed out that those who had fought for independence were not those who had the priviledge and the historic duty of meeting the challenges of independence. In effect, the allegation is that the run-up elections of 1959 that were conducted under the Electoral Commission of Nigeria (ECN) were rigged by the British to ensure that they retained control over life and society in Nigeria.

By the time the country attained independent, three sets of elections were held in the period from 1960-1965. These were the elections in the newly created Midwest Region in February 1964, the federal elections of December, 1964 and the regional elections of 1965. The federal elections of December 1964 and the regional elections of 1965 were extremely controversial [5]. [6] noted that the elections of December 1964 turned out to be a farce. It was completely boycotted in the eastern region, where the National Convention of Nigerian Citizens (NCNC) government used its powers to ensure that no election was held. It was also partly boycotted in the West, North, Midwest and Lagos, with the effect that the election results lacked credit and were nationally unacceptable. However, while the United Progressive Grand Alliance (UPGA) rejected them, the National Peoples' Congress (NPC) and its allies – the Nigerian National Alliance (NNA), which single handedly carried out the elections accepted them. There followed a national stalemate [5].

[6] further revealed that the regional election of October, 1965 in the west was no less controversial. The Akintola Government Publicly interfered with the result of the election; so many Action Group candidates who had been issued certificates of election surprisingly heard their names as defeated candidates through government news media. Although the people clearly rejected the Akintola Government at the polls and voted massively for Action Group, opposition party at the regional and Federal levels, went ahead and declared Akintola as the winner of the election. These developments, including the simmering Tiv revolt in the middle belt, the political impasse at the center, the resulting mass revolt in the western region by the people who felt that they had been cheated at the polls set the stage for the first military coup in Nigeria on January 15, 1966. In the same manner, the above scenario was also corroborated by [5] when he observed that, "there was no doubt 1965 was a year of political gloom throughout Nigeria…". Generally, people had been disillusioned and disaffected with the Balewa/ Akintola /Sadauna clique of NNA. Economic, Social, educational and political problems were not solved. Corruption was rife and nepotism was the order of the day. It became clear that national leadership was nearing its collapse and that the ship of the nation was heading for the rock. The military then felt that the only option was to carry out a coup.

The coup which was executed by Major C.K. Nzeogwu, Major E.A. Ifeajuna and a certain captain assassinated prominent political leaders such as Chief Akintola, Prime Minister of Western Region, Sir Ahmadu Bello, Prime Minister of the Northern Region, Sir Abubakar Tafawa Balewa, Festus Okotie Eboh and the federal Finance Minister and a host of others. Reasons such as Nepotism,

corruption among civil servants who were accused of collecting ten percent kick back, social, educational and political problems, loss of credibility of institutions such as courts, the police, the electoral commission were advanced. The result of the bloody coup brought Major General Aguiyi Ironsi to handle the affairs of the country. General Aguiyi Ironsi was unable to effect changes in January 1966. In fact, by May, 1966, he had lost his credibility appreciably and suspicion had heightened once again. It was infact rightly pointed out by [7] that "Ironsi should have realized that political leadership required the ability to know the environment well, to feel the political temperature of the system, and to know the limit to which decisions can be taken without threatening the basic consensual values which bind the society together…"

After Aguiyi Ironsi's administration, Colonel Yakubu Gowon took over the mantle of leadership in the same year. Throughout the period of Yakubu Gowon (1966-1975), there was no serious transition programme, the period witnessed a civil war which almost torn the country apart. Bragadier (later General) Murtala Ramat Muhammed overthrew the administration of Yakubu Gowon in July, 1975. He dismissed immediately the twelve states governors and announced the return to the civilian administration by October, 1979. Though, General Muhammed had good intention of cleaning the society of the ills, he was assassinated in February 1976, by Lt. Colonel Dimka. The coup however did not succeed as the harrow head of the coup was arrested, court marshaled and executed along with others for treasonable felony. Lt. General Olusegun Obasanjo took over the mantle of leadership and put in place a transition programme which included the conduct: the conduct of elections into Local Government, state Assembly, National Assembly and Presidency. He also set up a constitutional review committee which recommended among others: the creation of a federal system of government with an executive presidency; creation of more states; creation of national political parties; the holding of free and fair elections; the transfer of federal capital from Lagos to Abuja. The transition programme of Obasanjo's regime eventually produced a democratically elected president on October 1, 1979 which marked the beginning of the second republic. Like other elections in the previous years, there were allegations of malpractices such as; rigging, ballot box stuffing, and inflation of registered voters etc. The result of these malpractices led to the challenge of Alhaji Sheu Shagari's election up to the Supreme Court. The election was however upheld amidst some controversies.

The Shagari administration was dominated by problems of institutionalizing the framework of the federal government, issues of religious extremism, corruption and economic difficulty arising from volatility in world petroleum prices at the time. Mothing substantial was done to tackle these problems. Shagari's regime was perceived notoriously corrupt and incompetent. Despite these problems, the National Party of Nigeria (NPN) which was then the ruling party used its priviledged position and financial influence to return to power in 1983. However, Shagari was deposed in a bloody coup led by Major General Muhammadu Buhari. The new administration as at that time promised to rid the society of corruption. With the pronouncement in July, 1985 by Major General Idiagbon, chief of staff at the supreme military headquarters, that there was no plan for any civilian rule and the prohibition of all debates on Nigeria's political future, the stage was set for another military takeover.

In August 1985, Buhari's regime was peacefully overthrown by Major General Ibrahim Babangida, an army chief of staff who ruled the country from 1985-1993. Babangida promised to restore democracy and put in place democratic institutions such as: Center for Democratic Studies (CDR); National Council for Inter-Governmental Relations (NCR); Political parties and electoral commission. Despite his initial commitment to achieve these promises, the transition period was repeatedly revised until 1993 when the freest and fairest election conducted by him was annulled. This repulsive action precipitated political crises across the country, leading to strikes and breakdown of economic activities as well as law and order. Babangida in his usual deceptive characteristics, set aside and handed over to an Interim National Government (ING) in the wake of prolonged political crisis that time.

The Shonekan administration was quietly displaced by Major-General Sanni Abacha who also peddled another complex transition programme that generated internal and external protests. He established Transition Implementation Committee (TIC), he created state, local governments and boundary adjustments planning committee, the National Electoral Commission etc. The sudden demise of Sanni Abacha in 1998 led to the emergent of another transition programme under the leadership of General Abdulsalam Abubakar who eventually handed over democratically to an elected president in 1999.

The stability of democracy in Nigeria can only be dated to 1999 when General Olusegun Obasanjo (retired) was elected as the president of Nigeria. Even though there were insinuations that the elections were characterized by massive riggings, yet people believed that the result should be accepted if only to send the military packing. This is in line with position of elder-state man and a strong political leader in the south-west, Chief Obafemi Awolowo, who observed that the worst civilian regime is better than the best military government.

The 2003 and 2007 general elections were not different from previous elections in term of violence, fraud, ballot stuffing and destruction of lives and properties etc. This could be associated with the fraudulent activities that characterized the elections.

In 2011, the presidency in line with the provision of our constitution (1999 constitution as amended) appointed Prof. Attahiru Jega, a one-time activist and chairman of Academic staff union of Nigerian Universities who the presidency claimed was apolitical. The coming of Prof. Jega in the actual sense, brought some sanity into the electoral system. For example, he introduced a lot of technological innovations ranging from the use of National Youth Service Corp Members as part of Ad-hoc staff which was a radical departure from the past, use of various technologies for the conduct of election, such as Electoral

Operation Support Center, Smart Card Reader, electronic transmission and collation of results and so on. These innovations undoubtedly brought sanity into the system. This was manifested in the worldwide acceptability of the result of 2011 general elections. The work of Prof. Attahiru Jega is being consolidated and improved upon by the administration of the present chairman of Independent National Electoral Commission, Professor Mahmood Yakubu. Similarly, despite some challenges that confronted the use of technologies for the conduct of election in 2015, the election was nationally and internationally acceptable as free, fair and credible.

As the commission approaches 2019 general elections, Professor Mahmood is poised to ensure a better conduct of the election.

It is against this backdrop that the consideration of innovative technology in electoral process becomes necessary, hence the need for its assessment among the stakeholders.

## II. Methodology

Data collected from the six geo-political zones were analyzed using frequencies and percentages. Inferential statistics used include chi-square, Duncan Multiple Range Test (DMRT) and ANOVA. The application of ANOVA compared the significant level of variables in all the geo-political zones. DMRT brings out relationship between and within the variable means across the zones. It also brings out the significant difference between and among means.

The study covered Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC), Abuja and the six states namely Anambra, Bauchi, Benue, Kano, Lagos and Rivers states selected from the six geo-political zones. INEC has representatives in all the thirty-six states of the federation and Federal Capital Territory. It also has representatives in all the 774 Local Government Areas. A set of questionnaire was administered on 820 registrable adults in the selected states to elicit information on acceptability of new technologies among others. About 0.05% of registrants according to 2006 voters' registration in each of the Local Government Councils with the highest registrants from each geo-political zone were purposively selected.

## III. Literature Review

### *3.1. Overview of Elections and Technology*

[8] noted that technology is essential to the conduct of modern elections. She argued further that technology is used at every stage of the election process such as: for compiling voter's list; drawing electoral boundaries; employing and training staff; printing ballots; conducting voter education campaigns; voting; recording of cast vote and publishing election results. The appropriate application of technology to elections can increase administrative efficiency, reduce long term costs and enhance political transparency.

Furthermore, the Administration and cost of Election Electoral knowledge network (2008) observed that technology is present in activities related to the electoral process, and in some cases it is essential to the conduct of elections.

Also, it had been observed that the world economy is undergoing a technology driven transformation from an agrarian based society to an industrial one. The move from an agrarian based economy to a digital knowledge based economy is a major issue in many sectors. It is therefore logical to view demands for electronic solution in the electoral process as capable of increasing accessibility, transparency and participation as part of the influence of technology on our society as we approach the twenty second($22^{nd}$) century. A team of researchers on electoral matter, Administration and cost of Election electoral knowledge network also noted that technologies used for elections can include familiar and older ones like printing presses, ball point pens, manual typewriters, electronic calculators and radios or newer technologies like computers, optical scanners, digital mapping and internet. Arising from the above, it is logical to conclude that the rate of technological change is so high that election management bodies (EMBs) must regularly re-evaluate their use of technology to determine whether they should adopt new or update the present one. Technology in election is not an end in itself, but rather assists in the various aspects of electoral administration. For example, electronic data base management system can be used in several components of election process, such as voter lists, material inventories, personnel management, pay roll, election results dissemination and statistics.

## IV. Theoretical Framework

This study is anchored on systems and network theories. These theories explain the work under study.

### *4.1. System Theory*

System theory was proposed in the 1940's by the biologist [9]. Von Bertalanffy was both against reductionism and attempting to revive the unity of science. He emphasized that the real systems are open to, and interact with their environments, and they can acquire qualitatively new properties through emergence, resulting in continual evolution. Rather than reducing an entity (e.g. the human body) to the properties of its parts or elements (e.g. organs or cell), [10] noted that systems theory focuses on the arrangement of and relations between those parts which connect them into a whole. It investigates both the principles common to all complex entities, and the (usually mathematical) models that can be used to describe them. Systems theory emphasizes that disciplines such as physic, biology, management, technology, sociology among others are interconnected and interrelated.

In his own contribution, [11] defined a system as an interconnected set of elements that have orderly interacts and form a unitary whole. Simply put, it is a set of connected things or parts, an identifiable and complicated whole, a more or less discrete configuration of elements, activities, people, and ideas.

The technologies that were being assessed in this paper are the introduction of computer with network configuration in all the workstations (polling units, ward

collation centres, state offices of INEC and the Headquarters, Federal Capital Territory Abuja). The networking of operating systems is expected to facilitate transparency in the voting, recording, analysis of election results and declaration of results. However, there are a lot of challenges that could crop up in the process of using the technology. Such include but not limited to hacking into the computer system, software and hardware failure, natural disaster befalling ICT room, viruses among others.

## V. Empirical Investigation

### *4.1. Results and Discussions*

Table 1. Analysis of Distributed and Retrieved Questionnaires in the Six Geo-Political Zones

| Respondents | No of Questionnaire Administered | No of Questionnaire Retrieved | Percentage of Response |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1. South East (Aguata LG in Anambra State) | 67 | 67 | 100 |
| 2. North East (Bauchi LG in Bauchi State) | 129 | 107 | 82.9 |
| 3. North Central (Gboko LG in Benue State) | 95 | 91 | 94.7 |
| 4. North West (Nasarawa LG in Kano State) | 148 | 131 | 88.5 |
| 5. South West (Alimoso LG in Lagos State) | 214 | 182 | 85.5 |
| 6. South South (Port Harcourt LG in Rivers State) | 167 | 136 | 81.4 |
| TOTAL | 790 | 714 | 86.4 |

Source: Field Survey, November, (2009)

## VI. Bio-Data of Respondents

TABLE II shows the demographic characteristics of respondents from states representing the six geo-political zones. Nigeria is made up of six geo-political zones, comprising of different ethnic groups as follows:

1. North Central comprises of Niger, Kogi, Kwara, FCT, Benue, Plateau and Nassarawa. Major ethnic groups in this zone include Hausas and minority group.
2. North East is made up of Bauch, Bornu, Yobe, Adamawa, Gombe and Taraba. The major tribe is Hausas.
3. North West include: Kano, Sokoto, Kastina, Kebbi, Zamfara and Kaduna. They are majorly Hausas.
4. South East is made up of Abia, Imo, Anambra, Ebonyi and Enugu states, they are majorly Igbos.
5. South South has Delta, Edo, Cross River, Akwa Ibom, Rivers and Balyesa. They are most Ijaws and Itsekiri from oil producing areas.
6. South West – This is made up of Oyo, Ondo, Osun, Ekiti, Lagos and Ogun states. The tribe is namely Yorubas. It should be noted that Western education penetrated Nigeria through Lagos which is in the South West.

It will be observed that both males and females are well represented in responding to the questionnaire. For example, in Anambra State 44 (65.7%) and 23 (34.3%) were males and females respectively.

Also, the electorates who responded to the questions on social acceptability of the technologies are stakeholders in electoral process regardless of qualification or working experience, hence the major demographic characteristics considered was age. The minimum age for voters in Nigeria is eighteen (18) years (1999) constitution) of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. Looking at the pattern of respondents in this table, it is observed that thee respondents fall within the age bracket of 18 – 50. In actual sense, these are the categories of people who constitute the majority of voters. For example, in Kano State, Nasarawa Local Government, 100 (76.3%) and 18 (13.7%) were between the ages of eighteen (18) years and fifty (50) years. The total represents 91% of the total respondents. Also in Lagos State, 121 (66.5%) and 60 (33.3%) were in the age bracket of 18 and 50 years. The total percentage of this is 99.5% of the total respondents. The same is true in Benue, Rivers, Anambra and Bauchi states where the total percentage of age bracket 18 – 50 were 85.7%, 87.2%, 95.4% and 96.6% respectively.

Table II. Assessing the Social Acceptability of Technologies for electoral Activities Profiles of Respondents in the Six Geo-political Zones

| Geo-political Zone | Administered Questionnaire | N = Total Respondents | Gender | | Age | | | | Computer illiteracy level | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | M | F | 18 – 40 | 41 – 50 | 51 – 70 | 70 & above | Yes | No |
| South East, Anambra (Aguata LG) | 67 | 67 | 65.7 | 34.3 | 67.2 | 28.4 | 1.5 | 3.0 | 88.1 | 11.9 |
| North East,Bauchi (Bauchi LG) | 129 | 107 | 75.1 | 29.9 | 76.6 | 20.6 | 1.9 | 0.9 | 18.2 | 31.8 |
| North Central, Benue (Gboko LG) | 95 | 91 | 10.4 | 39.6 | 56.0 | 29.7 | 9.9 | 4.4 | 60.4 | 39.6 |
| North West, Kano (Nasarawa LG) | 148 | 131 | 72.5 | 27.5 | 76.3 | 13.7 | 7.6 | 2.3 | 66.4 | 30.8 |
| South West, Lagos (Alimoso LG) | 214 | 182 | 41.2 | 58.8 | 66.5 | 33.0 | 0.5 | - | 80.2 | 19.8 |
| South South, Rivers (Port Harcourt LG) | 167 | 136 | 58.6 | 40.0 | 47.9 | 39.3 | 7.9 | 3.6 | 62.1 | 36.4 |

## VII. Assessment of Acceptability of new Technologies among Electorates in the Six Geo Political Zones

Table III indicates the assessment of the acceptability of the present techniques of conducting electoral activities in Nigeria. The table revealed that majority of respondents in Anambara (67.2%); Bauchi (56.1%); Benue (70.0%); Kano (54.9%); Lagos (66.5%) and Rivers (66.9%) believe that manual techniques are unacceptable, hence would prefer electronic method of conducting election. This can be buttressed by the findings in the literature search where [12] noted that South African Electoral Commission improved substantially on the results of the parliamentary election conducted in 1994 when electronic methods were used. Australia resorted to the use of electronic method in voting after considering series of scandals involving vote buying, ballot stuffing among others.

The reasons why manual technology is unacceptable are analyzed in table IV. In this table, the Duncan multiple range test revealed that obsolescence as a reason for not accepting manual technology was not significantly different in Benue and Lagos at F – 8.14, $p < 0.05$ while the DMRT revealed that opinion in Kano and Rivers states are not significantly different. Improper deployment of the present technology as a reason for unacceptability of the technologies is not significantly different in Lagos and Rivers at F = 12.8, $p < 0.05$. The DMRT revealed that Lagos (2.96) and Rivers (2.93) are not significantly different, Kano (2.43) and Bauchi (2.13), are not significantly different in terms of opinions. The highest mean out of a bench mark of 5 is Benue (3.26) while the least in Bauchi (2.13). Also, rigging as a reason for not accepting the present technologies especially manual techniques was subjected to analysis. Result of this revealed that a significant difference exists in Kano, Rivers and Lagos at F = 9.9, $p < 0.05$. The result of DMRT indicates that there is no significant difference in the opinion of respondents in Anambra, Bauchi and Benue. The South West (Lagos) has the highest mean of 3.57 out of a bench mark of 5, an indication that greater percentage of respondents believe that rigging is an important reason why the technology is unacceptable. However, the least mean is from Kano with a mean of (2.68) which is a little bit above average.

Furthermore, on the determination of the level of effectiveness of adopting new technology, improvement on the present techniques or retention of the present techniques, the opinion of respondents on the adoption of new technology as a way of ensuring integrity of electoral process was not significantly different in North Central (Benue), North East (Bauchi) and South South (Rivers) as revealed by the DMRT at F = 5.44, $p < 0.05$. Virtually all the zones strongly believe that there is need to introduce a new technology, thus South West (Lagos) (2.52), South South (Rivers) (2.46), North East (Bauchi) (2.36), North Central (Benue) (2.33), North West (Kano) (2.31) and Anambra (2.03). (Table V). These weighted means are close to the benchmark of three (3). However, the result of the ANOVA and DMRT with respect to the retention of the present technology indicate that there is significant different in the responses of people in Anambra, Bauchi, Rivers and Lagos at F = 2.33, $p < 0.05$. The result of DMRT indicates that the retention of the present technology would bring an average level of efficiency. This is because the means in all the geo-political zones are less than 2, out of a bench mark of 3, the highest being Anambra (1.82) and the least being (1.53) from Bauchi, indicating that retention of the present technology would bring about a low level of effectiveness. However, improvement on the present technology as responses, from respondents was not significantly difference in Lagos, Rivers and Benue at F = 3.52, $p < 0.05$. The DMRT test shows that there is no significant difference in the opinion of respondents in Lagos, Rivers and Benue. Similarly, virtually all the means are above two (2), an indication that the respondents from the zones supported the idea of improving on the present technology. Conclusively, the respondents across the zones believe that introducing new technology or improving on the present one would bring a high level of efficiency. The view of respondent could be buttressed by different interviews granted by some major stakeholder in Electoral Process in Abuja.

Prominent among them were: The Chairman of Nigeria Labour Congress represented by the organizing secretary as at 2009, the President of National Council for Women's Societies, the Secretary of the Nigeria Union of Journalist, the Chairman of Conference of Nigeria Political Parties among others. They were of the opinion that technological innovations are necessary in the conduct of election in Nigeria. They however suggested that relevant infrastructural facilities should be put in place before the introduction of such technologies. The recent complaint by the opposition parties on the outcome of Anambra Governorship election conducted on 16th November, 2013 could be another reason why the Electoral body in Nigeria should totally embrace the introduction of new technologies. The opposition parties had complaint irregularities during the election. This should not however be overemphasized as the commission claimed, that there was substantial compliance with the provisions of the Electoral Act during the election. It was argued by the Chief Electoral Officer of the Commission Professor Attahiru Jega that since only few polling unit were affected, it becomes unreasonable to cancel the entire result.

Without prejudice to the view of the respondents on the need to adopt modern technology for electoral activates, it should be noted that the principle of equifinality [9] which states that there is no one best way of doing something, need to be considered in this study. To this end, manual process of conducting electoral activities cannot be underestimated. Studies have shown that Ghana's presidential election in December, 2008 was conducted by manual process. The result was not only acceptable but adjudged to be credible. It should however be noted that Ghana is comparatively a smaller country.

Table III: Assessment of Acceptability of Manual Techniques for the Conduct of Electoral Activities in the Six Geo-Political Zones

| Geo-political Zones | Variable: Manual Techniques are Unacceptable | |
|---|---|---|
| | Yes | No |
| Anambra N = 67 | 45 (67.2) | 22 (32.8) |
| Bauchi N = 107 | 60 (56.1) | 47 (43.9) |
| Benue N = 90 | 63 (70.0) | 27 (30.8) |
| Kano N = 131 | 72 (54.9) | 59 (44.1) |
| Lagos N = 182 | 121 (66.5) | 61 (33.5) |
| Rivers N = 136 | 91 (66.9) | 45 (33.1) |

Source: Field Survey, November, (2009)

Table IV. Reasons why Manual Techniques for the Conduct of electoral Activities are Unacceptable

| Reasons / Geo-political Zones | Obsolescence | Improper deployment of the technique | Manual techniques encourages rigging |
|---|---|---|---|
| Anambra N = 67 | 1.70a | 2.91b | 3.01b |
| Bauchi N = 107 | 2.26b | 2.13a | 2.7gab |
| Benue N = 90 | 2.81c | 3.26c | 3.08ab |
| Kano N = 131 | 2.46bc | 2.43a | 2.68a |
| Lagos N = 182 | 2.71c | 2.96bc | 3.57c |
| Rivers N = 136 | 2.53bc | 2.93bc | 3.46bc |

Source: Field Survey, November, (2009)

Key:
1 – Least important reason.
2 – Slightly important reason
3 – Averagely important reason.
4 – Important reason.
5 – Most important reason.
Measurement is on a 5 point Likkert Scale.

Table V. Assessment of the Effectiveness of Adopting New Technology, Improving on the Present one and Retention of the Present Technologies for Electoral Activities

| Variables / Geo-political Zones | Adoption of New Technology | Retention of the Present Technology | Improvement of the Present Technology |
|---|---|---|---|
| Anambra N = 67 | 2.03a | 1.82c | 2.13a |
| Bauchi N = 107 | 2.36bc | 1.53a | 2.11a |
| Benue N = 90 | 2.33bc | 1.63abc | 1.40b |
| Kano N = 131 | 2.31b | 1.69abc | 2.24ab |
| Lagos N = 182 | 2.52c | 1.61ab | 2.36b |
| Rivers N = 136 | 2.46bc | 1.76bc | 2.35b |

Source: Field Survey, November, (2009)

Key:
1 – Low level of effectiveness.
2 – Average level of effectiveness.
3 – High level of effectiveness.
Measurement is on a 3 point Likert Scale.

## VIII. Conclusion

Since technologies play a dominant role in the electoral activities across the globe, it is not out of place to conclude that such technologies are without prejudice to the traditional method, capable of ensuring transparency in electoral process. This is evidenced in the result obtained from TABLES III, IV and V as discussed above

## IX. Recommendation

Without prejudice to the fact that there could be other ways of ensuring transparency of electoral process apart from the application of modern technology, the results of the study established that majority of respondents prefer modern technology in the conduct of election by yearnings for digitalization of electoral process as found around the world. Hence the following recommendations were made:

(1) The commission should be fully independent, while a robust technology that will minimize vulnerability of voting tools to hazards should be adopted, as reflected in the opinion of electorates across the geo-political zones. The commission should network all the work stations nationwide, installing servers, operating systems and distributed data bases at the appropriate work stations.
(2) To facilitate the applications of new technology, the electoral body should engage in voter education across the geo-political zones to inform stakeholders on the plan to introduce new technologies.
(3) The electoral body in Nigeria should create ICT department at the Local government levels, to be manned by qualified ICT experts. This is because most electoral activities start from the Local Government Areas.
(4) Human resources capabilities should be strengthened and sustained. Hence, workers should be trained before introducing new technology to facilitate effective management of the ICT infrastructures at all levels of the commission.
(5) Proper monitoring and maintenance of ICT tools within the commission should be strengthened to facilitate easy take off and sustainability of the new technology.
(6) The commission needs to address basic technology assessment issues before innovations. For example, pilot study is expected to be carried out prior to innovation. This is necessary in order to ensure effective deployment and utilization of technologies for electoral activities.
(7) The problem of electricity should be properly addressed as a fundamental infrastructural requirement new technology.
(8) Government should put in place policies to increase literacy level in the country, so as to assist the user of the new technology.

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## AUTHOR'S PROFILE

**Dr(Barr) Omoleke Muslim** was born in Ikire, Irewole Local Government area of Osun State, Nigeria. He attended Ife City College between 1976 and 1980 where he obtained his West African School Certificate with Division One. He later proceeded to the University of Ife between 1981 and 1985 and came out with B. Sc Education /Economics. He also acquired the following qualifications from the same university: Master of Business Administration (MBA) in 1995, Master of Philosophy (M. Phil) in Management and Accounting in 2001 and a Doctor of Philosophy degree in Technology Management (Ph. D) in 2010. Because of his flair for academics, Dr. Omoleke went back to read Law at the same university and got his LLB in 2002. He also read Master degree in Law (LLM) with Specialization in criminology and Penology. Furthermore, he attended The Nigerian Law School, Abuja and was called to the Nigerian Bar in 2004. Dr. Omoleke works with the Independent National Electoral Commission as a Director of Administration/Administrative Secretary. He has attended both Local and International Conferences and written many published articles in Local and International Journals.