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Bimodal Voter Accreditation System [BVAS] and Electoral Integrity: A Study of the 2023 Gubernatorial Election in Kwara State, Nigeria

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Abstract
Most countries of the world currently select their leaders through multi-party elections. However, while multi-party elections have become a regular feature across Africa, the quality of these elections have often been compromised by widespread violence, irregularities, and electoral malpractices such as multiple voting during elections, flagging the integrity of such elections. In response to these flaws and amid increasing public demand for electoral integrity, INEC introduced the Bimodal Voter Accreditation System (BVAS). This study therefore aimed at investigating the impact of BVAS on electoral integrity using the 2023 Kwara State governorship election as a case study. To achieve its objectives of examining whether the deployment of BVAS during the election has enhanced electoral integrity or not through reduction in multiple voting, improvements in accreditation exercise and reduction in electoral malpractices, the study deployed the use of survey to elicit quantitative data from 400 respondents across the state. Findings reveal that BVAS significantly reduced multiple voting, improved the accreditation exercise and reduced electoral malpractices, thus enhanced electoral integrity. The study therefore concludes that the deployment of BVAS in the 2023 Kwara State governorship election has enhanced electoral integrity; and recommends that INEC should institutionalize BVAS as a permanent component of Nigeria's electoral framework to be supported by robust internet connectivity and power infrastructure, especially in rural areas.

Keywords: Kwara State, Electoral Integrity, Bimodal, Accreditation, Multiple-Voting.

1. Introduction

In liberal democracies, elections are not merely held for leadership selection, they are mechanisms for institutional accountability, legitimization of state authority and civic engagement. Experiences across consolidated democracies, such as the United States of America, Germany, and the United Kingdom have shown that they have been able to evolve strong electoral systems grounded in transparency, consistency, and public trust. These systems are characterized by the integration of biometric registration, electronic voting machines, and real-time result transmission. This to a great extent was made achievable through decades of political stability, technological advancement, and legal frameworks that support democratic consolidation. However, the experience of electoral democracy in Africa has been shaped by a more turbulent trajectory. While multi-party elections have become a regular feature across the continent since the early 1990s, the quality of these elections has

often been compromised by widespread irregularities, institutional fragility, and political interference (Cheeseman, 2015).

Although countries such as Ghana, Kenya, and South Africa have introduced various forms of electoral technology, ranging from biometric registration to digital result transmission, some of which have produced uneven outcomes. In many instances, electoral technologies have been undermined by infrastructural constraints, limited digital literacy, poor maintenance protocols, and lack of political commitment to credible elections. Moreover, technology has not always insulated elections from manipulation; rather, it has, in some cases, introduced new forms of rigging, such as data tampering, server manipulation, or selective deployment of devices (Van Ham & Lindberg, 2015).

Nigeria presents a particularly instructive case within the African context. Since its return to democratic rule in 1999, the country has held seven successive general elections, each been marred by recurring issues: voter disenfranchisement, ballot box snatching, over-voting, vote-buying, underage voting, and the manipulation of results at collation centers (Collier & Vicente, 2012; Ibrahim & Ibeanu, 2009). These problems have significantly eroded public confidence in the electoral process and have often led to post-election violence and protracted litigations. Recognizing the systemic nature of these flaws, the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) began a phased implementation of electoral technology reforms. Early efforts included the introduction of the Permanent Voter Card (PVC) and Smart Card Readers, designed to authenticate voters at polling units. However, operational failures, especially during the 2015 and 2019 general elections, exposed limitations in the robustness of these devices.

In response to these limitations and amid increasing public demand for electoral integrity, INEC introduced the Bimodal Voter Accreditation System (BVAS). The BVAS device was designed to perform dual functions verifying voter identity through fingerprint and facial recognition, and transmitting results directly from polling units to INEC's central server. These innovations marked a decisive shift in Nigeria's electoral administration, moving from manual to digital processes, with the hope of minimizing human interference, ensuring voter credibility, promoting electoral integrity and enhancing result transparency (INEC, 2023a; Jaiyeola, 2023).

Statement of the Problem

Despite its ambitious design, the implementation of BVAS has faced significant scrutiny. Technical glitches, connectivity failures, selective application by election officials, and contradictory public communication by INEC have undermined electoral integrity and credibility. The 2023 general elections, widely seen as the first nationwide test of these technologies, were mired in controversy, with political parties and civil society organizations reporting discrepancies between polling unit data and final announced results (Samson, 2022; Doe, 2023). These problems have reignited debates about whether Nigeria's electoral reforms address surface-level symptoms or the deeper structural problems that compromise democratic consolidation. For instance, the 2022 Osun gubernatorial election, which was widely seen as a litmus test for the credibility of BVAS, produced highly contradictory outcomes: while INEC declared a winner using BVAS-backed results, the Election Petition Tribunal later nullified the results from 744 polling units on grounds of over-voting, pointing to discrepancies between BVAS accreditation data and final results (INEC, 2023a; Vanguard, 2023). Such

situation casts aspersion on the integrity of elections in Nigeria.

In the context of elections in Kwara State, these challenges are particularly pronounced. For instance the state's local government election has been marred by similar issues observed at the national level, including malpractices and irregularities in elections, multiple voting, and weak public engagement. The KWASIEC (Kwara State Independent Electoral Commission) 2024 LG election exemplifies these challenges, as reports of vote-buying, multiple voting, electoral malpractices, delay in accreditation and low voter turnout, dominated the electoral process. (Towoju, Edun & Asiyanbi (2025)

It is therefore against this background that this study seeks to investigate whether BVAS has enhanced electoral integrity in the 2023 gubernatorial election in Kwara State, Nigeria. However, to answer the big research question on whether the deployment of BVAS has been able to enhance electoral integrity in the 2023 gubernatorial election in Kwara State, the study specifically examined whether the deployment of BVAS reduced multiple voting, improved accreditation exercise and examined whether the deployment of BVAS reduced electoral malpractices during the 2023 gubernatorial election in Kwara State.

2. Literature Review

The Role of Technology in Enhancing Electoral Integrity

The role of technology in enhancing electoral integrity is undeniable; the digital revolution has provided the tools necessary for improving transparency, integrity, and public participation in electoral processes. The widespread availability of online electoral information, coupled with advanced voter authentication systems, has created a more transparent and credible electoral environment. The increased reliance on ICTs, particularly internet access, has greatly improved voters' ability to educate themselves on candidates, policies, and issues. These tools have not only transformed how voters access information but also how election-related data is disseminated. Before the internet era, such critical election-related information, including rules and regulations, was primarily confined to libraries and archives, making it difficult for the general public to access. Today, the availability of online resources have made these information widely accessible, encouraging greater public engagements and informed decision-making (Perzel & Alvarez, 2019).

The ease of accessing election administration information online has had profound implications for the professionalization of elections. As candidates and political parties know that their platforms are now publicly accessible through the internet, they are more likely to present clearer, well-defined policy positions. This, in turn, enhances the transparency and accountability of the electoral system, contributing to its integrity. As noted by Perzel and Alvarez (2019), the availability of this information also forces candidates to firm up their issue positions and qualifications, thereby making the election system appear more professional. This transformation highlights the role of technology in strengthening the trustworthiness of electoral processes.

Furthermore, the role of ICTs in enhancing voter participation is a significant factor in promoting electoral integrity. Technology fosters a more inclusive democracy, where voters are better equipped to make informed decisions. In this sense, ICTs create a new space of democracy, expanding voter engagement by providing new platforms for interaction. As Perzel and Alvarez (2019) argue, ICTs allow for broader voter participation in electoral processes, thereby enabling citizens to

make binding collective choices through universal suffrage. This shift toward digital democracy is essential in fostering an electoral environment that is more inclusive and transparent.

Concept of Bimodal Voter Accreditation System (BVAS)

The Bimodal Voter Accreditation System (BVAS) represents a transformative approach to voter accreditation in Nigeria's electoral process, combining advanced biometric technology with a robust verification mechanism. BVAS captures both the biometric and biographical data of eligible voters, including facial and fingerprint recognition, name, age, gender, and residential address, as well as their unique Permanent Voter Card (PVC) credentials. This dual modality ensures that voter identity is authenticated using two independent verification methods, thus reducing the risks of electoral fraud and impersonation. According to the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC), BVAS is designed to enhance the credibility of Nigeria's elections by eliminating manual processes that have historically been prone to manipulation. The system ensures that the PVC is matched to its rightful owner through fingerprint verification and facial recognition, creating a seamless and efficient voter authentication process. Notably, Okoye (2022) highlights that BVAS not only deters voter impersonation, but also ensures that the verified individual is physically present at the designated polling unit before voting is allowed. BVAS has significant implications for Nigeria's democracy. It enhances electoral transparency and accountability by allowing for forensic audits in cases of electoral disputes. The system's ability to store and retrieve voter data in real time facilitates the resolution of discrepancies and enhances trust in the electoral process. Additionally, BVAS discourages malpractice, such as multiple voting, by ensuring that biometric data cannot be duplicated or manipulated. As noted by Adebayo and Ojo (2023), this technological innovation fosters confidence in the electoral process, motivating citizens to participate in elections.

The Bimodal Voter Accreditation System (BVAS) offers several advantages to Nigeria's electoral process, each contributing to the overall improvement of the system. First, BVAS enhances voter authentication by providing an accurate method of verifying voter identity through dual biometric checks fingerprint scanning and facial recognition. This reduces errors and minimizes fraudulent voting practices, ensuring that only legitimate voters are able to participate. Additionally, BVAS improves electoral transparency by generating a digital trail of voter verification, which supports the credibility of the election process. In cases of electoral disputes, this digital trail allows for forensic audits, providing an accountable and transparent record of the accreditation process. According to Nwankwo (2023), the revolutionary consciousness exhibited by Nigerians in embracing BVAS reflects a collective commitment to upholding democratic values and rejecting electoral malpractices such as vote-buying, secessionist threats, and political alienation. The Bimodal Voter Accreditation System is a game-changer in Nigeria's electoral landscape, offering a technological solution to long-standing issues of electoral malpractice and low voter confidence.

The Impact of BVAS on Electoral Malpractices in Nigeria's Elections

Elections in Nigeria are typically plagued by low voter turnout, electoral malpractices, and logistical issues. These challenges often stem from voter fatigue, political apathy, and disenchantment due to perceptions of electoral fraud, frequent

election postponements, and flawed electioneering logistics. As highlighted by Omotola (2010), such elections often suffer from diminished legitimacy, as citizens lose confidence in the fairness of the process. In the context of Nigeria, these concerns have been amplified by incidents of widespread electoral fraud, including voter impersonation and ballot box stuffing, which undermine the credibility of election results. Similarly, the KWASIEC (Kwara State Independent Electoral Commission) 2024 LG election exemplifies these challenges, as reports of vote-buying, multiple voting, electoral malpractices, delay in accreditation and low voter turnout, dominated the electoral process. (Towoju, Edun & Asiyanbi (2025) The introduction of the Bimodal Voter Accreditation System (BVAS) is seen as a crucial step in addressing these concerns by improving voter mobilization, enhancing the legitimacy of election outcomes, and stimulating voter engagement in elections. The impact of BVAS in addressing electoral malpractices in Nigeria's elections has not been sufficiently studied, and empirical evidence remains scarce. However, BVAS holds promise as an innovative solution to combat the most prevalent forms of electoral fraud, particularly voter impersonation and multiple voting, by verifying the identity of voters through dual biometric checks, fingerprint and facial recognition. According to Adebayo and Ojo (2023), the introduction of BVAS significantly reduces the opportunities for electoral malpractice, as it requires voters to present biometric data that cannot easily be duplicated or falsified. This is a marked improvement over previous systems, where voter identification was often vulnerable to manipulation. BVAS also contributes to reducing the incidence of vote-buying and ballot stuffing, which have been notorious in Nigerian elections, particularly in regions with high levels of political instability. The system ensures that only verified individuals can cast votes, and its real-time data transmission provides an additional layer of transparency, making it harder for malpractices to go undetected.

Electoral Integrity

Electoral integrity is a fundamental concept in the study of democracy and election management. It refers to the extent to which the conduct of elections adheres to the essential principles of democracy, ensuring that elections are free, fair, transparent, and reflective of the people's will. According to Norris (2014), electoral integrity encompasses various dimensions, including legal and institutional factors, the impartiality of the electoral process, and the respect for fundamental democratic rights. These dimensions serve as benchmarks to evaluate the legitimacy of elections and the extent to which they reflect the genuine preferences of voters.

Electoral integrity also encompasses the adequacy and quality of electoral laws and regulations, which are designed to prevent electoral fraud, manipulation, and malpractices. Well-crafted electoral laws provide the necessary legal framework to guide the conduct of free and fair elections (Dahl, 1989). Moreover, the adaptive capacity of electoral systems and their implementation procedures is critical for maintaining electoral integrity, especially in the face of technological advancements and emerging challenges such as voter manipulation or election violence (Diamond, 2015). In this regard, electoral integrity is antithetical to electoral malpractices, which undermine democratic processes. Electoral malpractices such as vote buying, multiple-voting, voter intimidation, fraud, and electoral violence stand in direct opposition to the principles of democratic elections, as they distort the will of the people and compromise the fairness of the electoral process. According to Norris (2014), these

malpractices significantly erode the credibility of electoral outcomes and diminish citizens' faith in the political system. Thus, electoral integrity is fundamentally about ensuring that elections are conducted in a manner that reflects the democratic ideals of fairness, inclusivity, transparency, and respect for voters' rights.

Furthermore, technology has become increasingly integral to the concept of electoral integrity, especially in the context of countries like Nigeria. The introduction of technological tools like the Bimodal Voter Accreditation System (BVAS) is a response to the need for more secure, transparent, and credible elections. BVAS, by verifying voters' identities using biometrics, aims to reduce electoral fraud, such as voter impersonation and multiple voting. By ensuring that only registered voters can cast a ballot, BVAS contributes to the strengthening of electoral integrity by increasing transparency and reducing opportunities for fraud (Norris, 2014). As Diamond (2015) notes, the health of a democracy is often reflected in the quality of its elections, and the pursuit of electoral integrity is essential for fostering trust in democratic institutions and encouraging citizens to actively participate in the electoral process.

Empirical Review

The adoption of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in electoral processes has been widely studied as a mechanism for enhancing transparency, accountability, and integrity in elections. Empirical studies highlight that ICT-driven electoral system, such as the introduction of BVAS has the potential to reduce electoral fraud, improve efficiency, and enhance electoral integrity. Public trust in elections is often determined by the perceived integrity of electoral processes, and empirical studies suggest that ICT adoption can enhance trustworthiness when properly implemented. Diamond & Plattner in 2016 carried out a survey, a comparative analysis of elections in Latin America and sub-Saharan Africa. The study reveals that countries with strong institutional frameworks and robust technological infrastructure tend to experience greater public confidence in ICT-based elections. In Nigeria, however, study by Olaniyan and Lawal (2021) reveals that trust in electoral technology remains fragile due to recurring issues such as system malfunctions, inadequate training of officials, and political interference. These findings suggest that while ICT can enhance electoral credibility, its success depends on effective implementation, stakeholder confidence, and institutional integrity.

The foundational work by Oladotun, Adekitan & Ojo (2012) emphasizes the critical role of electronic voting systems in enhancing the democratic process, addressing issues such as security, confidentiality, and cost-effectiveness. This early exploration sets the stage for understanding how the transition from manual to electronic systems, including BVAS, can potentially mitigate challenges faced in traditional voting methods. This empirical evidence is reinforced by a study carried out by Omotosho and Ibrahim (2022). Their findings revealed that BVAS "digitally tethers accreditation to real-time identity validation," significantly reducing impersonation—a claim corroborated by this study's high scores on multiple voting prevention.

Nwozor and Oshewolo (2017), highlight the implications of non-adherence to electoral guidelines, which often lead to electoral violence and compromised outcomes. They argue that the integrity of the electoral process is paramount for democratic consolidation. Their findings reveals that the introduction of BVAS could be perceived as a step towards reinforcing adherence to electoral

guidelines, thereby potentially reducing violence, multiple votting and increasing public trust in the electoral process.

Abubakar and Yahaya (2018), discuss the challenges of technology-based elections, including issues of cost, literacy, and infrastructure. Their insights are particularly relevant for understanding the implementation of BVAS in Nigeria, where systemic issues may hinder its effectiveness. The authors stress the importance of independent electoral management bodies, suggesting that without proper institutional support, the benefits of technological advancements could be undermined. Their findings underscore the importance of stakeholder engagement and trust in the electoral process, which could be critical for the successful adoption of BVAS in future elections. Binte, (2022) explore end-to-end verifiable voting systems, emphasizing the importance of voter privacy and integrity in the electoral process. Their findings suggest that while BVAS may improve the voting experience, ensuring verifiability and transparency will be essential in fostering public confidence in the electoral outcomes. This study closes an important empirical gap, since it represent an empirical study of a voting system at a sub-national level, supported by empirical research evidence.

Theoretical Framework

Technological Acceptance Model (TAM)

The Technological Acceptance Model (TAM), developed by Fred Davis in 1985, provides a useful framework for understanding how individuals accept and use technology. The model focuses on two key variables: perceived usefulness (the degree to which a person believes using the technology will enhance their job performance) and perceived ease of use (the degree to which a person believes using the technology will be free of effort). TAM suggests that these factors, alongside other variables like attitude towards using technology, ultimately influence an individual's intention to use the technology and, by extension, its actual use (Fred, 1989). This model is particularly useful for examining how electoral stakeholders such as voters, electoral officials, and political parties accept and use Bimodal Voter Accreditation System (BVAS) in the electoral process. TAM can be applied to understand how the stakeholders in the Nigerian electoral system, including voters and electoral officers, perceive the usability and effectiveness of BVAS. By examining how factors like perceived ease of use (e.g., how simple and intuitive the BVAS interface is) and perceived usefulness (e.g., whether the system enhances electoral credibility and reduces malpractices) impact acceptance, TAM can shed light on the adoption of BVAS in elections.

TAM is often criticized for its overemphasis on individual user perceptions and for lacking a more comprehensive contextual consideration of social, organizational, and environmental factors that influence technology adoption. In the case of BVAS, this theory might overlook broader issues such as political interference, institutional support, and technological infrastructure that play a significant role in the system's effectiveness.

3. Methodology

This study adopts a quantitative method of survey to gather nuanced data to identify generalizable trends. This quantitative approach involves the use of structured questionnaires, which aims to provide a comprehensive understanding of BVAS implementation in the 2023 gubernatorial election in Kwara State. The population of this study consists of voters, INEC officials, election observers, media representatives, academicians, and political party agents involved in the 2023

gubernatorial elections in Kwara State. The target population is based on the registered voters in the state, which is 1,685,927 registered voters (Independent National Electoral Commission, 2022) These stakeholders play significant roles in the implementation, observation, analysis, and reporting of the Bimodal Voters Accreditation System (BVAS) during the elections. The sample size for the survey was calculated using the Taro Yamane formula,

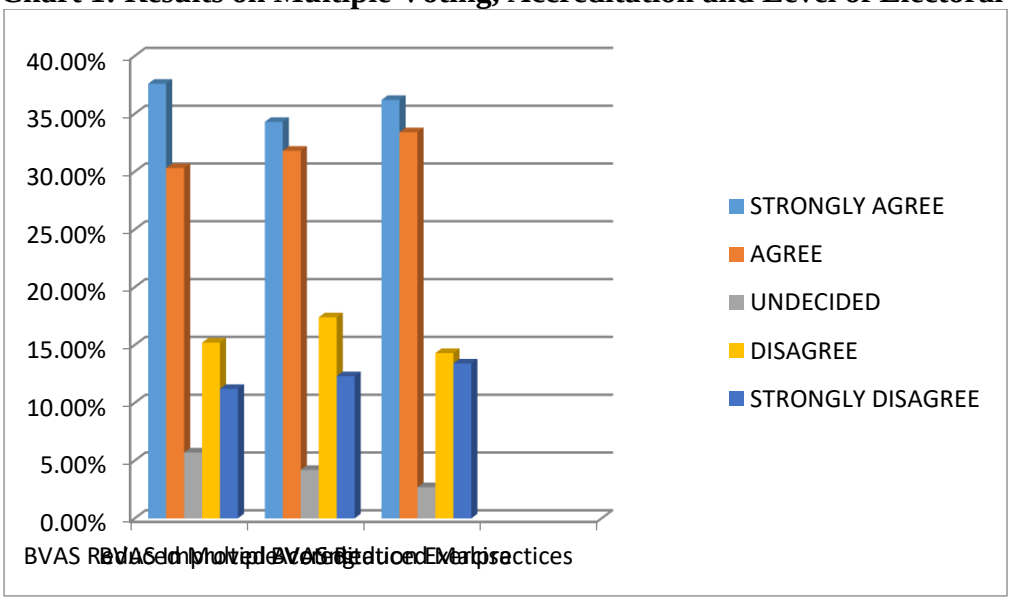
$$n = \frac{N}{1+ N (e)^2}$$

with tolerable error taken as 0.05 , bringing the sample size 'n' to 400. Thus 400 copies of structured questionnaire was distributed across the sample frame for this study which comprises of respondents drawn from the six stakeholder groups: registered voters, INEC officials, security agencies, political party agents, election observers, and media personnel. These groups were chosen due to their direct involvement in the conduct, observation, and analysis of the 2023 gubernatorial election in Kwara State. The questions addressed respondents' perceptions on the impact of BVAS on electoral integrity, derived from specific research questions bordering around whether BVAS was able to reduce multiple voting, reduced electoral malpractices, irregularities and improved accreditation exercise. The reliability of the instrument was tested using Cronbach's Alpha. All the sections of the instrument returned values above 0.77, with an overall reliability coefficient of 0.832, indicating that the instrument possesses good internal consistency and is appropriate for data collection (Nunnally, 1978). Data collected was analyzed using descriptive statistics, including frequency distribution charts and simple percentage.

4. Results and Discussion

This section is organized thematically in line with the specific research objectives, offering quantitative insights into the implications of the Bimodal Voter Accreditation System (BVAS) during the 2023 Kwara State gubernatorial election. Below is a chart that shows the results for the three research objectives:

Chart 1: Results on Multiple Voting, Accreditation and Level of Electoral Malpractices



Source: Researchers survey, 2025

The above chart shows respondents responses concerning the three specific objectives of this study. For the first objective, on whether the deployment of BVAS reduced multiple voting during the 2023 gubernatorial election in Kwara

State, the above chart shows that 150 respondents (37.60%) of the 400 respondents strongly agreed that the deployment of BVAS reduced multiple voting during the election, while 121 respondents, which is 30.30% of the total number of respondents also agreed that the deployment of BVAS reduced multiple voting during the gubernatorial election. However, 15.20% and 11.20% of the respondents, which translate to 60 respondents and 45 respondents disagreed and strongly disagreed respectively that the deployment of BVAS reduced multiple voting during the election. Although 23 respondents (5.70%) of the 400 respondents were undecided, the number of respondents that agreed to the fact that the deployment of BVAS reduced multiple voting during the election which is 271 respondents (150+121) reveals that 67.90% of the respondents are in agreement that the deployment of BVAS reduced multiple voting during the election.

On whether the deployment of BVAS improved accreditation exercise during the 2023 gubernatorial election in Kwara State, which represents the second objective, the above chart shows that 137 respondents (34.30%) of the 400 respondents strongly agreed that the deployment of BVAS improved accreditation exercise during the election, while 127 respondents, which is 31.80% of the total number of respondents also agreed that the deployment of BVAS improved accreditation exercise during the gubernatorial election. However, 17.40% and 12.30% of the respondents, which translate to 70 respondents and 49 respondents disagreed and strongly disagreed respectively that the deployment of BVAS improved accreditation exercise during the election. Although 16 respondents (4.0%) of the 400 respondents were undecided, the number of respondents that agreed to the fact that the deployment of BVAS improved accreditations .exercise during the election which is 264 respondents (137+127) suggests that 66.10% of the respondents are in agreement that the deployment of BVAS during the election improved accreditation exercise.

For the third objective, on whether the deployment of BVAS reduced electoral malpractices during the 2023 gubernatorial election in Kwara State, the above chart shows that 145 respondents (36.20%) of the 400 respondents strongly agreed that the deployment of BVAS reduced electoral malpractices during the election, while 134 respondents, which is 33.40% of the total number of respondents also agreed that the deployment of BVAS reduced electoral malpractices during the gubernatorial election. However, 14.30% and 13.40% of the respondents, which translate to 57 respondents and 54 respondents disagreed and strongly disagreed respectively that the deployment of BVAS reduced electoral malpractices during the election. Although 11 respondents (2.70%) of the 400 respondents were undecided, the number of respondents that agreed to the fact that the deployment of BVAS reduced electoral malpractices during the election which is 279 respondents (145+134) revealing that 69.60% of the respondents are in agreement that the deployment of BVAS reduced electoral malpractices during the election.

Discussion of the Findings

The introduction of the Bimodal Voter Accreditation System (BVAS) marked a pivotal shift in Nigeria's electoral landscape, aiming to bolster electoral integrity through biometric authentication and real-time data transmission. Findings from this study reveal that BVAS significantly reduced multiple voting, as such enhanced electoral integrity in the 2023 Kwara State governorship election, as evidenced by the above quantitative data presented. Quantitative data from

respondents in Kwara State demonstrate strong approval of BVAS as an electoral integrity enhancing tool. The aggregate of respondents in agreement to the fact that the deployment of BVAS reduced multiple voting during the election which is 271, representing 67.90% of the respondents, reflect robust agreement that BVAS effectively reduced multiple voting during the 2023 Kwara State governorship election, underscoring its role in enhancing electoral integrity. This empirical evidence aligns with Nwozor and Oshewolo (2017) study, which argued that the integrity of the electoral process is paramount for democratic consolidation. Their findings reveals that the introduction of BVAS could be perceived as a step towards reinforcing adherence to electoral guidelines, thereby potentially reducing violence, multiple voting and increasing public trust in the electoral process.

The study equally reveals that to a large extent the deployment of BVAS improved accreditation exercise during the 2023 gubernatorial election in Kwara State, as empirical data analysed above shows that overwhelming majority, 66.10% of the respondents are in agreement that the deployment of BVAS during the election improved accreditation exercise, which suggests that BVAS is an electoral integrity enhancer. This empirical revelation resonates with Omotosho and Ibrahim (2022) findings which revealed that BVAS "digitally tethers accreditation to real-time identity validation," significantly reducing impersonation, multiple voting and by extension enhanced electoral integrity.

Finally, findings reveal that the deployment of BVAS reduced electoral malpractices during the 2023 gubernatorial election in Kwara State, as empirical data from analysis above shows that majority of the respondents (69.60%) are in agreement that the deployment of BVAS reduced electoral malpractices during the election, which suggests that BVAS is an electoral integrity enhancer. The study's findings align with and extend existing scholarly assessments of BVAS, as also observed by Omotosho and Ibrahim (2022) that BVAS significantly reduced impersonation, multiple voting and by extension enhanced electoral integrity. These findings affirm BVAS as a tansformative tool for electoral integrity.

5. Conclusion and Recommendations

Data from the study reveals that the deployment of BVAS in the 2023 Kwara State governorship election, significantly improved electoral integrity by minimizing multiple voting, improve accreditation process and reduced electoral malpractices, thereby enhancing electoral integrity in Nigeria.

Since the study has revealed that BVAS significantly improved electoral integrity by minimizing multiple voting, improve accreditation process and reduced electoral malpractices, it is therefore recommended that INEC should institutionalize BVAS as a permanent component of Nigeria's electoral framework to be supported by robust internet connectivity and power infrastructure, especially in rural areas.

It is equally recommended that apart from institutionalizing BVAS as a permanent component of Nigeria's electoral framework, INEC should expand the frontier of BVAS deployment in every election in Nigeria. This could be done through amendment to the electoral law by expunging the provision that support the use of manual accreditation forms in lieu of BVAS.

In addition to the above recommendation, the study equally suggests that INEC should also expand voter sensitization programs to deepen public understanding of how BVAS contributes to electoral integrity, thereby increasing public trust and reducing resistance to its deployment.

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