

THE IMPACTS OF POLITICAL MATHEMATICS ON THE ENDSARS PROTEST AND AGITATIONS IN NIGERIA

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Abstract

The work investigated the impact of political Mathematics on the Endsars protest and agitation in Calabar, Cross River State. Two null hypotheses were formulated to guide the study. The survey research design was adopted in the study. The stratified random sampling technique was used in selecting a sample of 151 people from 6 streets in Calabar Metropolis. Data for the study was collected with the aid of a questionnaire. The reliability of the instrument was established at 0.75. The population *t*-test was used for data analysis and the hypotheses were tested at 0.05 level of significance. The result of the study revealed that political mathematics does not have any impact on the Endsars protest and agitation in Cross River, Nigeria. Based on the findings, it was recommended that: Mathematics experts should be engaged to compile results in INEC offices to ensure efficiency and effectiveness. Errors in mathematics will lead to wrong emergence of candidates during elections, so adequate precautions should be taken by INEC officials to avert such.

Keywords: Mathematics, politics, Endsars protest and agitations.



Introduction

The numerous applications of mathematics to the day to day activities of man cannot be over-emphasised. As a science that deals with numbers, quantities and space in both abstract and applied form, mathematics covers all aspects of every man's day to day activities beginning from birth till death, (Michael, 2015). Mathematics is as old as man. It began right from creation of humans (Genesis 1:12). Humans' mathematical encounter can be considered in individual or group form (family, school, government and other relevant bodies).

In Nigeria, the application of mathematics unconsciously started from ancient farmers and businessmen who took note of their investments, harvest and exchange rates through trade by barter.

Mathematics and Politics in Nigeria

From the inception of Nigerian politics, there have been numerous ways political activities adopt mathematical models and methods. The mathematical methods and models often adopted in Nigerian politics range from the dates of political events down to the period of governance. During electioneering processes, activities such as acknowledgment of registered number of political parties, decision of who becomes party flag bearers, total number of registered voters, total number of eligible voters and determining the winner of the election all require a fair understanding of mathematical concepts and methods.

Nigerian politics, which started with the parliamentary system, effectively separated the Head of Government from the Head of State.

That led to the emergence of Dr. Nnamdi Azikiwe as Nigeria's first president, the process of which adopted some mathematical methods and models (Forri Banu, 2020).

Nigeria held her first ever presidential elections in the case of Awolowo and Shagari, on 11th August, 1979. There were nineteen states in the federation then. It was resolved that a candidate must poll at least a quarter of the votes cast in twelve or thirteen states of the federation to emerge a winner. And there lay the problem: twelve or thirteen states? Two-third of nineteen states is 12.667.

In a striking example of incompleteness, the constitution fails to account for fractional results. So, one can either round that up to thirteen or claim twelve and a portion of a state was enough if that portion was a quarter of that state. In this scenario, Nigeria's first President, Shagari won the popular votes and also fulfilled the two-third provision in twelve states and the court decided that Shagari's 19.9 percent in one state could count as the remaining 0.66 left to reach the constitutional threshold. In a broad sense, it was obvious that the victory of Nigeria's first president was decided by mathematics (Forri Banu, 2020).

That happens to justify the earlier claims that Nigerian politics is aided by mathematical methods in various ways. It is a truism that political activities are characterised by elections. From the beginning of the electoral processes to the end, the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) employs mathematical methods in its operations. Also, during party primaries and elections proper, ballot papers are produced in serial numbers and calculated to cover all polling units. This indicates the presence of mathematics in the beginning stage of the electoral processes. Mathematics also manifests in the computation of scores either through manual or computer programming. Election results are also announced in numbers at all levels and forms of elections in Nigeria: polling units, wards, LGA, States and the country at large.

In Nigeria, the job of compiling the names of eligible voters is handled by INEC

officials who are expected to have a fair knowledge of mathematics. During this stage, Nigerians who are up to the age of 18 years and above are captured by INEC electronically and assigned serial numbers according to their respective polling units. This registration takes place in INEC offices across the nation. After registration, one is issued the Permanent Voter's Card (PVC).

The PVC enables one to vote during any election conducted by the Commission. Also, before the election, the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) allocates ballot papers serially in booklets to all polling units. The ballot papers and the result sheets are returned to the Commission after the elections. The result sheets are often written in English and arithmetic language.

Result Computation: This is the major area in the electoral processes that incorporates much mathematics and requires skilled personnel. It takes place at the polling unit level and is handled by the presiding officer and also at the collation centres of the local government area, state and nation, depending on the level of election. The elections include: Councillorship, Local Government Chairman, Gubernatorial, State Assembly, National Assembly, Presidential, etc. The computation of result requires a careful collection of data to avoid errors.

The Endsars Protest

The Endsars protest in Nigeria came up as a result of the high brutality rate and inhuman treatment of citizens by a police group known as Special Anti-Robbery Squad (SARS). This arm of the Nigeria Police was said to have deviated from their original mandate. They had become agents of politicians who intend to run elections. The Endsars protest started on 8th October, 2020 in Lagos State and was publicised on social media on 9th October, 2020. In Lagos, the protest took place in major routes including the toll gate. Thereafter, the protest was replicated in many states, including the Federal Capital Territory. In Cross River, for example, the protest took place in its capital city, Calabar and was later hijacked by hoodlums/intruders from unknown places. The

hoodlums carried out many unlawful acts and destroyed warehouses, government offices and private facilities.

The Endsars protest in many states ended with youths reciting the National Anthem, swinging the Nigerian flag, and displaying placards bearing captions as Endsars, Say No to Police Brutality, Say No to Bad Governance, etc. These pictured the original objective of the protest by Nigerian youths.

The youths persisted in the protest in spite of government's attempt to stop the protest by force.

Purpose of the study:

The purpose of this study is to ascertain the impact of political mathematics on the Endsars protest in Nigeria. Specifically, this study:

- i. Examined the impact of accuracy of allocation of ballots on the Endsars protest in Calabar.
- ii. Examined the impact of errors in result collation on the Endsars protest in Nigeria.

Research questions:

In order to facilitate the smooth flow of this study, the following research questions were formulated:

- i. Does wrong allocation of ballots during elections have any effect on the Endsars protest in Calabar?
- ii. How does wrong result collation during elections affect the Endsars protest in Calabar?

Hypotheses

The following hypotheses were formulated to ensure a smooth flow of the findings:

- i. There is no significant influence of allocation of ballots during election on the Endsars protest in Calabar.
- ii. There is no significant influence of wrong result collation on the Endsars protest in Calabar.

Methodology:

The research design adopted for the study is the survey research design. The population of the study is all the occupants of Calabar, Cross River State. Stratified random sampling technique was used to select a sample of 151 persons selected from 6 streets in Calabar Metropolis. The questionnaire designed by the researcher was used for data collection. The questionnaire was divided into two parts: A & B. Section A was to elicit the demographic data of the respondents and section B was designed to elicit responses to aid the case study. The reliability of the instrument was at 0.75 using the Cronbach Alpha. The questionnaire was administered to selected persons and their responses were coded and analysed using the population T-test.

Hypothesis one

There is no significant influence of wrong allocation of ballots during election on the Endsars protest in Calabar.

Table 1:

| | N=151 | | | |
|---------------------|---------------|-------|-----------|---------|
| Ballots allocation | (\bar{X}) | (SD) | (Crit- t) | (t-Cal) |
| and Endsars protest | 43.32 | 20.4 | 1.976 | 1.033 |
| | 60.5 | 33.58 | | |

significant at 0.05, df=150

The information on the table above shows that wrong allocation of ballot papers during elections did not have any impact on the Endsars protest in Calabar.

$$t\text{-cal (1.033)} < \text{critical- } t (1.976)$$

This implies that the null hypothesis is upheld. Hence, there is no significant influence of wrong allocation of ballots during elections on the Endsars protest in Calabar.

Table 2:

| | N=151 | | | |
|------------------------|---------------|-------|-----------|---------|
| Wrong result collation | (\bar{X}) | (SD) | (Crit- t) | (t-Cal) |
| and Endsars protest | 42.28 | 20.4 | 1.976 | 1.043 |
| | 59.6 | 33.60 | | |

significant at 0.05, df=150

The information on the table above shows that wrong result collation during elections did not influence Endsars protest in Calabar, Cross River State.

$$t - \text{Cal} = (1.043) < \text{critical } t = (1.976).$$

Hence, the null hypothesis is upheld at 0.05 level of significance.

Discussion of findings

Findings on this studies shows that allocation of ballots have no effect on the Endsars protest in Cross River State. Further findings also revealed that wrong result collation during elections has no impact on the Endsars protest in Cross River. The Endsars protest was a mere agitation against the high brutality rate and inhuman attitude of SARS in Nigeria. In Cross River State, the protest had no association with bad governance in spite of the destruction of public and private property. A protest against bad governance by aggrieved youths should have ended in the destruction of government properties alone; but, in this case, both private and corporate property were vandalised and looted by hoodlums.

Summary: The study investigated the impact and influence of political mathematics on the Endsars protest in Nigeria. The findings revealed that political mathematics did not have influence on the Endsars protest. Political mathematics would only have effect on the protest if the protest was carried out against bad governance in Cross River.

Recommendations

Based on the study, the following recommendations were made:

1. Mathematics experts should be engaged to compile results in INEC offices to ensure efficiency and effectiveness.
2. Errors in mathematics will lead to wrong emergence of candidates during elections, so adequate precautions should be taken by INEC officials to avert such.

References:

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