



The Influence of Access to Political Information on the Participation of Women in Politics in Ibadan, Nigeria.

By

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Abstract

This study investigated the influence of access to political information on the participation of women in politics in Ibadan, Nigeria. The study adopted a descriptive survey design with a sample size of one hundred and eighty (180) participants of women selected from different wards in six local governments in Ibadan, four research questions and two hypotheses were drawn and answered. Data were analysed using simple percentage of frequency distribution, while hypothesis of the research was tested with a correlation. The result yielded ($r = 0.198$; $P = 0.000 < 0.05$) which shows a significant positive relationship between information sources and channels and participation of women in politics, and also ($r = 0.273$; $P < 0.001$) which shows that there is a significant relationship between accessibility of political information and participation of women in politics in Ibadan. Based on the findings, it was concluded that political information empowers women to make sound decisions that will build and expand their participation in politics, therefore information professionals, political parties, Government and other stake holders should make relevant and reliable information readily available to women in the language and formats required so as to develop their potentialities, which would bring about change in their economic, social and political condition, which would promote peace and reinforce national development.

Keywords: Political Information, Access to political information, participation of women in politics, Ibadan, Nigeria.

Introduction

Information is processed, organized and structured data, it can be thought of as the resolution of uncertainty; it defines both the essence and the nature of an entity's characteristics. (Wikipedia, 2021) Adequate and relevant information is needed, not just in business management, health care delivery, environmental management, educational administration, but also in personal grooming, politics and political decisions. . According to Zeimet (2019) in the world we live in it is very important to be informed of what is happening socially and politically. It is necessary to know

how candidates view certain issues which are of a major concern and to know how they align with one's own election cycle personal beliefs. It is everybody's duty as citizen to be as informed as adequately as possible simply to ensure that we are making informed decisions. As an important element in decision making, it gives the user the 'opportunity to have informed judgement', which directly impinges on his/her behaviour (Curras, 1987 cited in Uhegbu, 2007). In other words, the quality of the decisions an individual or groups of people make, how they are made and when, are almost always directly proportional to the amount and quality of information at their disposal.

Access to information is a major determinant of the quality of life that a person or group of persons lead. It simply is the ease with which available information could be reached and used per time and per space by the seeker, as well as his/her understanding of the meaning of the information and how to convert and apply them as usable materials to solve problems. At the any level, personal inclinations towards issues, sometimes determine depends on other variables such as the proximity of the seeker/user to information gate keepers, which in itself is a function of power relations at the realm of human relations in the society; cost of information and the role of information brokers (Castells, 2009).

Information is essential for participation on any issue; it determines how individuals or citizens become informed participants or actors. Re-appraising the role of political information in measuring political behaviour, Carpini and Keeter (1996) noted, politically informed individuals are more likely to participate in politics, more likely to have reliable, stable attitudes on issues, better able to relate their interest with their attitudes and more likely to choose political representatives who are agreeable to their own attitudes, or present themselves for political office. In other words, adequate and appropriate political information helps citizens to make informed choices in public affairs.

According to the Merriam-Webster Dictionary (2021) Political information refers to information that are relating to the government or public affairs of a country, relating to, or concerned with the making of governmental policy or the conduct of government. Political information is basically a body of information about goings-on in democratic principles. They include information about political party activities, voting system, election candidates' profile, voters' registration and party manifestoes .more specifically, others are related with the process of party rallies, conventions, meetings, campaigns and the strategies of the political parties which are important to the individuals that are politically disposed (Uhegbu,2007). Political information is essential for political participation. It determines how citizens become informed political participants or actors (Holbert, 2005) Participation means people being involved in decisions that affect their lives. Through which they can identify opportunities and strategies for action, and build solidarity to effect a necessary change. Participation can happen in many different places and situations where economic / political decision-making takes place. These could be formal like legislative bodies or company boards; they could also be informal like community groups, or even protests. Locations for participation could be physical spaces as well as virtual spaces such as online consultations and can exist at different levels. Participation must flow from nominal participation, in which a decision-maker is seeking legitimation of their decisions, towards models that give people a voice in determining their own development and eventually enable them to decide and act for themselves. (Institute of Development Studies (IDS), 2021) Participation also means involvement and codetermination on acts, issues, dialogues, etc. (Vereinbeteiligung, 2010).

Women's exclusion from the political process varies in different social contexts across countries (Shvedova, 2006). In the Nigerian context, a synthesis of the major factors that affect women's participation in politics include: ideology of pre-determined social roles assigned to women and men, male dominance and control, lack of funds and resources, poverty and unemployment, illiteracy and limited access to education, the dual burden of domestic task and professional

obligation, lack of confidence in other women ,lack of access to information...etc (Akiyode-Afolabi et al, 2003).

With information, individuals are more likely to have reliable, stable attitudes on issues, better able to relate their interest with their attitudes and more likely to choose political representatives who are agreeable to their own attitudes, or present themselves for political office. In other words, adequate and appropriate political information helps citizens to make informed choices in public affairs. Women's political participation is the freedom to speak out, assemble and associate and also the ability to take part in the conduct of public affairs; and the opportunity to register as a candidate, to campaign, to be elected and to hold office at all levels of government.

Statement of the Problem

According to the National Bureau of Statistics (2020) Women constitute almost half of Nigeria's population. Yet their participation in formal political structures and processes remains insignificant. For instance, presently, women's representation in Nigeria's legislature is 15 per cent as against the 33% or more seats in the parliaments, which is the pronounced commitment of the international community to achieve gender equality and to the bridging the gender gap in the formal political arena, reinforced by the Convention on Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) and the Beijing Platform of Action (UNDP Report, 2005). This challenge has been traced to the lack of information both in the right quality and format Saleh and Lasisi(2011) .

For several reasons, which range from gender discriminations to poverty, women often face more difficulties when it comes to seeking and accessing information that might be relevant to their political participation .Research has shown that the actual challenge revolves around women's attitude to political information and that the reflex to request information on issues that are important to them, or to engage with constituents by taking part in debates, liaising with civil society or consulting experts, is often missing'(iKNOWPolitics.org, 2010).

Information is an essential element of national development. Hence the need for this study in investigating the relationship between access to political information including sources and channels and participation of women in politics.

Objectives of the study

The purpose of this study is to examine access to political information and the participation of women in politics in Ibadan, Nigeria. The specific objectives of the study are to:

- Investigate the extent and nature of women participation in politics Ibadan.
- Identify the sources and channels of political information dissemination to women in Ibadan.
- Examine the nature and extent of access to political information by women in Ibadan
- Investigate how access to political information affects women participation in politics in Ibadan.

Research Questions

The following questions are formulated to guide the study.

- What is the extent of women participation in politics Ibadan?
- What are the sources and channels of political information dissemination to women in Ibadan?
- How accessible is political information to women in Ibadan?
- How does access to political information influence women's political participation in Ibadan?

Research Hypotheses

In order to achieve the stated objective and research questions, the following null hypotheses were tested.

H01: There is no significant relationship between sources, channels and Access to political information on political participation.

H02: There is no significant difference on the extent of Access to political Information on women's participation in politics.

Significance of Study

Differentials in access to information across gender lines account for much of the differences in gender-based political behaviours, attitudes, opinions and decisions. The fact that the differentials vary from one place to the other, as shown by Uganneya and Umaru (2008), (Oyelude and Bamigbola, 2012, Saleh and Lasisi (2011) further necessitates case-specific analysis of the problem. For instance, Ibadan has been shown to have history of active women's participation in politics. It therefore, presents a unique testing ground for measuring the influence of access to political information on the participation of women in politics in Nigeria. It is envisaged that data generated from the study will throw light into how women's access to political information has influence their political participation. Also, it will add to the fledging studies on information behavior as a factor in political participation.

Literature Review

According to the modernization theory which holds that economic growth inevitably leads to social development and gender equality, some authors have suggested that economic growth by itself does not follow an exclusive path but that there is a bi-directional relationship between economic development and women's empowerment, defined as improving the ability of women to access the constituents of development, in particular health, education, earning opportunities, rights, and political participation (Duflo, 2016 in Orisadare, 2019) Women's participation in politics can be observed and judged when support and resources are provided to ensure the election of women candidates, when women are fully represented in party leadership and policy committees and clearly identify the advancement of women and issues of special concern to women as priorities in their platforms. it could also be observed and judged when there are incentives for political parties to promote women candidates, including resources, training and increased access to broadcast time as adequate information advance women's participation by enabling voters to make informed assessments at election time of the overall performance of political parties, including their support of women who have been elected as representatives, also support and training to these women who have been elected to office to enable them to function more effectively in their new roles. (Krishnan, 2010)

How much of information is accessed depends on variables such as the proximity of the seeker/user to political information gate keepers, which in itself is a function of power relations at the realm of human relations in the society; cost of information and the role of information brokers (Castells, 2009). As a social and economic commodity, information is not without a monetary cost, depending on the format it is packaged, ranging from the newspapers, the internet, textbooks, journals, magazines, films, audio-visual materials, and CD-ROM, to name a few. It now behoves on information professionals to make information in whatever format it comes easily available and accessible to users/seekers.

Political Information and Women Participation

Everyone in the society needs information to function effectively. Access to such information is a pre-condition for its use. This is why any serious efforts to promote women's participation in

politics must pay attention to the political information environment of women. Women need information more than ever to keep themselves informed and to inform others about proper political integration so that with more of them in politics there will be participation in the decisions that affect their lives.

As presented by Oloyede (2016) Nigeria has been recording low participation of women in both appointive and elective positions and this has been a growing concern to many Nigerians. Of note is the concerted efforts being made by government and non-governmental organizations to increase the level of women's participation in politics to align with the declaration made at the fourth World Conference on women in Beijing, which advocated 30% affirmative action. The extant National Gender Policy (NGP) recommended 35% affirmative action instead for Nigeria and sought for a more inclusive representation of women with at least 35% of both elective political and appointive public service positions respectively. Women's under-representation in political participation gained root due to the patriarchal practice inherent in our society, much of which were obvious from pre-colonial era till date. Statistics (NBS, 2020) have shown that women's political participation in Nigeria has remained 6.7 % on the average in elective and appointive positions, which is far below the Global Average of 22.5%, Africa Regional Average of 23.4% and West African Sub Regional Average of 15%. Also with the over twenty years of uninterrupted democratic governance (1999-2022), Nigeria is yet to produce a single female governor in any of the 36 states of the Country. According to the United Nations (2019) news feature, the state of women's political participation in Nigeria remains abysmally low, with less than 6 per cent women in the Parliament, representation in the House of Representatives 5.5% , In the Senate: 5.8%, only 5 out of 73 candidates running for President in 2019 are women. As at today, Nigeria has one of the lowest rates of female representation in parliament across Africa, and ranks 181st out of 193 countries globally.

Political information seeks to empower women to identify and make their choices on their own behalf and to influence the direction of change through the ability to gain control over situations that affect their lives (Arowolo 2010, Bari 2005). Political information is therefore a central variable in identifying the rights of women participation in political structures, in processes where decisions are made regarding the use of societal resources generated by both men and women. It seeks to empower women through distribution of power within as well as in relation to other societies. Numerous theories have shown that voters with more information behave fundamentally differently from those with less ('The value of information in this case is the difference between making informed and uninformed decisions Babalola (2012) and that political participation will fail to establish legitimacy in an environment of hindered information flow (Pande 2011).

Women and Access to political Information

Access to information is the ability to access what information you want whenever you want it. It is a major determinant of the quality of life that a person or group of persons lead. It simply is the ease with which available information could be reached and used per time and per space by the seeker, as well as his/her understanding of the meaning of the information and how to convert and apply them as usable materials to solve problems. At the any level, personal inclinations towards issues sometimes determine the extent of information the individual will seek. How much of it is finally accessed depends on other variables such as the proximity of the seeker/user to political information gate keepers, which in itself is a function of power relations at the realm of human relations in the society; cost of information and the role of information brokers (Castells, 2009).

Oyelude and Bamigbola (2012) noted that women are not able to compete on a level playing field, because 'the level of women's access to information is rather low'. In their view, lack of access to political information has become a form of disempowerment for women, Hilt

and Lipschultz (2004) demonstrated that the flow of political information is not only a question of supply. Equally important is demand and personal preferences, measured in the share of people who spend time consuming the political news and current affairs programmes offered to them. Granted that participation in formal political structures and processes depends to a very large extent on access to political information, do people, especially women make conscious efforts to seek political information? How much of information is accessed depends on variables such as the proximity of the seeker/user to political information gate keepers, which in itself is a function of power relations at the realm of human relations in the society; cost of information and the role of information brokers (Castells, 2009). As a social and economic commodity, information is not without a monetary cost, depending on the format it is packaged, ranging from the newspapers, the internet, textbooks, journals, magazines, films, audio-visual materials, and CD-ROM, to name a few . It now behoves on information professionals to make information in whatever format it comes easily available and accessible to users/seekers.

Methodology

This is a Survey/Descriptive study. The study focused on the influence of access to political information on the participation of women in politics in Ibadan. The data was collected through questionnaire. The analysis began with a description of the socio-demographic profile of the respondents, which gives the reader an insight into bio-graphic trends typical of any representative sampling of women participation in politics in Ibadan. Quantitative values collected through the questionnaire were analysed using descriptive statistical tools including tables, simple percentages, ratios, and averages while hypothesis of this research was analysed with a correlation which was used to test the relationship between sources and channels and accessibility to political information on participation of women in politics. For the study, multi stage sampling technique involving three steps which include separating the population into strata, i.e. urban and semi urban, and then purposively selecting six wards from the strata, and an average of 180 women were selected from these wards (30 from each ward) from the four political parties (Accord, APC, Labour party, and PDP) using purposive sampling method with the same criteria highlighted above.

Data presentation and Discussion of Results

Table 1: Selected sample size for the study

S/N	Local Government	Ward Name	Type	No of Respondents, inclusive of the four political parties
1	Akinyele	Ojoo/AjibodeLaniba	Semi-Urban	30
2	Egbeda	Olubadan Estate	Semi-Urban	30
3	Ibadan North	Ward111(N4)	Urban	30
4	Ibadan North-East	Ward 11(E91)	Urban	30
5	Ibadan South-East	Ward 01 (C1)	Urban	30

6	Ona –Ara	Ogbere	Semi Urban	30
	TOTAL			180

The questionnaire contained a title, an introduction, and sections a-e with themes to ensure that they answer research questions raised for the study, which are:

- (a) Demographic information
- (b) Extent of women’s participation in politics
- (c) Sources and channels of political information
- (d) Accessibility of political information
- (e) Influence of access of political information on participation.

Instructions on scale of measurement, and relevant items subdivided into the themes were also included.

Table 2: Distribution of respondents by wards in selected Local Governments in Ibadan

S/N	Local Government	Sampled Ward Name	Type	Sampled Population	Retrieved frequency	Percentage Retrieved (%)
1	Akinyele	Ojoo/Ajibode Laniba	Semi-urban	30	30	100%
2	Egbeda	Olubadan Estate	Semi-Urban	30	30	100%
3	Ibadan North	Ward 111(N4)	Urban	30	30	100%
4	Ibadan North-East	Ward11(E91)	Urban	30	30	100%
5	Ibadan South-East	Ward 01(C1)	Urban	30	30	100%
6	Ona-Ara	Ogbere	Semi-Urban	30	30	100%
	Grand Total			180		100%

Therefore, the response rate was 100%. All the 180 respondents who participated in this study were women.

Table 3: Distribution of respondents based on age

Age	Frequency	Percentage
18-24 years	24	13.3%
25-35 years	31	17.2%
36- 55 years	69	38.3%
56 years and above	56	31.2%
Total	180	100.0%

Age plays an important role in decision making. One’s age determines whether the person is matured to participate in decision making. In terms of age, 69(38.3%) of the women participation in politics were aged between 36 years and 55 years old, and 56(31.2%) of the respondents were aged between 56years and above. About 31(17.0%) of these women were aged between 25 to 35 years old while about 24(13.3%) of the women were between 18 to 24 years old.

Table 4: Distribution of respondents based on marital status

Marital status	Frequency	Percentage
Single	19	11%
Married	142	79.0%
Separated	8	4.0%
Widowed	11	6.0%
Total	180	100%

Table 4 shows the marital status of the women who participate in politics.142 (79.0%) of the respondents were married, 19(11.0%) were single, 11(6.0%) were widowed while the remaining 8(4.0%) were separated. This implies that majority of the respondents who participated in the study were married women.

Table 5: Distribution of respondents based on qualification

Qualification	Frequency	Percentage
No formal education	14	8.0%
Primary school	30	17.0%
Secondary school	99	55.0%
Tertiary	37	20.0%
Total	180	100.0%

The table above shows the educational qualifications of the respondents. The study also uncovered that majority of all the respondents had gone through secondary school level education with a numerical of 99 representing 55.0%, 37(20.0%) had tertiary level education,30(17.0%) had primary education level while the remaining 14(8.0%) had no formal education. This made it easy for them to be able to answer the questionnaires without any difficulties as compared to non-educated ones who were illiterate and thus needed assistance.

Research Question 1: How accessible is political information to women in Ibadan?

Table 6: Accessibility of political information

S/N	Items: Sources of information	Very Easily Accessible	Easily Accessible	Accessible	Not Accessible
1.	My family and friends	149(82.8%)	14(7.8%)	8(4.4%)	9(6.0%)
2.	Television	104(58.0%)	73(40.5%)	2(1.0%)	1(0.5%)
3.	Television allows people to access programmes and get political information they would not normally be able to see	161(89.4%)	12(6.7%)	4(2.2%)	3(1.7%)
4.	Radio	87(49.0%)	85(47.0%)	6(3.0%)	2(1.0%)

5.	Political information is available from at least one channel/station on the radio	88(49.0%)	56(31.0%)	23(13.0%)	13(7.0%)
6.	Library/information centre.	22(12.0%)	12(7.0%)	70(39.0%)	76(42.0%)
7.	Mobile phone.	111(61.7%)	64(35.6%)	2(1.0%)	3(1.7%)
8.	Computer with internet connection.	24(13.0%)	16(9.0%)	63(35.0%)	77(43.0%)
9.	Bill boards and Posters.	109(60.6%)	67(37.2%)	3(1.7%)	1(0.5%)
10.	Party manifestoes.	53(30.0%)	74(41.0%)	22(12.0%)	31(17.0%)

In terms of accessibility of political information, majority of the women who participated in the study stated that political information is very easily accessible to them. Respondents were asked how they access political information from these channels. The result of the findings shows that 161(89.4%) of the respondents stated that political information by television allows people to access programmes and get political information, they would not normally be able to see, is very easily accessible to them, 149(82.8%) of the respondents indicated that family and friends discussion and sharing of political information to access political information is very easily accessible, 111(61.7%) stated that mobile phone service is available for them to get political information to access political information is very easily accessible to them. bill boards and posters that give political information are available in my locality as channel of political information to the women ranked fourth with 109(60.6%) used to access political information very easily accessible, followed by understand the language used in giving the political information 101(56.1%)stated very easily accessible. Those that accesses political information is available to them from political party meetings 92(51.0%), political information is available from at least one channel/station on the radio 88(49.0%), radio is available to me 87(49.0%), political information is easily gotten from party manifestoes 53(30.0%) of the women stated very easily accessible to political information.

Research Question 2: What are the sources and channels of political information dissemination to women in Ibadan?

Table 7: Sources and Channels of Political Information.

S/N	Items: I obtain political information through:	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
1.	Friends and family.	143(79.4%)	33(18.4%)	3(1.7%)	1(0.5%)
2.	Friends, family and colleagues.	119(66.1%)	48(26.7%)	4(2.0%)	9(5.0%)
3.	Political talk/debate.	89(49.0%)	73(41.0%)	8(4.0%)	10(5.0%)
4.	Political campaigning on the streets.	85(47.0%)	46(26.0%)	23(13.0%)	26(14.0%)
5.	Open letter in newspaper and magazines.	41(23.0%)	34(19.0%)	54(30.0%)	51(28.0%)
6.	Political party manifestoes.	53(30.0%)	47(26.0%)	31(17.0%)	49(27.0%)
7.	The radio or television.	153(85.0%)	27(15.0%)	(0.0%)	0(0.0%)
8.	The Internet.	27(15.0%)	21(12.0%)	60(33.0%)	72(40.0%)

9.	Government publications in libraries and information centres.	23(13.0%)	11(6.0%)	69(38.0%)	77(43.0%)
10	Journal publications	18(10.0%)	9(5.0%)	84(47.0%)	69(38.0%)
11	Reading books	21(12.0%)	14(8.0%)	62(34.0%)	83(46.0%)

Women were asked to state their sources and channel of political information dissemination. Table 7 shows the sources and channel of political information dissemination arranged according to the degree of importance which indicates the sources that the women used when they are in need of political information required for their political activities. The study revealed that 153(85%) of the women stated that radio and television was their major source and channel of political information dissemination, 143(79.4%) stated that Informal discussion on political views by friends/family was the major source and channel of political information and 119(66.1%) of the women indicated that the Informal discussions on political views with friends, family and colleagues was their major source of information. Political talk/debate were ranked fourth representing 89(49%) of the women. The study further indicated that 85(47%) of the women used various political campaigning on the streets as sources of their information and channel of political information, 53(30%) used Political party manifestoes, 41(23%) used Open letter in newspaper and magazines, 27(15%) used the Internet, 23(13%) used Government publications in libraries and information centres, 21(12%) used reading books and 18(10%) of the women indicated that they used Journal publications sources and channel of political information.

Research Question 3: How does political information influence women’s political participation in Ibadan?

Table 8: Influence of Political Information on women Participation in politics

S/N	Which of the following, has access to political information enabled you to do?	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
1.	I will register to vote, because it is my duty.	149(82.8%)	26(14.4%)	3(1.7%)	2(1.1%)
2.	I know I am qualified to vote.	138(76.7%)	42(23.3%)	0(0.0%)	0(0.0%)
3.	I am ready to vote in the next election.	111(61.7%)	63(35.0%)	4(2.2%)	2(1.1%)
4.	I know who to vote for.	92(51.1%)	88(48.9%)	0(0.0%)	0(0.0%)
5.	I know who not to vote for.	103(57.2%)	77(42.8%)	0(0.0%)	0(0.0%)
6.	I know the importance of voting and being voted for as a woman.	104(57.8%)	73(40.6%)	1(0.5%)	2(1.1%)
7.	I will vote for and support women.	111(61.7%)	64(35.6%)	2(1.1%)	3(1.7%)
8.	I am capable of contesting for political positions.	60(33.0%)	61(34.0%)	32(18.0%)	27(15.0%)
9.	It is possible for women to get to any elective position.	87(48.0%)	54(30.0%)	16(9.0%)	23(13.0%)
10.	It is necessary for women to take elective posts as they have the ability to do so.	91(51.0%)	63(35.0%)	15(8.0%)	11(6.0%)
11.	Women can excel in elective posts as they have been excelling in other fields.	100(55.6%)	72(40.0%)	4(2.2%)	4(2.2%)

The table above shows that political information could influence women participation in politics. 149(82.8%) of the women stated that 'I will register to vote, because it is my duty'. The table further shows that 138(76.7%) of the women strongly agree that access to political information had influenced their knowledge about knowing their right to vote. The result of this study also indicated that 111 (61.7%) of the women strongly agreed that access to political Information had influenced them to know who to vote for and to support women. The findings further revealed that 111(61.7%) of the women strongly agree that access to political information has influenced them to be ready to vote in the next election and this have helped them to participate in politics.

The study revealed that 104(57.8%) of the respondents stated that access to political information have strongly influenced them to know the importance of voting and being voted for as a woman as they participate in politics. It was established from the study that 103(57.2%) of the respondents stated that access to political information had influenced them strongly to know who not to vote for in an election. The study further revealed that 100(55.6%) of the respondents strongly agree that political information have influence them to know that women can excel in elective posts as they have been excelling in other fields. It was further established in the study that 92(51.1%) of the respondents strongly agreed that political information have influence them to know that who to vote for in an election. In addition, 91(51.0%) of the respondents strongly agreed that access to political information had influenced them to know that it is necessary for women to take elective posts as they have the ability to do so.

Research Question 4: What is the extent of women participation in politics in Ibadan?

Table 9: Extent of Women’s Participation in Politics

S/ N	Items	Very High Extent	High Extent	Low Extent	Very Low Extent	Total
1.	I have registered to vote.	99(55.0%)	76(42.0%)	1(1.0%)	4(2.0%)	180(100%)
2.	I vote regularly in election.	132(73.3%)	45(25.0%)	2(1.1%)	1(0.6%)	180(100%)
3.	I persuade others to vote.	108(60.0%)	67(37.0%)	3(2.0%)	2(1.0%)	180(100%)
4.	I campaign for candidate.	93(52.0%)	81(45.0%)	2(1.0%)	4(2.0%)	180(100%)
5.	I work for political party.	85(47.0%)	74(41.0%)	9(5.0%)	12(7.0%)	180(100%)
6.	I attend political meetings regularly.	103(58.0%)	54(31.0%)	11(6.0%)	9(5.0%)	180(100%)
7.	I contribute money to political parties.	72(40.0%)	62(35.0%)	24(13.0%)	22(12.0%)	180(100%)
8.	I am a card carrying member of a political party.	83(46.0%)	84(47.0%)	4(2.0%)	9(5.0%)	180(100%)
9.	I have contested for a political position.	52(24.0%)	43(25.0%)	45(22.0%)	40(29.0%)	180(100%)
10.	I will contest for a political position.	72(40.0%)	63(35.0%)	21(12.0%)	24(13.0%)	180(100%)
11.	I am holding a political position.	56(31.0%)	58(32.0%)	30(17.0%)	36(20.0%)	180(100%)

Results from table 9 revealed the extent of women participation in politics in Ibadan. The utilization of available political information by the women to participate in various political positions also existed but majority of respondents gave priority to political activities that concerns how to make the women participate better in politics. The result of the study shows the extent of women participation in politics, 132(73.3%) of the respondents interviewed stated very high extent in voting regularly in election, 45(25.0%) high extent, 2(1.1%) of the respondents stated low extent while the remaining 1(0.6%) stated very low extent with the statement. The result of the study further shows the extent of women participation in politics, 108(60.0%) of the respondents stated very high extent that they persuade others to vote. It also shows that 103(58.0%) of the respondents stated very high extent to attend political meetings regularly, 54(31.0%) stated high extent, 11(6.0%) stated low extent while the remaining 9(5.0%) very low extent. The value in the Table 9 above shows the extent women participation in politics, dealing with voting in election that is, registering as a voter in election, campaign for candidate, card carrying member of a political party, work for a political party and I contribute money to political parties: with (55%), (52%),(46%),(47%)and (40%) respectively. The overall computation shows that women have very high extent in participation in politics (that is information pertaining to voting and other political activities). Women need information to carry out all political activities but claim more knowledge about voting activities. They have more details and participate fully because this is the only category women are welcomed, accepted and expected to participate in politics. The highest extent of women participation in politics is voting regularly in election.

Testing of Research Hypotheses

The following hypotheses were tested in the study:

Hypotheses Ho₁: There is no significant relationship between information sources and channels and Participation of women in politics.

Table 10: Result of correlation coefficients of relationship between information sources and channel and participation of women in politics in Ibadan

Variable	N	Mean	Std.D	R	P	Remark
Information Sources and Channels	180	47.90	15.72	0.198	0.001	Significant
Participation of Women in Politics	180	34.86	12.59			

The analysis in the table above revealed that there was a significant positive relationship between information sources and channels and the participation of women in politics ($r = 0.198$; $P = 0.000 < 0.05$). Therefore, null hypothesis was rejected. Therefore, it can be concluded that there is a significant relationship between information sources and channel and participation of women in politics in Ibadan.

Hypotheses Ho₂: There is no significant relationship between accessibility of political information and the participation of women in politics.

Table 11: Result of correlation coefficients of relationship between Accessibility of Political Information and participation of women in politics in Ibadan

Variable	N	Mean	Std.D	R	P	Remark
Accessibility of Political Information	180	10.45	31.35	0.273	0.001	Significant
Participation of Women in Politics	180	12.04	23.53			

In order to find out if there was any relationship between accessibility of political Information and participation of women in Politics, a Pearson’s correlation test was administered. This test was also conducted to find out how much one variable influenced the other as displayed in the table above. It was found that these two variables had a significant positive relationship ($r=0.273$; $p< 0.001$). Therefore, null hypothesis two was rejected. Therefore, it can be concluded that there is a significant relationship between accessibility of political information and participation of women in politics in Ibadan.

Summary of the Findings

The studies found out that majority of women in Ibadan participated in politics on a very high extent and involves in political activities e.g. attend political meeting regularly, involve in street campaign, rally etc. and also represent the majority of their fellow women in positions in some cases.

The study also found that women in politics rely on various sources of information. The different needs that women may have and the various problems they experience may require them to use certain sources of information. This study revealed that the television, radio, and mobile phone were the most commonly used sources of information by most of the women. The television and the radio were mostly used by all women regardless of the educational levels that they had. The study also reveals the low usage of the Internet in this study could be attributed to the fact that most women have not appreciated the benefits of the Internet. In addition, most women do not have the skill to use this service. The Internet can be a very important source of political information for women if they have the ability and skill to use it. Interestingly most women in this study did not use the internet for political information purposes but used it mainly for entertainment, news on social issues and for mere communication with friends and relatives using face book.

The study reveals that political information is very easily accessible to women and this has contributed to their participation in politics and has been used appropriately for decision making. It reveals that among the tools that are used to access political information are some information and communication technologies (ICTs) such as television sets, radios, phones, and computers. Political information distribution is highly orchestrated within the Nigerian politic. The study further shows that political information helped them in deciding which party to join, who to vote for and not to vote for, by studying the manifesto they have. In other words, exposure to more political information influences women interest in participation in politics and favours participation. Access to political information maximizes the impact and long term benefits for women. Access of women to political information is an empowerment tool that underpins democratic governance and which is also fundamental to other priority programme areas. The result of the findings shows that there is a significant relationship between information sources and channel and Participation of Women in Politics in Ibadan.

The study also shows that there is a significant relationship between Accessibility of Political Information and Participation of Women in Politics in Ibadan

Conclusion

For any participation in politics by women to be carried out effectively, it relies on the availability of reliable and relevant political information. It is political information that empowers women to make sound decisions that will build and expand their politics participation. It is for this reason that this study was conducted to establish the various political information needs of women, the political information sources they used, how they seek political information, and the problems they encountered when seeking political information.

The study revealed that women in Ibadan needed political information to help them decide on whom to vote for, identify a political party, identify party logo and determine candidates. Major sources of political information that they used included: televisions, radios, mobile phone. Poor democracies are considered an indicator of lack of functional political information systems.

The participation of women in politics is increasingly being viewed as one of the prime contributors to economic growth. It therefore entails that when women are helped to excel in politics, they do not just improve their own lives and those of their families, they also contribute to the economic growth of their country. Aware that poor political information and inappropriate use of political information incapacitates the ability of women in politics and development of their potentialities, changes in the present economic, social and political conditions of women must become an integral part of efforts to transform instituted structures and entrenched attitudes for promotion of larger freedoms.

The findings of this study are important because these findings will help planners and other relevant authorities to address various issues that affect participation of women in politics in Ibadan.

Recommendations

1. Relevant political information should be prepared in need based comprehensible formats which could be related to educational, research, professional, recreational, cultural, activities as well as personal development in the local languages to reach the unreached.
2. The political party should have ICT managers to utilize audio and video, facilities to reach the illiterate women who are otherwise competent and worthy in their own fields of activities to participated in politics.
3. Relevant and adequate political information through authentic sources be promoted by all stakeholders to enhance peace and tranquility among women in politics.
4. To the government, in order to build more space for women to participate in and influence political decision-making, it is essential that the government should promote women's participation in political decision-making.
5. To the political parties, since they are the main gatekeepers for women's political participation, they should let political information be timely and accurate.

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