

**NIGERIA YOUTHS PERCEPTION TOWARDS ENDSARS PROTEST AS A TOOL OF
INFLUENCING THIER BEHAVIOR TOWARDS THE GOVERNMENT AND
AUTHORITIES. A CASE STUDY ON EDO STATE, BENIN CITY**

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DECLARATION

This project work is based on a study conducted by me, in the department of Mass Communication, Faculty of Arts, University of Benin, under the supervision of Dr. C.C. Egbulefu & Miss U.L. Ekpenyong. All findings and analysis in the study are products of my personal research and where the views of others have been used and expressed, they were duly acknowledged.

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CERTIFICATION

This is to certify that this research work was undertaken by Victor Godfrey Itseosime, in the Department of Mass Communication, Faculty of Arts, University of Benin, in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the award of Bachelor of Art (B.A) in Mass Communication.

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DEDICATION

This research work is dedicated to Almighty God, my parents and friends who were my support system all through the process.

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I am immensely grateful to God Almighty for the grace and strength to successfully complete this academic work.

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ABSTRACT

This study, which evaluated NIGERIA YOUTHS PERCEPTION TOWARDS ENDSARS PROTEST AS A TOOL OF INFLUENCING THIER BEHAVIOR TOWARDS THE GOVERNMENT AND AUTHORITIES. A CASE STUDY ON EDO STATE, BENIN CITY. The survey design was adopted, witha 9-item questionnaire to elicit data from 384 respondents selected from the total population of 657,951 youth in Benin city through purposive sampling technique. Data obtained were presented and analyzed with the aid of frequency tables and simple percentages. Findings revealed that the youths positive response to the ENDSARS protest is that the protest crated a platform for revolution as young people are now able to voice their demand Also, the study shows the negative response of youths towards ENDSARS protest which states that the crisis has deepened the trust in political holders office by citizens. It is conclusive to say that ENDSARS protest have reformed the people no Nigeria in fighting for their rights for freedom. It has shown to what extent how what damage has been done to youths and how such everlasting practices form the police has affected how youths relate with authorities.

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background to the Study

The 20th of October, 2020, will be remembered in Nigeria as "Black Tuesday." The sound of bullets rang out in the darkness, only broken by the blue light of cellphone screens, as the army and police opened fire on a gathering of young people assembled at Lagos's Lekki toll gate to protest the Special Anti-Robbery Squad (SARS), a notoriously harsh branch of the police. The killing in Lekki came after more than two weeks of protests in Nigeria against police brutality. On October 4, the hashtag #EndSARS started trending (again) on social media. The immediate trigger was a video that showed a SARS officer shooting a young motorist in Ughelli, in Delta state, then pushing his body out of the car and driving off with the dead man's Lexus SUV. Within days, crowds of young people gathered in Nigerian cities to demand the abolition of SARS.

The protests this year follow prior action and government announcements in 2014, 2015, and 2017 that SARS would be demobilized. SARS operatives, on the other hand, continued to act with impunity, carrying out armed robberies, rapes, various forms of torture, and extrajudicial killings such as the one in Delta State. Even when leaders announced on Oct. 11 that SARS would be disbanded, gatherings of demonstrators became larger – despite violence and intimidation.. At least 100 people have died as a result of the protests since they began, with 48 of them slain on Black Tuesday alone. Young Nigerians make up the vast bulk of people taking part in the demonstration. Nigeria, in particular, has a long history of youth protests: the country's independence movement began as a youth demonstration.

Many of the country's youths' bottled-up rage about unjust profiling and harassment by SARS in particular has found an expression in this protest, which began with no clear or central leadership. At first, the protestors' demands were simple: immediate release of all arrested protesters, justice for all deceased victims of police brutality and appropriate compensation for their families, setting up an independent body to oversee the investigation and prosecution of all reports of police misconduct, in line with the new police act, psychological evaluation and restraining (to be confirmed by an independent body) of all disbanded SARS officers before they can be redeployed, increase police salary so that they are adequately compensated for protecting lives and property of citizens. The demands have now broadened, based on the government's widespread inability to provide equitable economic success for its population, particularly these outraged youths. Youth are seeking more respect for human rights and a strengthening of democracy, in addition to calling for law enforcement forces to follow the rule of law. Protesters are also calling for a revitalization of the educational and health-care institutions, as well as increased attempts to create jobs. In short, the #EndSARS protest is a call for young Nigerians to reclaim their nation from an established political structure that they believe has failed to serve their interests. Indeed, on behalf of the demonstrators, the governor of Lagos State delivered a seven-point agenda to President Buhari earlier this month. The economic crisis precipitated by a drop in global oil demand (and exacerbated by the outbreak of the COVID-19 epidemic), institutionalized corruption, and official profligacy, which have pushed more Nigerians into poverty, had already created anger among the youth. The preceding occurred during an eight-month period in which educational institutions were closed owing to strikes leaving many young people alienated and angry.

According to the National Bureau of Statistics, Nigeria's unemployment rate was 27.1 percent in the second quarter of 2020, with the underemployment rate at 28.6 percent. Young people (aged 15 to 34) make for 34.9 percent of the 21.7 million unemployed. They also make up 28.2 percent of Nigeria's 22.9 million unemployed. Worsening economic conditions and grim future prospects have simply added fuel to the fire. The country has only recently recovered from the 2016 economic slump, and President MuhammaduBuhari has warned Nigerians to prepare for another downturn. Reports of high-level elite corruption, galloping inflation, and unprecedented levels of unemployment have already enraged the youths, and now the government has proposed increases in fuel and power tariffs. In this context, the ENDSARS protests have become a metaphor for larger resentment, allowing disenfranchised Nigerian youths to air long-held grievances against the government, beginning with SARS' excesses, which the government has failed to address despite repeated pledges of reform. SARS problems are not new. In fact protests against its brutality began in 2010, and in 2014, it was announced that it will be disbanded, followed by pronouncements in 2015, 2016, and 2019. The nonpartisan nature of the ENDSARS protest explains the widespread popular support it received, as well as the results it achieved. The Benin protests resulted in major disruption, as detainees were allowed to flee from prison. It was witnessed as people jumped down from the jail fence, with some robbing large stores and others attempting to break into ATMs in order to obtain money. All of this contributed to the scenes that unfolded during the Benin demonstration. Although the Governor of Edo State has ordered that convicts be returned to their cells, this appears to be futile because they have been unable to account for the total number of prisoners that have escaped.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

The bad treatment of the Nigerian Police Force Unit known as Special Anti-Robbery Squad (SARS) on the citizens of Nigeria and their brutality on youths stimulated the agitation of the youths crying out for the disbandment of SARS which has done no good to youths rather has brought about killings and kidnapping of youths, harassing youths publicly by looking into their phones, checking at the type of car they are driving, the quality of clothes they wear, accessing their emails, facebook pages and whatsapp and profiling them to see whether they are fraudsters or not and as well stealing from them.

The discontent of the youths to the brutality of the SARS metamorphosed into the EndSARS protests in Lagos State which was a peaceful campaign calling on the government to disband the Special Anti-Robbery Squad (SARS) unit and as well see to the reforming of the police force. The protest spread like wild fire to other states in Nigeria. It started as a peaceful demonstration by thousands of youths but later turned into chaos after the protests were hijacked by hoodlums and led to mob attacks on security personnel, killings of protesters, vandalizing and looting of public and private properties and shops. For this cause, this study seeks to investigate Nigeria youths perception towards protest as a tool of influencing their behavior towards the government.

1.3 Objective of the Study

The objective of the study are to:

- Derive more insight into the reasons behind police harassment
- Determine the extent through which the Nigerian government can be of help in curbing police brutality
- To ascertain the positive and negative effect of the protest in Benin city

1.4 Research Question

This study seeks to provide answers to the following questions

- What were the reasons behind police harassment during the ENDSARS protest in Benin
- In what ways can the Nigeria government assist in curbing police brutality
- What are the positive and negative effect of the protest in Benin.

1.5. Scope of the Study

The scope of this study was limited to youths perception of ENDSARS protest in Benin city. For the purpose of effective coordination and to reduce sampling mistakes, the audience considered for this study was limited to literate male and females who are well informed about the ENDSARS protest in Benin city. Benin city was chosen for this research because of the violence that keeps on happening between young male individuals in the state and the special anti-robbery squad agents . This work will display factual events of ENDSARS protest in Benin and be a tool of information for Edo state.

1.6 Significance of the study

The outcome of this study will serve as an empirical evidence that would reveal the audience perception as regard to Nigerias' youths perception towards protest as a tool of influencing their behavior towards the government and authorities in Edo state, Benin city.

The findings of this study will show how it tries to help those who want to learn more about how the ENDSARS protest unfolded in Benin city. Also it would contribute to already existing literature in this area, thus serving as a resource base to other scholars and researchers interested in carrying out further research in this field subsequently and if applied will provide new explanation of topic.

1.7 Limitation of the Study

The researcher was limited by the following while undertaking this research: In this study, time duration to complete a research of this nature was not available to the researcher and also there was delay in response and hesitant compliance from the respondents.

1.8 Operational Definition of Significant Terms

- **Benin:** Benin City is the capital of Edo State, southern Nigeria Determining the positive and negative effect of the protest
- **ENDSARS:** End SARS is a decentralized social movement in Nigeria that consists of a series of public rallies against police brutality. The slogan demands that the Special Anti-Robbery Squad (SARS), a notorious Nigerian police organization with a lengthy history of abuses, be disbanded. The protests, which take their name from the slogan, began in 2017 as a Twitter campaign using the hashtag to demand that the Nigerian government dissolve the unit. Following resurgence in October 2020, following fresh reports of the unit's abuses, enormous rallies took place across Nigeria's major cities, accompanied by a barrage of social media indignation. On Twitter alone, around 28 million tweets with the hashtag (#Endsars) have been accumulated. Many major cities around the world saw solidarity protests and demonstrations by Nigerians in the diaspora and sympathizers. The protests are unique for being attended by an exclusively youthful Nigerian audience. Since then, the movement has grown to include calls for good government and accountability.
- **PROTEST:** Protest depicts a statement or action expressing disapproval of or objection to something.

- **PERCEPTION:** Perception in this sense means the way in which the youths regarded, understood, or interpreted the situation that occurred during the endsars protest.
- **SARS:** This means special anti-robbery squad. The Special Anti-Robbery Squad (SARS) was a Nigerian Police Force unit created in late 1992 to deal with crimes associated with robbery, motor vehicle theft, kidnapping, cattle rustling, and firearms.

CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW

Preamble

This chapter outlines the literature review of this study. The literature review was presented under the following subheadings

- 2.1. Review of Concept
- 2.2 Empirical Review
- 2.3 Theoretical Framework
- 2.1. Review of Concept

History of Protest in Nigeria

Nigerians are no strangers to activism. Social unrest was common before to 1960. Social challenges such as colonialism, slavery, growing inflation, unemployment, and corruption were challenged by activists. Print, radio, music, and, of course, the streets were all used in these protests. For example, during the colonial period, a local newspaper called *IweIrohin*(1859–1867) set out to promote a reading culture among Nigerians but instead became a vocal opponent of the slave trade. The British Colonial Office chastised the journal for promoting indigenous causes, which was expected (Stears Business, 2020). Despite this, the paper was a success in other ways. Journalism by *Iwe-Irohin* was a powerful weapon in the campaign to free the Egba people from the rulers of the Dahomey Kingdom, a significant player in the British slave trade. As a result, *IweIrohin* was proof of the transformative ability of citizen-driven demonstrations in the form of journalism as early as the nineteenth century. We saw 'sitting' as a key protest strategy decades later, during the 1929 Aba Women's Riots (as the British called it). Outside the residences of warrant chiefs and Native court officials, the female demonstrators would dance

and sing about their frustrations. They would go so far as to mud-plaster the properties in some circumstances (Oshinnaike, 2020).

These demonstrations relied significantly on the Aba women's perseverance, cultural understanding, and dedication to nonviolence, at least on their side. These riots were not in vain, and they are acknowledged as important milestones in the country's history of women-led protests. They resulted in important victories against the British administration, including the reduction of taxes and the resignation of a number of colonial stooges. Iwe-Irohin and the Aba Women's Riots, in particular, are noted for being effective and non-violent protests. In the case of Aba, the police, despite their calm attitude, slaughtered nearly 50 women. Still, these two incidents demonstrated that audiences are more sympathetic to nonviolent protestors since they do not create the collateral harm that violent protests have caused in Nigeria's history (Stears Business, 2020).

Nigeria's first coup d'etat occurred in 1966, when the military took action. Regional leaders Tafawa Balewa, Ahmadu Bello, and Festus Okotie-Eboh were killed in this violent demonstration. The protesters reasoned that military officials would do a better job of running the newly independent country. Regrettably, coups follow coups, and peace was rapidly relegated to history. Nigeria saw a number of coups between 1966 and 1999. However, the initial claim to rid the country of bribe-seeking guys in high and low places who demanded 10% seemed to be forgotten. Other protests include labor union demonstrations, student union demonstrations, and the most recent EndSars demonstration (Oshinnaike, 2020)

Causes of ENDSARS Protest in Nigeria

Protest serves as a reminder to those in authority of the contradictions and atrocities that plague marginalized people's lives. The formation of the Endsars protest has been attributed to a number of factors, including the fact that, while SARS is infamous for its brutality, human rights violations by security personnel are not limited to the NPF. Amnesty International released a report in 2015 detailing a series of atrocities perpetrated by the Nigerian military. Human rights breaches by security personnel may be traced back to Nigeria's military dictatorships, when security institutions like the police were created to protect and serve military regimes rather than communities. Despite the fact that democratic rule was established in 1999, this attitude persists. To frighten peaceful protestors and arrest journalists and other government critics, police and military forces have been deployed (Nkasi, 2020).

Human rights abuses committed by SARS and other security personnel, as well as a lack of accountability for their activities, are another important cause of the EndSars protests. Security personnel who violate human rights are frequently covered by the police hierarchy, and victims are unwilling to speak out for fear of being attacked again. Since the National Assembly passed the Anti-Torture Act in 2017, the government has failed to charge a single SARS worker, according to an Amnesty International report released in June 2020. (Amnesty International June Report, 2020). The NPF's enabling legislation, the Police Act, is also out of date. The statute, which went into effect in 1943, gives police personnel considerable discretionary authority. These allow cops to search without a warrant and make arrests on the basis of mere suspicion of guilt or even intent to commit an offense. Many allegations against SARS center on the seizure of victims' phones without a warrant, while others have been jailed because of tattoos or dreadlocks.

Many protests have happened in the last decade, according to scholars, and social media has become important to many of them (Silva, 2015). Because it provides access to enormous quantities of contacts, establishes collective identities, and serves as a location for information delivery, social media can play a crucial role in mobilization (Valenzuela, Arriagada and Scherman, 2012). Scholars are quick to point out, however, that social media does not always result in new forms of protest or fundamentally alter traditional organizing. According to Valenzuela et al. (2012), activism should not be limited to the internet. In other words, conventional protest forms tend to be supported or facilitated by social media. Protesters used social media as an alternative information source, a venue to broadcast a counter-narrative to the one being depicted in pro-government propaganda outlets, in addition to using Twitter and Facebook to coordinate protests and oppose police abuse.

The Effect of ENDSARS In Edo State, Benin City

Several reports have surfaced on the events that led to the jailbreaks. Some prison authorities were accused of being complicit in the detainees' escape, an allegation that prison officials have disputed. It was suggested that prison guards were aware of public protests and should have restricted the prisoners to their separate cells, but instead allowed them to visit the jail's open space. The jailbreak would have been more difficult if the inmates had been confined to their cells, as there was a widespread claim that the inmates were in continual communication with the lads outside, validating the arguments that the detainees have access to their phones while in prison custody.

The hoodlums that hid beneath the #EndSARS protests first attacked the Benin Prison, which was founded in 1906 and was built along Sapele Road, and quickly overran the building

and liberated the inmates. The scenario in Benin Prison sent a signal to Oko Prison's management, who were alleged to have requested reinforcements from sister security agencies, but they never arrived.

The hoodlums initially came around 9 a.m., according to the Deputy Comptroller of Correction (DCC) in charge of Oko Correctional Centre, West Amayo, while briefing Governor Godwin Obaseki, who was on a fact-finding expedition and inspection of the facilities. He said the armed thugs returned around 11.30 a.m. and were repelled again before returning in full force around 1.30 p.m., where they overpowered the armed prison officers who had run out of ammunition. Many of the hoodlums were thought to have originated in Benin City's Upper Sokponba neighborhood. The three police stations in that axis were destroyed and burned down: Ugbekun, St. Saviour, and Idogbo. They also demolished the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA) office, which was located nearby. As of today, there are no security operators in that section of town, which has created an environment in which criminal elements can thrive, spreading their activities to other parts of the city. On Tuesday, a young man was robbed near Three House Junction and in the process he sustained injuries and was hospitalised. Two days after, three of his friends who were on their way to visit him were attacked by suspected armed robbers. One of them was robbed of his cash, ATM card and his phone. They barely escaped without injuries.

A resident in St Savior area of the same axis who simply gave his name as John narrated to Saturday Vanguard that “we are being robbed at will and oppressed by many of those criminals who ran away from prison and are now terrorizing us. Two of my friends have been victims. They were going home when some boys rounded them up, collected their phones and the money they had in their hand bags. That was around 7 pm in their street. There was another

friend of mine who said she and two of her friends were robbed around Aifuwastreet by three boys who were wearing only shorts. They were accosted by the boys with guns who collected their money and phones. We now live in fear. Once it is 6 pm everybody runs into their houses. Just yesterday, a journalist said he was attacked by a nine man gang around Aduwawa area on his way home from work.

The police, weekend however read the riot act to the criminals as it paraded 126 suspected criminals including 10 prisoners who escaped from the two prisons and those who broke into government and private warehouses carting away food and other items they claimed were palliatives for Covid-19. Addressing newsmen, the Commissioner for Police, Johnson Babatunde Kokumo said: “It was very clear that criminal elements actually hijacked the #EndSARS peaceful protest. We have a number of police stations razed down, in some instances, arms and ammunition were carted away, public warehouses were vandalized and looted, individuals were violently attacked for no just cause and unprovoked attacks on innocent citizens.

2.2. Empirical Review

The empirical review covers research that has been on the subject of this study or relating to it.

Geoffrey IheomaCalista in (2021) Benin residents perception of broadcast media coverage of the 2020 ENDSARS protest in Nigeria. This study was carried out to ascertain the extent of Benin residents’ exposure to the broadcast media’s message on ENDSARS protest, also to determine the media through which Benin residents’ accessed the ENDSARS protes and to find out the perception of Benin residents’ on the broadcast media’s coverage of the 2020 ENDSARS protest. The researcher adopted the survey method and the questionnaire as the

instrument of data collection. More than three hundred copies of questionnaire were distributed among residents. 16.1 % strongly affirmed that the media were effective, 23.7% agreed, 9.3% were uncertain while a total of 50.9% respondents disagreed.

Dickson Ajisafe, Tinuade Adekunbi Ojo, Magaret Monyani. The impact of social media on the Nigerian #ENDSARS youth protest. This research aims to spark thoughtful debate about the role of social media in the initiation, coordination, and implementation of social mobilization efforts aimed at influencing government policy and advocating for good governance. The study tries to investigate the capacity of citizens in Africa to peacefully advocate for social, economic, and political transformations within a polity through the use of social media platforms, with particular reference to the Nigerian youth ENDSARS nonviolent protests. There are five sections to the paper. The first portion provided some background on the peaceful ENDSARS protests against police brutality and bad government in Nigeria by Nigerian youth. The second portion looked at the lessons learned from Nigerian youth's use of social media to achieve the goals of the ENDSARS protests. The third portion looked into how Nigerian youth used social media to mobilize themselves in support of their ENDSARS peaceful protests, to the point where it caught the attention of worldwide communities. In other words, the part elucidates the role of social media in the peaceful ENDSARS protests organized by Nigerian youth, as well as how this eventually drew international support. The fourth portion of this study, which draws on the peaceful ENDSARS protests by Nigerian youth, looks at how social media might impact government decision making in Africa. In this regard, the team looks into the use of social media in good governance agitations, social media restriction and security governance in Africa, as well as the limitations of social media on policy reforms and good governance on the continent. The concluding section of the paper covered what could be done to maximize the effective use of

social media towards good governance in Africa. Drawing critical insights from the efforts of the Nigerian youth on the strategic use of social media, this study engages secondary sources to comprehend, elucidate and analyze strategies and mechanisms to influence government policies and decision making via practical usage of ICT and social media platforms in the age of digitalization. It is assumed that the ENDSARS protests' style may inspire copycat youth-led, social media-fueled and leaderless protests across Africa for the purposes of better governance and consequently usher in a productive type of non-violent protests in the region and beyond.

2.3 Theoretical Framework

According to Cambridge dictionary, theory as a formal statement of the rules on which a subject of study is based or of ideas that are suggested to explain a fact or event or more generally, an opinion or explanation. A theoretical framework helps the researcher determine how any undertaken study is relevant to our general study. They serve as observational aids when conducting a research. It provides the foundation of any study because all research begin with assumptions, concepts and theories which are either proved or disproved at the end of the study. There are two theories that can be carried out in the course of this study; The equity theory and Good governance theory

The Equity Theory

John Stacy Adam proposed the equity hypothesis in 1963 to explain organizational motivation. It is based on the notion that people are motivated by justice (equity). Indeed, according to equity theory, if a person notices inequity (unfairness) between themselves and a peer, they will change their efforts to make the situation more equitable in their views. Equity theory essentially claimed that the higher a person's (or a group's) impression of equity, the more

motivated they will be. Individuals who see inequity, on the other hand, will become demotivated (unfairness). Furthermore, Adam's equity theory also states that individuals do not just understand equity in isolation, but they look around and compare themselves to others. If they perceive unfairness, then they will adjust their imputes in order to restore balance. Imputes here include commitment shown, enthusiasm shown, personal sacrifices made, responsibilities and duties of an individual and the loyalty the individual has demonstrated.

Individuals in social exchange relationships, according to equity theory, compare the ratios of their imputes into the exchange to their results from the exchange. Indeed, when considering Nigeria as an organization with a social exchange connection between the government and its population, it is necessary to show that the relationship is rife with unfairness (inequity). It is clear that the government's (leaders') imputes are insufficient to encourage Nigerians' devotion and commitment. Also, considering the unjustifiable nature of the social relationship where some citizens are treated fairly more than the others (unfairness), it is plausible to state that the level of enthusiasm of the citizens, personal sacrifices made, responsibilities and duties of the citizens to the nation, and the level of loyalty demonstrated are likely to dwindle in the face of inequity.

Indeed, a disloyal and uncommitted citizen may be irresponsible and may join in protests in order to attain equity. In essence, the transaction between the Nigerian government and its citizens has been inequitable, supporting Adam's assertion that whenever two individuals (government and citizens) exchange anything, one or both of them may believe that the exchange was inequitable

The Good Governance Theory

The theory of good governance examines the numerous perspectives on governance and how they grow. With regard to the Nigerian scenario, this theory appears to be the most applicable of the governance theories. The World Bank publicly developed a set of principles or policies in dealing with and aiding developing countries, which gave rise to good governance theory. As a result, the good governance theory is linked to the processes and structures of government in developing nations, such as Nigeria. The World Bank normally requires developing countries to pursue good governance as a requirement. In essence, good governance is about how the public sector in developing countries can be developed. It has been observed that a modern form of government is not just about efficiency; that governing is also premised on accountability between the state and its citizens indeed, good governance is about how people are treated and not merely as customers or consumers, but as citizens, who have the right to hold their government accountable for their actions or inactions.

The public sector's need for efficiency should not be permitted to lead to poor service. As a result, citizens have the right to protest and hold government officials accountable when they get poor service. In essence, good governance theory is a governance concept that establishes some basic rules by which all governments must operate. Accountability, control, transparency, responsiveness, economy, public engagement, efficiency, rule of law, and job development are just a few of these principles. Indeed, the theory of good governance was developed to encompass or reflect all the principles outlined above and many more. Considering the foregoing and in tandem with World Bank principles and policy interventions in developing countries, good governance involves existence of an efficient public service, an independent judicial system, and legal framework to enforce contracts and responsible administration of public funds. Subsequently, good governance also requires an independent public auditor answerable to a

representative legislature, respect for the law and human rights at all levels of government and an institutional structure that is pluralistic.

In addition to the foregoing, good governance is based on three societal sectors, each of which has a direct impact on governance. As a result, the type of political regime, the process by which authority is exercised in the administration of socio-economic resources in terms of development, and the government's competence to establish policies and have them properly implemented are all factors to consider. International indices for assessing good governance are another name for the notion of good governance theory. When this theory is applied to the Nigerian situation, it is clear that Nigerian politicians have failed miserably in their duty to provide effective governance to the public who entrusted the management of their resources to them. Despite Nigeria's enormous people and material resources, citizens are depressed and disillusioned as a result of inadequate governance in sectors such as employment, infrastructural facilities, inability to eradicate abject poverty, poorly delivered public services, and insecurity, among others. Indeed, as the principle of good governance states, when citizens receive poor service, they are bound to revolt, as was seen in Nigeria.

CHAPTER THREE

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Preamble

This chapter presents the methodology adopted in conduction of this research. This

- 3.1 Research Design
- 3.2 Population of the Study
- 3.3 Guy Sample Size
- 3.4. Sampling Technique
- 3.5 Instrument of Data Collection
- 3.6 Validity of the Instrument
- 3.7 Reliability of the Instrument
- 3.8 Method of Data Collection
- 3.9 Method of Data Analysis

3.1 Research Design

The survey research design was adopted in this study. The survey is a process of gathering data from a target population through the use of questionnaires and subjecting both data to a statistical analysis for the purpose of reaching a conclusion on the duo matter of study and providing solutions to identified research problem. It is based on this that the survey research design was deemed appropriate for this study. Therefore, to carry out this this research work, the researcher adopted the descriptive survey research design which involves the administration of questionnaires to respondents so that data are generated for this study.

The descriptive survey design was used for this study, Nwogu (2015) argues that for this, the descriptive survey design is that research design in which a group of people or items

considered to be the representative of the entire population. The descriptive design is the collection of data using questionnaire for this purpose of describing and interpreting existing conditions or quality regarding a given population. To this end descriptive survey design was considered appropriate for this research work as only a proportion of the entire population in Benin city were studied and findings will be generalized to the entire Edo population.

3.2 Population of the Study

The population of this study is 657,951. This figure comprised of the number of youths estimated in Benin city as at 2006 as obtained from *citypopulation.com*. The the range of people between the age range of 20-29 amount to 657,951. To this end we'll can say that the total number of youths in Benin city is 657,951.

3.3 Sample Size

A Sample size is the process of selecting essential elements from a given population. The essence of a sample size in a research work is to take out a given population as it would be too cumbersome to use the entire population as it would be too cumbersome to use to use the entire population.

The number of youths in Benin City is estimated to be about six hundred and fifty seven thousand, nine hundred and fifty one (657,951) as at 2006 according to *city population.com*. Philip Meyer in *stacks and Hocking* (1992:123) stated that to get 95% confidence level for the total population, a sample size of 384 is valid for a population of five hundred thousand (500,000) to infinity. This study adopted the Philip Meyer's sample precision. The population for this research work include; students of tertiary institution within study area and adults of all groups.

Hence, the sample size for this study comprises of 384 Benin youths residents drawn from the 657,951 youths.

3.4 Sampling Technique

This study adopted the systematic sampling technique the purposive sampling and the simple random technique. This systematic sampling technique was adopted because it enables the investigator to divide a finite population into subpopulations and then apply random sampling techniques to each subpopulation.

In applying the purposive sampling, the researcher will select individuals who are eligible to give accurate and factual information about the research study. The researcher purposively selected University of Benin, Ugbowo and Ekenhuan campuses. The university was chosen because it covers the required attributes of the respondents.

The researcher also adopted the simple random technique to pick respondents from the university of Benin. This insinuates that all individuals in the defined population have an equal and independent chance of being selected for sample.

3.5 Instrument of Data Collection

The questionnaire instrument was used for this research work. The questionnaire instrument had two sections; the demographic and psychographics section. The demographics section was used to gather information about the bio-data of the respondents while the psychographics section focused on the research questions with a view of solving them. The questionnaire consists of well structured, close ended questions designed for easy comprehension by the respondents.

3.6 Validity of the Instrument

Validity of instrument assessed the extent to which the instrument measures what it is designed to measure (Robson, 2011). The research instrument is expected to measure correctly the concept under the study.

The instrument which is the questionnaire used in this research work is valid because after constructing the questions, it was presented to the supervisor for the critical examination and modification. The questionnaire was also submitted to professors and lecturers in the university of Benin who vetted the instrument and confirmed that the items were appropriate and capable of eliciting the required information.

3.7 Reliability of the instrument

Reliability is a major component of a quantitative research. It is the degree to which a measurement instrument gives the same results each time that it is used, assuming that the underlying thing being measured remains constant. In measuring the reliability of the instrument, the multiple forms method of measuring instrument was used. The questions were mixed up and given to the same group twice.

3.8 Method of Data Collection

In the collection of data for this study, the primary and secondary sources of data were adopted. For the primary source of data, copies of questionnaire were administered personally to the respondents. The questionnaire contained relevant questioned in both the demographics and psychographic section. While the secondary source of data were collected from textbooks, previous research works done by researcher on the subject matter, the notes of lectures as well as the internet.

3.9 Method of Data Analysis

This is the process of systematically applying statistical and logical techniques to describe and illustrate, condense and recap and evaluate data. In carrying out this research, the quantitative analysis was adopted. Responses to the questionnaire were analyzed by descriptive analysis using charts, mean, percentage frequency, range etc. The results were tabulated and discussed in relation to the questionnaire. These were used to properly describe the result for precision and accuracy.

CHAPTER FOUR

DATA PRESENTATION AND ANALYSIS

4.1. Preamble

This chapter shows the presentation and analysis of data gathered through the distribution and retrieval of 384 copies of questionnaires, making a 100% retrieval rate. This was achieved as a result of face to face distribution of the questionnaire with the aid of research assistants. Data generated are presented and analyzed using frequency tables, simple percentage and descriptive statistics.

4.2. Data Presentation and Analysis

Table 1: Gender distribution of respondents

Gender of respondents	Frequency of respondents	Percentage of respondents
Male	195	50.2%
Female	189	49.2%
Total	384	100

Source: Field survey 2021

From the table above it shows that, the male respondents amount to 50.7%. While the female respondent amount to 49.2% of the sample size.

Table 2: Age distribution of respondents

Age range of respondents frequency of response percentage of response

14-18	46	11.9%
19-23	156	40.6%
24-35	182	47.3%
total	384	100%

Source: Field Survey 2021

Table 2 shows that majority of the respondents are within the range of 24-35 which is 47.3% of the sample size. While 11.9% are of the sample size are within the range of 14-18yrs those within the age range of 19-23 account for 40.6% of the sample size.

Table 3: Marital status of the respondents

Marital status frequency of response percentage of response

Single	289	75.2%
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Married	95	24.7%
Divorced	0	0
Total	384	100%

Source: Field Survey 2021

Data on table 3 indicate that the largest group of respondents are those who are single with 75.2% while those who identify as married are 24.7%. None identified as divorced.

Table 4: Occupation of respondents

Self employed	128	33.3%
Employed	86	22.3%
Student	170	44.2%
Total	384	100%

Source: Field survey 2021

The data from table 4 shows that most of the respondents are from students who accounted for 44.2%. Self-` employed has 33.3% while the least respondents were the employed with 22.3%.

Table 5: Religious Statue of Respondents

Religious status frequency of response percentage

Christianity	232	60.4%
Islam	98	25.5%
Other	54	14%
Total	384	100%

Source: Field survey 2021

Majority of the respondents in table 5 are Christians with 60.4%. Islam accounted for 25.5% of the respondents while those who belong to neither religion are 14%.

4.2 Presentation and Analysis of Data Based on Psychographic Items in the Questionnaire

Table 6: Responses according to reasons behind police harassment before the ENDSARS protest

S/N	REASONS	SA		A		D		SD		Total	
		NO.	%	NO	%	No	%	No	%	No	%

1.	Eliminate language in police union that limit officer accountability	186	48.4%	198	51.5%					384	100
2.	Track complaints about officers use or force	268	69.7	116	30.2%					384	100
3.	Scale up non police organizations to respond to emergency calls	76	19.7%	143	37.2%	65	16.9%	100	26%	384	100
4.	Encourage federal oversight for police department	186	48.4%	136	35.4%	62	16.1%			384	100
5.	Demilitarization is imperative	80	20.8%	78	20.3	180	46.8%	46	11.9%	384	100

Source: Field survey 2021

Data from table 7 shows that 186 (48.4%) and 198 (51.5%) strongly agreed and agreed to eliminate language in police union contract that limit officer accountability while non of the respondents strongly disagreed or disagree. 268 (69.7%) and 116 (30.2%) of the respondents strongly agreed and agreed for the government to track complaints about officers use of force. No respondent strongly disagreed or disagreed. For the scale up of non police organizations to respond to emergency calls, 76 (19.7%) and 143 (37.2%) strongly agreed and agreed. 65 (16.9) and 100 (26%) of the respondents disagreed and strongly disagreed. In encouraging federal oversight for police department, 186(48.4%) and 136 (35.4%) of the respondents strongly agreed and agreed while 62 (16.1%) disagreed. For the demilitarization of the police force, 80 (20.8) and 78 (20.3) of the respondents strongly agree and agree but 180 (46.8) and 46 (11.9%) of the respondents disagreed and strongly disagree.

Table 8: Responses the positive and negative effect of the protest

S/N	Positive	SA		A		D		SD		Total	
		No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%
1.	Prompted the formation of the Nigerian youth democratic party	20	5.2%	36	9.3%	263	68.4%	65	16.9%	384	100
2.	It created awareness for people both home and abroad on the brutal and unconstitutional action of sars	237	61.7	147	38.2%					384	100
3.	The protest led to the dissolution of SARS squad	314	81.7%	70	18.2					384	100
4.	It brought to the forefront of the government consciousness the plight of citizen in the hand of sars	108	28.1%	153	39.8%	123	32%			384	100
5.	The protest created a platform for revolution as young people are now able to voice their demand.	328	85.4	56	14.5%					384	100

Source: Field Survey 2021

Data from Table 8 presents the data analyzed the positive effect of the protest. Out of 384 respondents, 20 (5.2%) strongly that the protest prompted the formation of the Nigerian youth Democratic Party while 36 (9.3%) agreed. Furthermore, 237 (61.7%) of the respondents strongly agreed that it created awareness for the people both home and abroad on the brutal and

unconstitutional action of SARS while 147 (38.2%) agreed. Also for the protest leading to the dissolution of SARS 314 (81.7%) and 70 (18.2%) of the respondents strongly agreed and agreed respectively. In the aspect of the protest bringing consciousness to the government about the plight of citizens in the hands of SARS,108 (28.1) and 153 (39.8) of the respondents strongly agreed and agreed respectively while 123 (32%) disagreed. In addition, 328 (85.4%) and 56 (14.5) of the respondents strongly agreed and agreed respectively that the protest created a platform for the revolution as young people are now able to voice their demand.

Table 9: Responses to the negative effect of the protest

S/N	NEGATIVE EFFECT	SA		A		D		SD		Total	
		No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%
1.	The investors may cause investors to lose confidence in Nigeria	257	66.9%	127	33%						
2.	The crisis has also deepened the trust in political office holders by citizens	326	84.8%	58	15.1%						
3	Loss of jobs	127	33%	78	20.3%	98	25.5%	81	21%		
4.	Business with no insurance cover may never return	279	75.2%	105	27.3%						
5.	Killing of protesters by security operatives and the military	318	82.8%	66	17.1%						

Source: Field Survey 2021

Data from Table 9 shows the responses to the negative effect of the protest. 257 (66.9%) and 127 (33%) of the respondents strongly agreed and agreed that the protest may cause investors to lose confidence in Nigeria. Also, 326 (84.8%) and 58 (15.1%) strongly agreed and agreed respectively that the crisis has deepened the trust in political office holders by the citizens. Moving forward, 127 (33%) and 78 (20.3%) of the respondents strongly agreed and agreed that the protest led many to lose their jobs. While 98 (25.5%) and 81 (21%) disagreed and strongly

disagreed respectively. 279 (75.2%) and 105 (27.3) strongly agreed and agreed that business with no insurance cover may never return. Lastly, the killing of protesters by security operatives and the military accounted for 318 (82.8%) and 66 (17.2%) of the respondents strongly agreed and agreed.

4.3. Discussion of Findings (Answers to Research Question)

This section provides detailed discussion of findings after analysis of data. The discussion of findings was based on three research questions posed for this study. Findings are based on data collected and analyses and appropriately scholarly works are used to enhance the discussion. Research Question One: What were the reasons behind police harassment during the ENDSARS protest

The finding of this study have indicated that a very large percentage of the respondents agreed with the reasons given behind police harassment during the ENDSARS protest in Benin. This is evident based on the data presented on table 6 as all the reasons presented were mostly strongly agreed or agreed with less percentage disagreeing with the given reasons.

Research Question 2: In what ways can the Nigeria government assist in curbing police brutality?

This study has revealed the ways through which the Nigerian government can assist in curbing police brutality. This findings is evident from table 7 where 100% of the respondent agreed for the government to eliminate language in police union contract that limit officer accountability and also track complaints about officers use of force. 42.9% of the respondents strongly disagree or disagree with the scale up of police organizations to respond to emergency calls. 58.7% of the respondents also strongly disagreed or disagree with demilitarization of the armed force.

Research Question 3: What are the positive and negative effects of the protest in Benin

In discussing this findings, Table 7 shows that 100% of the respondents either strongly agree or agree with some of the positive effect like creating awareness for people about the unconstitutional action of SARS, also how the protest led to the dissolution of SARS and how it created platform for young people to voice their demand. 85.3 % of respondents disagreed or strongly disagree that the protest prompted the formation of the Nigeria youth Democratic Party while 32% disagree that the protest brought the plight of citizens in the hands of sars to government consciousness.

As for the negative affect the respondents agreed 100% to the listed reasons with 46.5% of some of the respondents disagreeing and strongly disagreeing that the protest led to loss of jobs.

CHAPTER FIVE

SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

This study provides the summary of the study. A clear summary of study is done in this chapter and from which a conclusion was drawn. In addition, preferential package of recommendation would be given based on the findings of the study.

5.1. Summary

This study focused on the Nigeria youths perception towards protest as a tool of influencing their behavior towards government and authorities in Nigeria, Benin. In carrying out the study, three objectives were formed, which are: to derive more insight into the reasons behind police harassment, to determine the extent through which the Nigeria government can be if help in curbing police brutality and to ascertain the positive and negative effect of protest in Benin city. Research questions were then asked in strict relations to the objectives of the study.

Furthermore, this study was anchored on two communication theories, which are the Equity theory and the good governance theory. The equity theory was determined to be appropriate because the Adams equity theory states that individuals do not just understand equity in isolation, but they look around to compare themselves to others. If they perceive unfairness then they will just adjust their imputes in order to restore balance. The good government theory examines the numerous perspectives on governance and how they grow. With regard to the Nigerian scenario, this theory appears to be the most applicable of the government theories. In addition, the good governance theory is based on three societal sectors, each of which has direct impact on governance.

The descriptive survey design was adopted for this study. The population of study comprised of total number of youths in Edo State, Benin. As sited by citypopulation.com the

total number of people between the age range of 20-29 amounted to 657,951 as at 2006. A sample size of 384 is valid for a population of five hundred thousand to infinity, using the systematic proportionate sampling technique as the researcher distributed copies of questionnaire as instrument of data collection. The questionnaire used was designed with multi choice format and Likert scale of Strongly Agree (SA), Agree (A), Disagree (D) and Strongly Disagree (SD). This was to enable the respondents respond to the items appropriately. Also, the questionnaire was divided into four sections A-E to ease and organize the collection and analysis of data.

All 384 copies of questionnaire administered were returned, totaling 100% retrieved. Data collected were analyzed and presented with the aid of frequency tables, simple percentages and descriptive analysis. Findings were also discussed.

5.2. Summary of findings

The summary of these findings of this study is as follows

1. A very large percentage of people in Benin city identified the various reasons behind police harassment in Benin
2. It shows the different ways how the Nigeria government can improve the police system and how to hold them accountable for their actions.
3. It provides the answers to the problems about the effectiveness of the ENDSARS protest.

5.3. Conclusion

It is conclusive to say that the ENDSARS protest have reformed the people of Nigeria in fighting for their rights for freedom. It has shown to what extent how what damage has been done to the youths and how such evil practices from the police force seize to exist. By studying the Benin residents perception to the ENDSARS protest, the result derived is important as it enable people and also the government to evaluate the people's perception and how it can help improve the wellbeing of young people. We can also conclude that the protest have been effectively successful in such a way that the youths were able to achieve some of the things they protested for.

5.4. Recommendations

From the research study and findings made, the researcher proffer the following recommendations:

1. The Nigeria youths should engage in law abiding protest. And should not get involved in the destruction of properties and also a peaceful protest that should not result in any conflict.
2. The Nigeria government should be able to hold armed officials accountable for their actions
3. The government should be able to create a law that binds police officers from involvement in any private search of youths
4. The IGP should train his officers in manner that will not abuse the fundamental human right of the citizen.