

**THE ROLE OF NON GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION IN GENERAL ELECTIONS
IN NIGERIA: A CASE STUDY OF 2023 GENERAL ELECTION IN DELTA STATE**

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DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCES

FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES

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**BEING A RESEARCH PROJECT PRESENTED TO THE
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MAY, 2025

CERTIFICATION

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DEDICATION

This project work is dedicated first to God who has sustained and preserved my life throughout my journey in the University of Benin.

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My profound gratitude goes to my supervisor, Mr A. O. Iyase for your continuous guidance and corrections. for always making time to teach and direct me throughout the process of this research. I could not have asked for a better supervisor.

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love you guys.

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ABSTRACT

This study empirical examine the role of NGO in general election in Nigeria, it focused on issues, effects, causes and solutions. The specific objective were to examine the issues relating to vote buying in Nigeria electoral system, to investigate the perception of candidates buy votes during the Nigeria electoral system, to evaluate the causes of vote buying in Nigeria electoral system and to find out the possible solutions to the issues of vote buying in Nigeria. One hundred and twenty (120) copies of questionnaire was administered but only 97 were correctly filled, return and analysed. Two statistical tools of data analysis were deployed in the analysis of data derived from the field. They are the simple percentage and the chi – square. The result showed that there are issues relating to NGO on vote buying in Nigeria electoral system, there are perception of candidates buy votes during the Nigeria electoral system, there are causes of vote buying in Nigeria electoral system and there is possible solutions to the issues of vote buying in Nigeria.

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background to the Study

The problem of vote buying in Nigeria has become a major feature in the political system recently. It has trumped the goal to establish a democratic form of governance. The democratic economic institution is being rapidly weakened by this situation. Nigeria's political politics can be appropriately described as a "cash and carry democracy" given the extent to which votes are exchanged for cash. If this scenario is not promptly resolved, it poses a serious threat to the future of the Nigerian political system (Vincent & Benjamin, 2023).

Vote buying is "the exchange of money and material compensation by a voter to a political party or candidate to cast a vote in his favour or even to abstain from voting so as to boost the candidates chance of winning the elections," according to the definition of the term. Therefore, the issue of vote buying is viewed as a contract between the voter and the candidate or political party doing the purchase. Recent evidence suggests that vote purchasing takes place during voter registration, the nomination process, Election Day, and campaigning. However, they were virtually in charge throughout the election in order to get people to vote for the candidate they could afford (Vincent & Benjamin, 2023).

Vote-buying is a commercial process in which candidates for public office, political parties, or their agents negotiate to purchase the voters' votes from the sellers. It is the same as exchanging products and services for agreed-upon rates in a public market. The procedure appears to be an auction sale where the voters sell to the highest bidder when there is fierce competition. With an emphasis on its risky with vote-buying (*cash-and-carry democracy*), other electoral misdeeds,

ethnic chauvinism, religious extremism, and politically motivated violence and killings, contemporary social science and humanities scholars trace the historical origin of elections and electoral processes in Nigeria (Onuoha & Okafor, 2020). This is in addition to the compromise of election standards by INEC officials in favour of their preferred candidates in most of the elections conducted since 1999 to date, (Efebeh, 2011).

In the majority of situations, these electoral bargains have thrown democracies off course, resulting in the loss of lives and property, political instability, underdevelopment, poverty, and poor governance. The vote-buying syndrome, one of the main causes of electoral fraud, is neither a recent development nor unique to Nigerian politics. The development efforts and consolidation of democratic politics have been ruined for years by a widespread, international political ailment. It extends beyond the continent of Africa to other regions of the world. Vote-buying, for instance, is a common political tactic to entice votes in the United States, the Philippines, Britain, Pakistan, India, and several other European nations. Nicaragua, Argentina, Taiwan, and Lebanon are additional nations that use it during elections. Nigeria, Kenya, Ghana, Sao Tome Principe, Rwanda, Equatorial Guinea, Burundi, Uganda, Liberia, Togo, Sierra Leone, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Tanzania, etc. are all countries in Africa where vote-buying is extremely common (Ovwasa, 2013; Efebeh, 2013, Baidoo et al., 2018; Onuoha & Ojo, 2018; Romero & Regalado, 2019). The situation is compared to a market where the buyers are the political candidates and the sellers are the votes, and the medium of exchange is money. Before or after the vote is cast, the voter receives payment for buying their vote along with proof that the vote was indeed cast.

The extent of politicians' eagerness to win a local election determines the worth of a vote. Although purchasing votes can be accomplished with money and other valuables, political actors

have opted for two basic strategies. The practice of purchasing votes, which is against the law, has recently put the Nigerian electoral system under scrutiny. The study aims to evaluate the threat of vote buying in the electoral system of Nigeria, including problems, effects, causes, and solutions.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

The problem of vote buying is fast undermining Nigeria's democratic values. The threat has damaged Nigerians' sense of integrity. The unfettered expression of the voters' will has been purposefully curtailed. The issue calls into question the election's legitimacy, integrity, and credibility. Vote buying results in terrible governance; because the mechanism that produced the leader was unconstitutionally sound, the voters might not have the right to challenge it when things go wrong and the promises made are not kept. Sometimes, the costs of voting greatly outweigh the rewards, and it is the economy that suffers, not the kids or the future. Politicians then reclaim these funds from the system as a cost of running for office. The study's challenge is to evaluate the threat of vote buying in Nigeria's electoral system, including its causes, effects, and remedies.

In the recent time issue of corruption and bribing has become more rampant. For instance, the cases of Olisa Metuh misusing N400 million and US\$2 million originally intended for national security to sponsor President Jonathan's reelection bid through vote-buying (Yahaya, 2020); Sambo Dasuki misusing US\$2.1 billion and N19.4 billion originally intended for the purchase of arms for the army to sponsor President Jonathan's re-election bid through vote-buying (Nnoch, 2016); and Diezani Alison-Madueke Officials from the INEC received \$115 million, those from the Fidelity, Bank received N185,842,000, Fidelia Omoile, the electoral officer, received, N112,480,000, Uluochi Obi-Brown, the INEC administrative secretary, received

N111,500,000, Edem Okon Effang, the former INEC deputy director, received N241,127,000, and Immaculata Asuquo, the INEC head of voter education, received N241,127,000 Resident Assistant Inspector General of Police in Kwara State is paid N1 million, Kwara State Commissioner of Police is paid N10 million, Deputy Commissioner of Police in charge of operations is paid N2 million, Assistant Commissioner of Police in charge of operations and administration is paid N1 million, Resident Electoral Commissioner is paid N10 million, and Administrative Secretary is paid N5 million. INEC's Head of Department (Operations) and direct reports received N5 million, while line officials received N2 million. The paramilitary organizations received N20 million, the officer in charge of the mobile police received N7 million, the second in charge of the mobile police received N10 million, the director of state security services received N2.5 million, and the military personnel in Kwara State received N50 million. All of these sums were intended to tamper with the results of elections (Alli, 2016; Kayode-Adededeji, 2015; Onyekwere, 2017). It is base on this the following research question was made.

Research Questions

1. What are the issues of relating to NGO Nigeria electoral system
2. why candidates buy votes during the Nigeria electoral system
3. What are the causes of vote buying in Nigeria electoral system
4. What are the possible solutions to the issues of vote buying in Nigeria.

1.3 Objectives of the study

The broad objectives of this study is to investigate the role of OGN in Nigeria election. The specific objectives are to

1. Examine the issues relating to ONG on vote buying in Nigeria electoral system

2. Investigate the perception of candidates buy votes during the Nigeria electoral system
3. evaluate the causes of vote buying in Nigeria electoral system
4. find out the possible solutions to the issues of vote buying in Nigeria.

1.4 Research Hypothesis

H_{0i}: There is no issues relating to vote buying in Nigeria electoral system

H_{0ii}: There is no effects of vote buying in Nigeria electoral system

H_{0iii}: There are no causes of vote buying in Nigeria electoral system

1.5 Scope of the Study

This study will focus at evaluating the issues, perception of candidate in vote buying, effect and the possible solution to issues of vote buying in Nigeria. Having made a feasibility evaluation on the research topic, and to save time, resources and to have more accurate and reliable data, the research focused on the role of NGO in combating vote-buying and its perceived implication on democratic governance. It's limited to the Delta state governorship election from 2021-till date. The study random sample method will be use in the selection of the sample area and respondent in this study

1.6 Significant of the study

While vote-buying is not a strange phenomenon in Nigeria, it has however witnessed an unprecedented upsurge during the governorship election in Delta State. Researching the menace of vote buying in Nigeria's electoral system is highly relevant due to its profound implications for democracy, public trust, corruption, socioeconomic factors, legal frameworks, and international

perspectives. Continued scholarly attention is necessary to develop comprehensive strategies that address this critical issue effectively.

The overriding significance of this study is to add up to the growing literature on the role of NGO in vote-buying and its implication on democratic governance. Thus the study is, therefore, both timely and significant. A detailed analysis of this phenomenon reduced the dearth of knowledge in this area. Besides, the suggestions and recommendations proffered in this study helped improve democracy in Nigeria.

1.7 Definition of Terms

Vote: A citizen is a person who, by birth or naturalization, is a member of a state or nation, owing allegiance to its government and entitled to its protection.

Vote Buying: Vote buying is an electoral campaign violation that occurs in many countries, which undermines the integrity of elections and is detrimental to democratic governance. Many factors beyond electoral politics drive vote buying.

Non-governmental Organization: It is non-profit organization, group or institution that operates independently from a Government and has humanitarian or development objectives.

Electoral system: Method and rules of counting votes to determine the outcome of elections.

Election: Election is the formal process of selecting a person for public office or of accepting or rejecting a political proposition by voting.

CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Introduction

Literature review is a well-integrated discussion and critical evaluation of different scholarly viewpoints on a given research problem as found in the previous relevant studies highlighting their strengths, weakness and indicating how a given study, for example this one will make a contribution to the existing body of knowledge, especially on the research problem and on other related areas of investigation. A well-structured literature review is characterized by a logical flow of ideas, current and relevant references with consistent, appropriate referencing style, and proper use of terminology or terms and an unbiased and comprehensive view of the previous research or studies on the research topic.

2.2 Review of Relevant Concept

2.2.1 Concept of Vote Buying

Many scholars have given a variety of interpretations to vote-buying according to their perception and orientations. Scholars like (Fredric, 2005) argued that the act of vote-buying is an economic exchange, a contract, or perhaps an auction in which the voter sells his or her vote to the highest bidder. For (Andrea, 2005), vote-buying is a situation where candidates buy and sell votes as they buy and sell apples, shoes or television sets. In this connection, parties and candidates buy votes by offering particularistic material benefits to voters. Vote-buying, therefore, is an inducement offered

to the electorate in an election situation to garner popular vote. In the context of this study, vote-buying can safely be seen as an act of exchanging one's vote for material gains.

Vote-buying propositions may target either electoral choices or electoral participation. They may be intended to persuade individuals to vote in certain ways or to vote or not to vote in the first place. They further argue that strategies to alter turnout may focus on demobilizing active opponents or on mobilizing passive supporters. (Beetseh et.al.2015).

Depending on the history, culture, political experience, and election models of the people, the term "vote-buying" might have different meanings to different people or countries. There isn't a typical, single definition of "vote buying" that is accepted worldwide (Vincent Benjamin, 2023).

Bryan and Baer (2005) defined vote-buying as "the use of money and direct benefits to influence voters. Etzioni-Halevy (1989) defined the notion as "the exchange of private material rewards for political support." The two definitions emphasized the goal of vote-buying, which is to obtain immediate socio-economic advantages in exchange for voters' political support. Money politics' revolting appearance in Nigeria's political system is a deliberate violation of the country's electoral rules. Vote buying opportunities arise from politicians' apparent lack of adept use of opposing political ideologies and problem-solving manifestos to appeal to voters' consciences and persuasively influence the political behaviour of electorates in addressing risky social issues that would affect their individual or collective lives and interests.

In order to promote good governance, political elites often resort to mudslinging, nonissue-based campaigns, hate speeches, and inflammatory utterances because they lack innovative political knowledge, are unaware of their political parties' platforms, and are at odds with the raging socio-economic and political debates. Vote-buying and other electoral fraud are the only feasible,

enticing alternatives available to these unsalable candidates or political parties to support or rest on their excessive goals (Sarkariyau et al., 2015).

Instructively, it has been said that vote-buying is neither system-specific nor space-bound as it is common to all political systems, be it advanced or developing, medieval or contemporary. It, therefore, exists in all climes and differs in magnitude and manifestations from one polity to the other. The phenomenon of vote-buying therefore portends danger in a democratization process.

According to (Etzioni 1989) an often-quoted definition of vote-buying as the exchange of private material benefits for political support. Etzioni definition stresses on gaining private material benefits by voters in return for their political support. In other words, it is about giving voters some benefits in the form of gifts or incentives for them to reciprocate with their votes by voting for the giver or the candidate. In effects, voters are given items for their private use and they are expected to return this gesture from candidates or political parties by voting for them. Etzioni-sees this act as an exchange in the sense that the materials are given to the electorates in anticipation that the electorates would consider the gift received and vote for them. Invariably, vote-buying is a binding contract, or perhaps an auction in which the voter sells his or her vote to the highest bidder.

Vote buying is defined here as any form of financial, material or promissory inducement or reward by a candidate, political party, agent or supporter to influence a voter to cast his or her vote or even abstain from doing so in order to enhance the chances of a particular contestant to win an election. Thus, any practice of immediate or promised reward to a person for voting or refraining from voting in a particular way can be regarded as vote-buying. (Schaffer, 2002).

2.2.2. Concept of Non-government organization

Non-governmental Organizations (NGOs) are now recognized as crucial actors in global development in human rights, humanitarian action, the environment, and many other areas of public activity (Shiuji, 2014). Primarily, they are renowned for two distinct yet closely connected forms of engagement. The first involves providing essential services to individuals in various situations of vulnerability, while the second centres around orchestrating policy advocacy and public campaigns. These endeavours aim to bring about significant social transformation, foster democracy, resolve conflicts, uphold human rights, preserve cultural heritage, champion environmental causes, conduct policy analysis and research, and disseminate crucial information, among other pivotal components that collectively contribute to the advancement of society.

Optimum and sustainable development necessitates harnessing a country's resources; capital, human, and natural resources, to meet demands from its population as comprehensively as possible. Many scholars, like Elliott (1987) concur that the voluntary sector holds a superior position in articulating the needs of impoverished communities and is better equipped to deliver services and foster development in remote and underserved regions. Moreover, the sector plays a vital role in promoting changes in attitudes and practices to combat discrimination effectively.

Furthermore, it identifies and addresses environmental threats while nurturing the productive capabilities of the most vulnerable groups in society. According to Mohammed (1985), with the dwindling economies of nations across the globe, the government alone cannot exclusively bear the responsibilities of development in many countries today. Therefore, for any realistic progress to be made and sustained anywhere in the world, there must be vigorous partnership and cooperation between government, non-government organizations, and other development

stakeholders. This explains the recent collaborative development strategies mostly adopted across the globe at the current time, which often ensure the active participation and involvement of all sectors and organizations in the development process in addition to the government's efforts.

NGOs have been around for a long time, pre-dating governments' organized efforts to address the needs of their citizenry. Reflecting on the fundamental instinct of people to help each other, informal and, eventually, formal groupings have taken shape in communities on every continent. As societies have expanded and interdependence has become more planetary, local self-help efforts have assumed a more international shape and character. In the last twenty to thirty years or so, as observed in the recent study of NGOs by the Development Assistance Committee (DAC) of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), the development activities of NGOs have increased impressively: close to 2000 NGOs are now mobilizing private financial and human resources in DAC-Member countries and channeling them directly, or indirectly, through some of the 6000-8000 NGOs in developing country like Nigeria, toward development activities in more than 110 developing countries (Clay, 2007).

NGOs in Nigeria play a significant role in advancing the nation's development, with their contributions spanning various critical areas. Notably, they actively promote democracy and good governance, working towards poverty alleviation and empowering women. Additionally, NGOs are instrumental in addressing primary healthcare concerns, including issues related to STDs/AIDS and other health-related matters. Education and functional literacy are other focal points where NGOs make substantial strides, alongside supporting the development of the girl child. They also engage in environmental initiatives, conflict resolution efforts, combatting drug abuse, and championing human rights causes, among other vital undertakings (Akpanudoedehe, 2006). These

diverse activities collectively contribute to Nigeria's progress and welfare, making NGOs indispensable actors in the nation's development journey.

On the contrary, some scholars like Shiuji (2014) all submitted that the activities and the overall role of NGOs in development are part of a neo-liberal paradigm rather than pure altruistic motivation; harm development, uncoordinated and above all imperialistic. Following the divergent scholarly arguments above, the paper assesses the role of Non-governmental Organizations (NGOs) in development in Nigeria.

Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) play a crucial role in affecting the level of vote buying in Nigeria through various mechanisms, including advocacy, voter education, monitoring electoral processes, and promoting accountability.

2.3 Factors Responsible for Vote Buying

The ugly trend of vote-buying in Nigeria's political setting did not start in a vacuum; it is attached to some predisposing factors. According to (Davies, 2006), the inability of the political parties and the contestants to put in place comprehensive and comprehensible manifestoes for scrutiny by the voters is aiding money politics and vote-buying in Nigeria. Instead of clear-cut manifestoes that would enable the electorate to make a rational political choice, meaningless slogans, demagogic and rabble-rousing speeches are made.

On the other hand, (Ayoade, 2008) affirms that candidates' ignorance of their political parties programme is embarrassing. As he has rightly observed; candidates spin the issues they think can attract votes, which may sometimes negate party positions. The picture painted above produces

representative but not participatory democracy which consequently encourages money politics vis a vis vote-buying.

Poverty and illiteracy also contribute to the unfortunate trend in the society. Poor people are vulnerable and due to the low level of political awareness in the country, intimidation and manipulation become easy tools amidst the people. Majority of the poor are ready to submit their mandate for monetary benefit. They become blindfolded with the token amount realized from the business of politics (selling of votes). Although this menace can as well be attributed to the economic depression in the country, education is the mechanism of political consciousness and rational political behaviour.

Not only has that, but political cynicism among the electorates also supported the spread of money politics in Nigeria. The impression that political office holders are incurably corrupt, self-centred and lack competency has made people view politics as a dishonourable enterprise. And that politics is synonymous to fraud and betrayal of public trust (Ojo, 2008). The general perception of the voters that political office holders are corrupt is an excuse for accepting money as voting criteria and those funds realized before the election is what they can benefit from the politicians. The argument is that politicians hardly fulfil promises made during campaigns.

Meanwhile, this notion derails Nigeria's democracy. The nature of Nigerian politics also encourages money politics. The winner- takes -all syndrome deviates moral principle. Nigeria's politicking gives room for mediocrity and discourages morality which poses threat to democratic sustainability in the country. Politics is viewed as a dirty game and allows a 'do or die' electoral contest, this tells on the level of the political culture in the country. In as much as the rulers could not lead by example, the ruled cannot be easily cautioned.

The factors as identified by (Davies, 2006) are reproduced below as follows:

I. The inability of many political parties and the contestants to put in place comprehensive and comprehensible manifestoes for scrutiny by the voters. Instead of clear-cut manifestoes that would enable the electorate to make a rational political choice, meaningless slogans, demagogic and rabbler-rousing speeches are made. Such speeches either overestimate or underestimate the political perception of the voters, but are rarely educative and convincing.

II. Political cynicism on the part of the voters who believe that political office holder is incurably

III. Corrupt, self-seeking and incompetent, that politics is a dirty and dishonourable enterprise, that the whole political process is a fraud and a betrayal of the public trust. This cynical view of politics is further accentuated by unfulfilled promises made by winners of past elections. Thus, asking for a pay-off, another way by which the people receive their share of the national cake. On the other hand, the candidates who gave money to voters probably believe that they are investing against electoral failure.

IV. Focusing on personalities rather than on issues. By the mode of their campaign, most candidates draw the attention of the electorate away from the political parties to themselves. The consequence of this is that the political parties and their message become less important to the electorate. The candidates then take the centre stage and would therefore need to spend more money than their parties could afford to mobilize support for themselves.

V. The peoples' perception is greatly reinforced by the obscene display of opulence by public office holders and ostentatious living of many politicians that every elected or appointed public officer is amassing wealth from the public treasury. This seems to have strengthened the resolve of many voters to sell their votes to the highest bidder.

VI. The penchant of politicians to strive to win elections, even at the party primary level, at all cost, makes desperate contestants to engage in all sort of malpractices including offering financial and material inducements to voters. Working on the poverty of the people, Nigerian politicians have been known to distribute foodstuff and other consumable materials to voters shortly before the elections and some time on election day, contrary to the provision of the extant electoral law that prohibits such practice. Instances abound too, when candidates threw some money into the air during campaign rallies, making people scramble for it and getting injured in the process.

VII. The noticeable weakness in a party whip, characteristics of party politics in a presidential system, when elected members exercise a considerable degree of freedom when voting on legislative proposals. Such freedom makes the legislators to be more susceptible to receive gratifications from the private interest groups. The interest groups employ what Shank calls “legalized bribery”. They make large donations to some spurious private or community programmes in which the target legislators are interested, and give expensive gifts to the legislators or sponsor their overseas travel etc. all in the name of public relations to secure the votes of the legislators in the legislature.

VIII. The absence of any legislation that puts any ceiling on financial contributions to political parties and candidates by groups or individuals (Davies, 2006). But we must quickly add that the Nigerian constitution is not completely silent on party finances, but its provisions in respect of the finances of political parties relate only to their source of funds and other assets. For example, section 225(3) of the 1999 constitution merely prohibits any political party to (a) retain any funds or assets remitted or sent to it from outside Nigeria. The requirement that political parties prepare

and submit an audited account to the electoral body is only intended to ensure transparency and accountability.

Vote trading equally tends to perpetuate bad governance. It not only compromises the wellbeing of those who sold their vote for instant gratification but also the future of those who did not sell their votes but are inevitably exposed to bad governance that results from such a fraudulent process. For every vote traded, many people will suffer the unintended consequences when the traded votes make the difference between winning and losing in the election

Poverty is the historical process of individual or groups being forcefully eliminated from the control of the decision making machinery that determines the production of resources in a society. It manifests in various forms as hunger or lack of food, lack of money, cloth, shelter, good health or poor education in a national context, poverty becomes a euphemism for under development or absence/ perversions of democracy (Ikelegbe, 1995).

In a similar vein, (Akeredolu-Ale, 1975) uses the Power theory of Poverty to explain class and poverty. His power theory posits that “the structure of the political economy in any society determines the extent and distribution of power among the population. In this case, the ruling class constituted by the law, established and legitimised an exploitative system, through which it determines the allocation of opportunity, income and wealth, relying on the use of state power, including the use of oppressive state agents. The poverty of the majority of the people is caused by exploitative and oppressive relations. While oppression occurs when one group illegitimately excludes another from access to those resources, exploitation occurs when such exclusion from resources gives the controller of the resources the capacity to appropriate the fruit of the labour of others (Gilbert and Barigbon, 2015).

2.4 The Effect of Vote Buying in Nigeria Electoral System

The Westminster Foundation for Democracy (2018) acknowledged or affirmed that voters in Nigeria are given cash, goods like food and clothing, and jobs. This conduct is supported by rewards that aren't expressly and formally connected to voting booth reciprocity. The generality of the people are believed to be unaware of the detrimental repercussions of buying and selling votes. Money-grubbing politicians prioritize their own interests over that of the general people. The results of vote buying or vote selling to the general public and the 2019 general elections are listed below.

Denying the Dividend of Democracy

The impact of buying or selling votes is so great that most uninformed people are unaware that political gladiators who provide peanuts in exchange for votes are doing it against the interests of the electorates. When they come into positions of authority, many of them turn their backs on the populace and become inaccessible. Their loved ones come first; they don't have the general good of society at heart. Their children go to school abroad, while others who cannot afford expensive tuition stay in Nigeria to attend schools that have outdated equipment, decaying buildings, subpar standards, and many other detrimental elements that harm our educational system.

Emergence of Incorrect Candidate

People suffer when the wrong candidate emerges, even if their candidacy is devoid of ambivalence, resentment, and eccentricities. Vote buying helps the wrong candidate win because money-bag politicians are determined to gain power at all costs. Keep in mind that if you sell your votes, you will lose out on some democratic rights and benefits. Every citizen has a right to all the benefits that the government is required to provide for its citizens. Every representative should be required

to contribute to the development projects of their constituents. These initiatives are typically not completed because the persons who represent them are unqualified. They might have manipulated their way into the positions they have. Vote buying has been practiced in the past, albeit on a small scale and only in relation to pipelines, and was not as blatant as it is now.

Stagnation of Development

The problem of vote buying is detrimental to our 19 years of uninterrupted democracy and slows down development. Selling votes implies selling the social benefits that electorates would have received. Greedy politicians who offer the voters four to five thousand naira to vote for them have purchased the community's bad roads.

Massive threat to Democracy

The multiplying consequences of vote buying on Nigerian democracy have been strongly emphasized by academics. It should be remembered that in Nigeria, poor governance led to the military seizing control from the civilians. Because of military assaults, intimidation, and excessive censorship, it never boded well with the people who yearned for democracy. Why can't they refuse to buy votes for the public good and Nigerian democracy now that they are reaping the benefits of democracy? Negative Image: A nation needs to have a great reputation among other countries in order to draw its neighbours and leaders from other countries to establish bilateral relations. Corruption and electoral offenses are blamed for the terrible reputation; Nigerians should avoid any behaviour that would harm our nation's reputation.

Poverty

According to the United Nations' estimate of poverty in Nigeria, the average Nigerian lives on less than \$1 per day. This validation is somewhat accurate because, if an assessment of poverty among Nigerians is made, you will agree with the UN's position. Nigeria is blessed with arable land, human and natural resources that if judiciously harnessed, would be competing with developed nations and our economy would be robust than we ever anticipated. The issue is that Nigerians were historically robbed of their ability to live better lives by corrupt government. Now is the time for Nigerians to elect reputable leaders whose goal is to reduce poverty by starting initiatives that directly benefit the public.

Dwindling life Expectancy

The reality of life is that if you have money, you can probably afford the needs of life, including quality medical care. However, in an emergency case, you risk easily dying if you have no money. Many people have died as a result of poor medical care. In Nigeria, malnutrition and starvation have contributed to the deaths of countless people (Yiaga Africa, 2018). For instance, the problem of young irregular migration in Nigeria resulted from individuals looking for a better life; hundreds of them died while foraging for greener pastures elsewhere. Those who would typically have had a longer life expectancy have passed away due to one issue or another.

Electoral Malpractice

According to the Electoral Act of 2010, any person who, by themselves or by another person, at any time after the date of an election has been announced, directly or indirectly gives, provides, or pays money to or for any person with the intention of corruptly influencing that person or any other person to vote at such election, or on account of that person or any other person having voted at such election, or on account of that person or any other person having refrained from voting at

such election, is liable for a fine of up to N100,000 or 12 months imprisonment or both. Vote buying will have a significant impact on the 2019 general elections. There will probably be significant frauds and irregularities. The wrong leaders will win the upcoming elections because they will utilize coercive tactics and aggressively escalate vote buying ploys to achieve their victory.

2.5 Role of Ngo in Combating Vote Buying in Nigeria

Vote buying is a significant issue in Nigeria's electoral process, particularly affecting vulnerable populations. Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) play a crucial role in addressing this challenge by implementing various strategies aimed at reducing the incidence of vote buying and promoting electoral integrity.

NGOs can significantly contribute to reducing vote buying through awareness and education campaigns. These campaigns aim to inform voters about the negative implications of vote trading on democracy and governance. For instance, Yiaga Africa has been involved in media campaigns that educate voters in Enugu State about the dangers of vote buying, helping to shape their attitudes towards this practice. By increasing awareness, NGOs can empower voters to reject offers of money or goods in exchange for their votes.

NGOs also engage in advocacy efforts aimed at influencing policy changes that address the root causes of vote buying. This includes lobbying for stricter regulations against vote buying and promoting electoral reforms such as electronic voting systems. The introduction of electronic voting could reduce opportunities for vote buying by making the process more transparent and

secure. Additionally, NGOs can advocate for policies that enhance voter registration processes, ensuring that all eligible citizens can participate in elections without coercion.

Addressing poverty is essential in combating vote buying, and NGOs are well-positioned to implement poverty alleviation initiatives. Research indicates a strong correlation between poverty levels and susceptibility to vote buying. By creating employment opportunities and providing financial assistance or skills training, NGOs can help lift communities out of poverty, thereby reducing their vulnerability to financial inducements during elections. This approach not only addresses immediate economic needs but also fosters a more politically active citizenry less likely to sell their votes.

Collaboration between NGOs, government agencies, and other stakeholders is vital for a comprehensive approach to reducing vote buying. NGOs can work alongside governmental bodies to develop effective strategies that target both the supply and demand sides of vote buying. This includes joint initiatives focused on enhancing electoral integrity through monitoring processes during elections. By fostering partnerships with local communities, NGOs can ensure that their interventions are culturally relevant and effectively address local challenges related to vote buying.

NGOs play a multifaceted role in reducing vote buying in Nigeria through awareness campaigns, advocacy for policy change, poverty alleviation initiatives, and collaboration with various stakeholders. Their efforts are essential not only for curbing the practice of vote trading but also for fostering a more democratic electoral process where citizens feel empowered to exercise their rights without coercion.

2.6 Theoretical framework

The study's theoretical framework of analysis is reciprocal determinism theory. According to the theory of reciprocal determinism, a person's behaviour both influences and is affected by their personality traits and their environment. The environment, the individual, and the behaviour-three key factors that affect behavioural pattern - are the foundation of the theory's concept. The model illustrates how the three elements are interconnected and how this leads to their interdependence and cooperative production of reflective answers. Individual behaviour is influenced by the environment, and individual responses also have an impact on the environment. The theory thus examines how our actions affect the environment. An early proponent of this notion was psychologist Albert Bandura (Singh, 2018). Harris (1998) and Akoul were two other defenders of the thesis (1998). Akoul provided information on earlier claims made by a child that kids were passive recipients of environmental effects and that kids were easily shaped in whatever way parents, teachers, and other caregivers chose to work. According to the theory of reciprocal determinism, as their environment shapes them, newborns become more participatory and practical members of society. Given that their traits, emotions, ideas, and behaviours affect how they interact with and respond to their environment, it would be challenging for them to act as a result of learned connections or reinforcing (Cherry, 2018; Singh, 2018).

The foundation of this theory is the idea that there is a connection between human behaviour and the environment, whereby the environment affects human behaviour. To put it another way, the environment that results in the very poor behaviour of elected public office holders, the appalling performance of the government in power to provide good governance, the inability to deliver public services effectively, the lack of infrastructural facilities and the welfare of the public, which is paramount in governance, the poor legislation and a disservice to the people, the

incompetence of government functionaries, and the unique experiences of voters fanned their sense of injustice; this also influences the ways and manner a state actor is perceived within the comity of nations in contemporary global relations, (Efebeh, 2020; Efebeh & Okereka, 2020). For instance, a lack of honest electoral procedures, openness, and accountability in government created a mindset among voters where they would react to the environment by exchanging their votes for cash and/or goods. Reciprocal determinism describes how the environment has an impact on a person's personality. Cherry (2018, p. 2) emphasizes that the environment component consists of the person's immediate physical surroundings that may contain reinforcing cues, such as other people who are there (or absent). Just as the behaviour itself may have an effect on the environment, the environment affects the activity's frequency and intensity. The individual component, on the other hand, consists of all the traits that have previously been rewarded.

A person's expectations, beliefs, and distinctive personality traits are all crucial psychological and cognitive aspects that influence how they behave. Vote-buying serves as a stimulation or environmental effect on the voters before and during election times in Nigeria, and vote-selling is a response to the stimulus on the environment. According to the reciprocal determinism theory, vote-selling is a reaction of voters to the environment, whereas vote-buying is a symbol of a severe lack of leadership and poor government. A critical paradigm shift from a behavioural perspective to a social-cognitive approach to behaviour understanding has been proven by Bandura's theory. While behaviourists held that an individual's behaviour is entirely influenced by their environment, Bandura recognized the importance of the interaction between people, their behaviours, and their environments. It shows, in large part, that while people are impacted by their individual experiences in their environment, they also have the power as a group to change their condition and circumstances by selfless actions and problem-solving techniques.

2.7 Empirical review

Jimoh (2021) vote buying and its implication on democratic governance a study of Ondo State 2020 governorship election. Both primary and secondary sources of data were used in the study, while primary data were gathered through administration of questionnaire and interviews, secondary data were sourced from books, journals, newspaper articles and observers' report of the election. The study revealed among other things that: that vote-buying and issuance of material gifts to electorates during elections influenced the voting pattern and is rife among the downtrodden and therefore, pose a very big challenge to all stakeholders in Nigeria electoral system, particularly (INEC). If elections are to be free and fair, and work for the good of democratic governance, the issue must be addressed as soon as possible.

Amanawa, Awu and Darius (2022) examined trends and Difficulties Related to Vote-Buying and the Electoral System in Nigeria. the study uses the documentary technique to gather information from secondary sources. It suggests that Nigeria builds solid institutions and implements sensible, politically unbiased policies to solve the issue of vote-buying in the nation. In order to prevent electoral anomalies that have long characterized politics and the election process, it is therefore essential to confront the threat of vote-buying through nonpartisan and impartial bodies.

Obi (2023) vote buying in the 2023 general elections in Biase Local government area of Cross River state, Nigeria. The study utilised primary and secondary data sources to identify the factors that facilitate vote buying, which encompass poverty, restricted access to education, political manipulation, dishonesty, unfulfilled promises by politicians, and voter indifference. The study also found that vote buying harms the democratic process. It undermines the interest of the voters,

promotes the election of ineffective leaders, questions the integrity of election results, and perpetuates illegitimacy and a lack of interest in the electoral process.

Nwakpu, Dick and Alozie (2024). examined the implications of vote buying on democratic consolidation in Nigeria with a focus on 2023 National Assembly election in Ebonyi central senatorial zone. The study aimed at identifying the manifestations, impacts and the catalyst to vote buying in the National Assembly election in Ebonyi Central Senatorial zone in particular and Nigeria in general. The study adopted the quantitative method which was supported by the qualitative method of data collection and used clientelism as the theoretical framework. The data collected was presented in tables and analyzed using simple percentage. The hypotheses were tested using a T test. The study discovered that vote buying largely affected the outcome of the 2023 National Assembly Election in Ebonyi Central Senatorial zone and identified some factors such as poverty, lack of voter's education and poor execution of sanctions as catalyst of vote buying.

Musa and Umar (2022) examined vote-buying and the electoral process in Nigeria: trends and challenges, 2015 – 2019. The paper adopts the documentary method for gathering data from secondary sources and recommends that Nigeria needs to develop strong institutions and adopt sound measures that are politically neutral to address the phenomenon of vote-buying in the country. Therefore, addressing the menace of vote-buying through apolitical and neutral agencies can go a long way in nipping in the bud of electoral irregularities that characterized politics and electoral process for a long time

CHAPTER THREE

METHODOLOGY

This chapter deals with the methods and procedures that are employed in the research study to collect and present the data. For the purpose of this study specific attention will be given to the following heading

- i. research design,
- ii. population of the study,
- iii. sample and sampling technique
- iv. sources of data
- v. research instruments
- vi. method of data collection
- vii. method of data analysis.

3.1 Research Design

Research design is the arrangement of conditions for the collection and analysis of data in a manner that aims to combine relevance to the research purpose with economy procedure (Asika, 2005).

The research design for this study is the descriptive survey research design. This study basically adopts the descriptive survey research design in which well-structured questionnaire will be designed and distributed to the respondents. A survey could be defined as the systematic gathering of information from respondents for the purpose of understanding or predicting some aspects of the behaviour of the population of interest.

3.2 Population of the Study

Population is made up of all conceivable elements, subjects and observations relating to a particular phenomenon of interest to the researcher from which sample and conclusion are drawn. Thus, the population of the study comprises of adult male and female in Oredo Local Government area randomly selected. The justification is that the researcher is unable to determine the number of the secondary school student in the selected area at the appropriate time.

3.3 Sample size and Sample Technique

The study employed the sampling techniques which is tinted towards the simple random sampling techniques in getting appropriate data from the study respondents area. To get the sample size of the study, convenience sample method will be employed. This is due to limited time, low financial strength of the researcher. The sample of this study is 80 respondent which will be selected from across five ward in in Oredo Local Government area Edo state.

3.4 Research Instrument

Questionnaire was used as the instrument in this study to collect data. Questionnaire employs a typical form of fixed- response alternative questions that required the respondent to select from a

predetermined set of answers to every question or fill close-ended statement(s). For the purpose of this study, the survey method is adopted with the use of questionnaire instrument designed to elicit the appraise information for the study. The questionnaire administered to the respondents is divided into two Sections of A and B. Section A is concerned with the demographic data of the respondents among which are: gender, age, educational qualification, and marital status of the respective respondents. Section B is consists of questions directly related to the objectives of the study and set in Likert scale and ranking forms. The administration would be by approaching the respondents and handing over the questionnaire to them. They will therefore be expected to complete and return them. This is basically allow to be free and analyze the questions objectively. Eighty (80) copies of questionnaire will be administered to student in 4 selected community in Oredo Local government area.

3.5 Validity and Reliability of the Instrument

In this study, adequate consideration was given to issues of face and content validity of the instrument used. To ensure face and content validity, the instrument was given to supervisor and two other experts in Faculty of social Sciences. They basically required review and criticize the items on the instrument in terms of their clarity, appropriateness of the language and instructions that the respondents are expected to adhere to. They also aided in determining whether the items in the questionnaire can elicit the relevant information that they are expected to generate from the respondents. Their criticisms will as incorporated in modifying the items on the instrument used. In addition, content validity was further ensured by making sure that each item in the questionnaire addressed a specific problem of the study as identified from the trial testing of the instrument to ensure its reliability.

3.6 Sources of Data

The source of data for this study is primary data source. Primary data come from original sources and have not been previously collected or used. The data consists of the information to be elicited from the sampled respondents using the research instrument (questionnaire). The questionnaire is designed using a summated rating scale (Likert scale) to measure the degree of agreement by the respondents to a statement that describes a situation.

3.7 Method of Data Analysis

Two statistical tools of data analysis were deployed in the analysis of data derived from the field. They are the simple percentage and the chi – square (χ^2). The simple percentage which is a descriptive tool for statistics will be use for initial analysis, while the chi – square which is an inferential tool was employed in testing the hypotheses generated from the survey.

CHAPTER FOUR

DATA PRESENTATION, ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

4.1 Introduction

This section of this study focus at analyzing the responses of the respondent on the issue relating to the role of NGO in general elections in Nigeria election, 120 questionnaires was distributed to the respondent in the selected area, and it was return and analysis. In this study social sciences statistical tools was use to analyze the responses of the respondent. frequency, percentage method was use and crosstabulation was also use to be able to determine the state of the hypothesis of the study

4.2 Analysis of the biodata of the respondent

Table 4.1: Gender of the Respondent

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid Female	46	47.4	47.4	47.4
Male	51	52.6	52.6	100.0
Total	97	100.0	100.0	

The above table shown the gender distribution of the respondent in this study. From the table 46 respondent representing 47.4 were female, and while 51 respondent representing 52.6 were male

respondent it can be deduced that both male and female participated in the filling of the research instrument of this study.

Table 4.2: Age distribution of the respondent

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid Below 20 years	18	18.6	18.6	18.6
21-25 years	16	16.5	16.5	35.1
26-30 years	50	51.5	51.5	86.6
31-35 years	12	12.4	12.4	99.0
36 years and a	1	1.0	1.0	100.0
Total	97	100.0	100.0	

In the above, 18 respondent representing 18.6 were between the age of 20 years below, 16 respondent representing 16.5 wee between the age of 22-25 years, 50 respondent representing 51.5 were between the age of 26-30 years, 12 respondent representing 12.4 were between the age of 31\35 years, and 1 respondent representing 1.0 were 36 years below.

Table 4.3: Educational Qualification of the Respondent

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid FSLC	4	4.1	4.1	4.1
WASSCE/GCE/NECO	16	16.5	16.5	20.6
OND/HND/BSC	46	47.4	47.4	68.0
MSC/PGD/MBA/PHD	31	32.0	32.0	100.0
Total	97	100.0	100.0	

4 respondent representing 4.1 attained FSLC certificate, 16 respondent representing 16.5 attained WASSE/GCE/NECO certificate, 46 respondent representing 47.4 attained OND/HND/BSc

certificate, and 31 respondent representing 32.0 attained MSC/PGD/MBA/PHD certificate. This means that the respondent in this study were educated men and women.

Table 4.4: Marital Status of the Respondent

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid Single	40	41.2	41.2	41.2
Married	45	46.4	46.4	87.6
Divorced	8	8.2	8.2	95.9
Widowed	4	4.1	4.1	100.0
Total	97	100.0	100.0	

One the marital status of the respondent, 40 respondent representing 41.2 were single, 45 respondent representing 46.4 were married men and women, 8 respondent representing 8.2 were divorced, and 4 respondent representing 4.1 were widowed

4.3 analysis of the Respondent Responses on the Issue Relating to Role of NGO in General Election

Table 4.5: Vote buying is a common practice in Nigerian elections.

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid Agree	81	83.5	83.5	83.5
Strongly Agree	2	2.1	2.1	85.6
Undecided	5	5.2	5.2	90.7
Disagree	5	5.2	5.2	95.9
Strongly Disagree	4	4.1	4.1	100.0
Total	97	100.0	100.0	

On the assertion that vote buying is a common practice in Nigerian elections, 81 respondent representing 83.5 agreed, 2 respondent representing 2.1 strongly agreed, 5 respondent representing 5.2 were undecided, 5 respondent representing 5.2 disagreed, and 4 respondent representing 4.1

strongly disagreed. It could be deduced that vote buying is a common practice in Nigerian elections.

Table 4.6: Receiving money or goods in exchange for votes is morally acceptable in Nigeria.

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid Agree	31	32.0	32.0	32.0
Strongly Agree	43	44.3	44.3	76.3
Undecided	9	9.3	9.3	85.6
Disagree	10	10.3	10.3	95.9
Strongly Disagree	4	4.1	4.1	100.0
Total	97	100.0	100.0	

Respondent agreed to the statement that receiving money or goods in exchange for votes is morally acceptable in Nigeria. In the above table, 31 respondent representing 32/0 agreed, 43 respondent representing 44.3 strongly agreed, 9 respondent representing 9.3 were undecided, 10 respondent representing 10.3 disagreed, and 4 respondent representing 4.1 strongly disagreed. It could be deduced that receiving money or goods in exchange for votes is morally acceptable in Nigeria.

Table 4.7: The government effectively addresses the issue of vote buying during elections.

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid Agree	32	33.0	33.0	33.0
Strongly Agree	41	42.3	42.3	75.3
Undecided	10	10.3	10.3	85.6
Disagree	10	10.3	10.3	95.9
Strongly Disagree	4	4.1	4.1	100.0

Table 4.7: The government effectively addresses the issue of vote buying during elections.

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid Agree	32	33.0	33.0	33.0
Strongly Agree	41	42.3	42.3	75.3
Undecided	10	10.3	10.3	85.6
Disagree	10	10.3	10.3	95.9
Strongly Disagree	4	4.1	4.1	100.0
Total	97	100.0	100.0	

On the opinion that the government effectively addresses the issue of vote buying during elections, 32 respondent representing 33.0 agreed, 41 respondent representing 42.3 strongly agreed, 10 respondent representing 10.3 were undecided, 10 respondent representing 10.3 disagreed, and 4 respondent representing 4.1 strongly disagreed. It can be concluded that government effectively addresses the issue of vote buying during elections.

Table 4.8: I believe that my vote counts regardless of the prevalence of vote buying.

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid Agree	37	38.1	38.1	38.1
Strongly Agree	33	34.0	34.0	72.2
Undecided	5	5.2	5.2	77.3
Disagree	14	14.4	14.4	91.8
Strongly Disagree	8	8.2	8.2	100.0
Total	97	100.0	100.0	

In the above table 37 respondent representing 38.1 and 33 respondent representing 34.0 agreed and strongly agreed on the opinion that I believe that my vote counts regardless of the prevalence of

vote buying. 5 respondent representing 5.2 were undecided, 14 respondent representing 14.4 disagreed, and 8 respondent representing 8.2 strongly disagreed. It can be concluded that voters believe that their vote counts regardless of the prevalence of vote buying.

Table 4.9: Candidates in Nigeria often resort to vote-buying as a strategy to win elections base on NGO candidate support.

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid Agree	49	50.5	50.5	50.5
Strongly Agree	25	25.8	25.8	76.3
Undecided	3	3.1	3.1	79.4
Disagree	3	3.1	3.1	82.5
Strongly Disagree	17	17.5	17.5	100.0
Total	97	100.0	100.0	

On the view that candidates in Nigeria often resort to vote-buying as a strategy to win elections base on NGO candidate support, 49 respondent representing 50.5 agreed, 25 respondent representing 25.8 strongly agreed, 3 respondent representing 3.1 were undecided, 3 respondent representing 3.1 disagreed, and 17 respondent representing 17.5 strongly disagreed. It can be concluded that candidates in Nigeria often resort to vote-buying as a strategy to win elections

Table 4.10: The electoral process in Nigeria is significantly influenced by NGO.

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid Agree	34	35.1	35.1	35.1
Strongly Agree	40	41.2	41.2	76.3
Undecided	9	9.3	9.3	85.6
Disagree	12	12.4	12.4	97.9
Strongly Disagree	2	2.1	2.1	100.0

Table 4.10: The electoral process in Nigeria is significantly influenced by NGO.

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid Agree	34	35.1	35.1	35.1
Strongly Agree	40	41.2	41.2	76.3
Undecided	9	9.3	9.3	85.6
Disagree	12	12.4	12.4	97.9
Strongly Disagree	2	2.1	2.1	100.0
Total	97	100.0	100.0	

On the view that the electoral process in Nigeria is significantly influenced by NGO through financial incentives offered, 34 respondent representing 35.1 agreed, 40 respondent representing 41.2 sternly agreed, 9 respondent representing 9.3 were undecided, 12 respondent representing 12.4 disagreed, and 2 respondent representing 2.1 strongly disagreed.

Table 4.11: I believe that vote-buying which result from the lack of NGO vote contribution undermines the integrity of the electoral process in Nigeria.

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid Agree	50	51.5	51.5	51.5
Strongly Agree	30	30.9	30.9	82.5
Undecided	3	3.1	3.1	85.6
Disagree	10	10.3	10.3	95.9
Strongly Disagree	4	4.1	4.1	100.0
Total	97	100.0	100.0	

Most respondent agreed to the opinion that I believe that vote-buying which result from lack of support from the NGO undermines the integrity of the electoral process in Nigeria. In the above, 50 respondent representing 51.5 agreed, 30 respondent representing 30.9 strongly agreed, 3

respondent representing 3.1 were undecided, 10 respondent representing 10.3 disagreed, and 4 respondent representing 4.1 strongly disagreed.

Table 4.12: I think that measures taken by authorities to combat vote-buying are not effective base on lack of support of some NGO.

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid Agree	38	39.2	39.2	39.2
Strongly Agree	41	42.3	42.3	81.4
Undecided	6	6.2	6.2	87.6
Disagree	7	7.2	7.2	94.8
Strongly Disagree	5	5.2	5.2	100.0
Total	97	100.0	100.0	

On the view that I think that measures taken by authorities to combat vote-buying are effective, 38 respondent representing 39.2 agreed, 41 respondent representing 42.3 strongly agreed, 6 respondent representing 6.2 were undecided, 7 respondent representing 7.2 disagreed, and 5 respondent representing 5.2 strongly disagreed.

Table 4.13: Political desperation among candidates base on NGO candidate support leads to increased instances of vote buying during elections.

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid Agree	14	14.4	14.4	14.4
Strongly Agree	66	68.0	68.0	82.5
Undecided	8	8.2	8.2	90.7
Disagree	6	6.2	6.2	96.9
Strongly Disagree	3	3.1	3.1	100.0
Total	97	100.0	100.0	

Respondent uphold the assertion that political desperation among candidates bas on NGO candidate support leads to increased instances of vote buying during elections. In the above, 14 respondent representing 14.4 agreed, 66 respondent representing 68.0 strongly agreed, 8 respondent representing 8.3 were undecided, 6 respondent representing 6.2 disagreed, and 3 respondent representing 3.1 strongly disagreed.

Table 4.14: The economic situation in Nigeria compels voters to accept money or gifts in exchange for their votes.

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid Agree	42	43.3	43.3	43.3
Strongly Agree	34	35.1	35.1	78.4
Undecided	7	7.2	7.2	85.6
Disagree	12	12.4	12.4	97.9
Strongly Disagree	2	2.1	2.1	100.0
Total	97	100.0	100.0	

In the above table 42 respondent representing 43.3 and 34 respondent representing 35.1 agreed and strongly agreed to the assertion that the economic situation in Nigeria compels voters to accept money or gifts in exchange for their votes. 7 respondent representing 7.2 were undecided, 12 respondent representing 12.4 disagreed, and 2 respondent representing 2.1 strongly disagreed.

Table 4.15: There is insufficient voter education regarding the negative impacts of vote buying on democracy as a result of lack of NGO support

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid Agree	34	35.1	35.1	35.1
Strongly Agree	36	37.1	37.1	72.2
Undecided	12	12.4	12.4	84.5

Disagree	12	12.4	12.4	96.9
Strongly Disagree	3	3.1	3.1	100.0
Total	97	100.0	100.0	

Most respondent uphold the view that there is insufficient voter education regarding the negative impacts of vote buying on democracy. In the above table, 34 respondent representing 35.1 agreed, 36 respondent representing 37.1 strongly agreed, 12 respondent representing 12.4 were undecided, 12 respondent representing 12.4 disagreed, and 3 respondent representing 3.1 strongly disagreed. It can be concluded that there is insufficient voter education regarding the negative impacts of vote buying on democracy.

Table 4.16: Vote buying is culturally accepted as a norm during elections in Delta state.

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid Agree	47	48.5	48.5	48.5
Strongly Agree	30	30.9	30.9	79.4
Undecided	6	6.2	6.2	85.6
Disagree	5	5.2	5.2	90.7
Strongly Disagree	9	9.3	9.3	100.0
Total	97	100.0	100.0	

Respondent agreed that vote buying is culturally accepted as a norm during elections in Nigeria. In the above table, 47 respondent representing 48.5 agreed, 30 respondent representing 30.9 strongly agreed, 6 respondent representing 6.2 were undecided, 5 respondent representing 5.2 disagreed, 9 respondent representing 9.3 strongly disagreed. It can be concluded that vote buying is culturally accepted as a norm during elections in Nigeria.

Table 4.17: The current legal penalties for vote buying in Nigeria should be increased to deter this practice.

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid Agree	31	32.0	32.0	32.0
Strongly Agree	41	42.3	42.3	74.2
Undecided	11	11.3	11.3	85.6
Disagree	10	10.3	10.3	95.9
Strongly Disagree	4	4.1	4.1	100.0
Total	97	100.0	100.0	

On the view that the current legal penalties for vote buying in Nigeria should be increased to deter this practice, 31 respondent representing 32.0 agreed, 41 respondent representing 42.3 strongly agreed. 11 respondent representing 11.3 were undecided, 10 respondent representing 10.3 disagreed, and 4 respondent representing 4.1 strongly disagreed. It can be deduced that the current legal penalties for vote buying in Nigeria should be increased to deter this practice.

Table 4.18: Implementing public awareness campaigns about the negative impacts of vote buying and NGO Support would help reduce its occurrence in Nigerian elections.

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid Agree	18	18.6	18.6	18.6
Strongly Agree	58	59.8	59.8	78.4
Undecided	13	13.4	13.4	91.8
Disagree	2	2.1	2.1	93.8
Strongly Disagree	6	6.2	6.2	100.0
Total	97	100.0	100.0	

Respondent believed that Implementing public awareness campaigns about the negative impacts of vote buying and NGO support would help reduce its occurrence in Nigerian elections. In the above,

18 respondent representing 18.6 agreed, 58 respondent representing 59.8 strongly agreed, 13 respondent representing 13.4 were undecided, 2 respondent representing 2.1 disagreed, and 6 respondent representing 6.2 strongly disagreed.

Table 4.19: Educational programs organized by NGO aimed at informing voters about their rights and the importance of voting without coercion would effectively combat vote buying.

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid Agree	29	29.9	29.9	29.9
Strongly Agree	45	46.4	46.4	76.3
Undecided	15	15.5	15.5	91.8
Disagree	5	5.2	5.2	96.9
Strongly Disagree	3	3.1	3.1	100.0
Total	97	100.0	100.0	

The above table showed that respondent agreed to the statement that educational programs aimed at informing voters about their rights and the importance of voting without coercion would effectively combat vote buying as 29 respondent representing 29.9 agreed, 45 respondent representing 46.4 strongly agreed, 15 respondent representing 15.5 were undecided, 5 respondent representing 5.2 disagreed, and 3 respondent representing 3.1 strongly disagreed. It can be deduced that educational programs aimed at informing voters about their rights and the importance of voting without coercion would effectively combat vote buying.

Table 4.20: Enhancing monitoring and enforcement mechanisms by NGO during elections will significantly reduce instances of vote buying.

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid Agree	25	25.8	25.8	25.8
Strongly Agree	38	39.2	39.2	64.9
Undecided	12	12.4	12.4	77.3

Disagree	15	15.5	15.5	92.8
Strongly Disagree	7	7.2	7.2	100.0
Total	97	100.0	100.0	

On the view that enhancing monitoring and enforcement mechanisms by NGO during elections will significantly reduce instances of vote buying. 25 respondent representing 25.8 agreed, 38 respondent representing 39.2 strongly agreed, 12 respondent representing 12.4 were undecided, 15 respondent representing 15.5 disagreed, and 7 respondent representing 7.2 strongly disagreed. It can be concluded that Enhancing monitoring and enforcement mechanisms during elections will significantly reduce instances of vote buying.

4.4: Testing of Hypotheses

Hypothesis one

H₀: there is no issues relating to vote buying in Nigeria electoral system

The government effectively addresses the issue of vote buying during elections as a result of NGO support. * Vote buying is a common practice in Nigerian elections. Crosstabulation

Count							
		Vote buying is a common practice in Nigerian elections.					Total
		Agree	Strongly Agree	Undecided	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	
The government effectively addresses the issue of vote buying during elections as a result of NGO support.	Agree	30	0	2	0	0	32
	Strongly Agree	31	0	1	5	4	41
	Undecided	8	2	0	0	0	10
	Disagree	8	0	2	0	0	10
	Strongly Disagree	4	0	0	0	0	4
Total		81	2	5	5	4	97

Chi-Square Tests

	Value	df	Asymp. Sig. (2-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	36.219 ^a	16	.003
Likelihood Ratio	30.142	16	.017
Linear-by-Linear Association	.018	1	.893
N of Valid Cases	97		

a. 21 cells (84.0%) have expected count less than 5. The minimum expected count is .08.

The hypothesis one stated that there is no issues relating to vote buying in Nigeria electoral system.

In the above chi-square result the significant value stand at .003 with degree of freedom of 16. This means that the significant value is less than 5% alpha significant level, therefore it could be deduced that there are issues relating to vote buying in Nigeria electoral system. Therefore the null hypothesis will be rejected and accept the alternative

Hypothesis two

H_{0ii}: there is no perception of candidates buy votes during the Nigeria electoral system

I believe that vote-buying which arise as a result from lack of NGO support undermines the integrity of the electoral process in Nigeria. * Candidates in Nigeria often resort to vote-buying as a strategy to win elections. Crosstabulation

Count							
		Candidates in Nigeria often resort to vote-buying as a strategy to win elections.					
		Agree	Strongly Agree	Undecided	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Total
I believe that vote-buying which result form lack of NGO support undermines the	Agree	35	1	0	0	14	50
	Strongly Agree	12	18	0	0	0	30
	Undecided	2	0	0	0	1	3

	Disagree	0	3	2	3	2	10
	Strongly Disagree	0	3	1	0	0	4
Total		49	25	3	3	17	97

Chi-Square Tests

	Value	df	Asymp. Sig. (2-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	94.513 ^a	16	.000
Likelihood Ratio	91.183	16	.000
Linear-by-Linear Association	2.504	1	.114
N of Valid Cases	97		

a. 18 cells (72.0%) have expected count less than 5. The minimum expected count is .09.

From the above chi-square result the pearson chi-square value stand at 94.513, the degree of freedom stand at 16 and while the sig(2-sided) stand at .000 which is less than alpha 5% significant value. Therefore we reject the null hypothesis that stated that there is no perception of candidates buy votes during the Nigeria electoral system, and accept the alternative there are perception of candidates buy votes during the Nigeria electoral system.

Hypothesis three

H_{0iv}: there are no causes of vote buying in Nigeria electoral system

There is insufficient voter education as a result of lack of NGO support regarding the negative impacts of vote buying on democracy * Political desperation among candidates leads to increased instances of vote buying during elections. Crosstabulation

Count							
		Political desperation among candidates leads to increased instances of vote buying during elections.					
		Agree	Strongly Agree	Undecided	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Total

There is insufficient voter education regarding the negative impacts of vote buying on democracy	Agree	14	18	2	0	0	34
	Strongly Agree	0	27	6	2	1	36
	Undecided	0	8	0	2	2	12
	Disagree	0	10	0	2	0	12
	Strongly Disagree	0	3	0	0	0	3
Total		14	66	8	6	3	97

Chi-Square Tests

	Value	df	Asymp. Sig. (2-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	49.004 ^a	16	.000
Likelihood Ratio	52.730	16	.000
Linear-by-Linear Association	9.083	1	.003
N of Valid Cases	97		

a. 20 cells (80.0%) have expected count less than 5. The minimum expected count is .09.

The hypothesis tested result above showed that the pearson chi-square stand at 49.004, the degree of freedom stand at 16 while the significant value of the result stand at .000. From the above it could be seen that the significant value is less than 5% alpha level of significant, therefore we reject the null hypothesis (The hypothesis result above showed that the (there are no causes of vote buying in Nigeria electoral system) and accept the alternative (there are causes of vote buying in Nigeria electoral system)

Hypothesis four

H_{0v}: there is no possible solutions to the issues of vote buying in Nigeria.

Educational programs organized by NGO aimed at informing voters about their rights and the importance of voting without coercion would effectively combat vote buying. *

Enhancing monitoring and enforcement mechanisms supported by NGO during elections will significantly reduce instances of vote buying. Crosstabulation

Count							
		Enhancing monitoring and enforcement mechanisms during elections will significantly reduce instances of vote buying.					
		Agree	Strongly Agree	Undecided	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Total
Educational programs aimed at informing voters about their rights and the importance of voting without coercion would effectively combat vote buying.	Agree	2	6	12	7	2	29
	Strongly Agree	12	27	0	4	2	45
	Undecided	7	3	0	2	3	15
	Disagree	3	2	0	0	0	5
	Strongly Disagree	1	0	0	2	0	3
Total		25	38	12	15	7	97

Chi-Square Tests

	Value	df	Asymp. Sig. (2-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	60.166 ^a	16	.000
Likelihood Ratio	60.879	16	.000
Linear-by-Linear Association	3.843	1	.050
N of Valid Cases	97		

a. 18 cells (72.0%) have expected count less than 5. The minimum expected count is .22.

From the above chi-square table the pearson chi-square value stand at 60.166, the degree of freedom is 16 and the significant value stand at .000. this means that the value is less than 5% alpha significant level. Therefore, we reject the null hypothesis (there is no possible solutions to

the issues of vote buying in Nigeria) and accept the alternative (there is possible solutions to the issues of vote buying in Nigeria.)

4.5 Discussion of Finding

Vote buying has become one of the common factor that result to negative believe of most voter in Nigeria. Amao (2020) emphasize that the Nigerian electoral process has frequently been criticized for its violent, corrupt, and chaotic tendencies, which include the use of thugs and the maiming of political opponents by those attempting to gain electoral positions through electoral fraud. this empirical review was carry out to examine the menace of vote buying in Nigeria electoral system. Base on the empirical analysis it was discovered that there issues of vote buying in Nigeria during election.

According to the respondent, the prevalence of vote buying influences voter turnout in Nigeria. Vote buying make voter not to believe who is announce by the INEC. Respondent uphold the view that the prevalence of vote buying influences voter turnout in Nigeria. Respondent believe the assertion that vote buying contributes to the perpetuation of corruption within Nigerian politics. And the major result for vote buy is as a result of political desperation among candidates leads to increased instances of vote buying during elections. Respondent reviewed that economic situation in Nigeria compels voters to accept money or gifts in exchange for their votes. This result support the work of Obi (2023) which reviewed that factors that facilitate vote buying encompass poverty, restricted access to education, political manipulation, dishonesty, unfulfilled promises by politicians, and voter indifference.

CHAPTER FIVE

SUMMARY OF FINDING, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

5.1 Summary of Finding

This study empirical examine the role of NGO in general election in Nigeria, it focused on issues, effects, causes and solutions. The specific objective were to examine the issues relating to vote buying in Nigeria electoral system, to investigate the perception of candidates buy votes during the Nigeria electoral system, to evaluate the causes of vote buying in Nigeria electoral system and to find out the possible solutions to the issues of vote buying in Nigeria. One hundred and twenty (120) copies of questionnaire was administered but only 97 were correctly filled, return and

analysed. Two statistical tools of data analysis were deployed in the analysis of data derived from the field. They are the simple percentage and the chi – square. The result showed hat

There are perception of candidates buy votes during the Nigeria electoral system. respondent reviewed that vote buying is a common practice in Nigerian elections that voters do not believe that their vote counts regardless of the prevalence of vote buying. There are issues relating to vote buying in Nigeria electoral system. Respondent uphold the view that Vote buying contributes to the perpetuation of corruption within Nigerian politics. Vote buying make voter not to believe who is announce by the INEC. Therefore, the prevalence of vote buying influences voter turnout in Nigeria. Respondent reviewed that political desperation among candidates leads to increased instances of vote buying during elections. The economic situation in Nigeria compels voters to accept money or gifts in exchange for their votes. Respondent also reviewed that there is insufficient voter education regarding the negative impacts of vote buying on democracy. Respondent reviewed that the current legal penalties for vote buying in Nigeria should be increased to deter this practice. Educational programs aimed at informing voters about their rights and the importance of voting without coercion would effectively combat vote buying according to the respondent.

5.2 Conclusion

Base on the analysis of the respondent on the menace of vote buying in Nigeria electoral system issues, effects, causes and solutions. The following finding were made:

1. there are issues relating to NGO on vote buying in Nigeria electoral system
2. there are perception of candidates buy votes during the Nigeria electoral system
3. there are causes of vote buying in Nigeria electoral system

4. there is possible solutions to the issues of vote buying in Nigeria.

5.3 Recommendation

As a result of the finding of this empirical study, the following recommendation were made:

1. Nigeria government should be increase the current legal penalties for vote buying to deter the practice in Nigeria.
2. Public awareness campaigns about the negative impacts of vote buying should be implementing reduce vote buying occurrence in Nigerian elections.
3. Nigeria government should introduced more educational programs aimed at informing voters about their rights and the importance of voting without coercion to effectively combat vote buying.
4. Nigeria government should put more effort toward enhancing, monitoring and enforcement mechanisms during elections to significantly reduce instances of vote buying.

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APPENDIX
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WORK
FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES
UNIVERSITY OF BENIN
BENIN CITY

Dear respondent,

REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE IN COMPLETING A QUESTIONNAIRE

I am a final year student undergoing a programme in the University of Benin. As part of the requirements for the programme; I am conducting a research on “ the role of NGO in Nigeria election: a case study of 2023 presidential election” In this regard, you have been duly selected as a member of the sample.

I wish to appeal to you to assist this study by kindly sparing a few minutes to complete this questionnaire. You are not required to disclose your identity. I also wish to assure you that your answers will be treated with strict confidentiality and used for the stated academic purpose only.

Researcher.

SECTION A

DEMOGRAPHIC VARIABLES

1. Gender: Male() Female()
2. Age: 12- 15 years() 16years above()
3. Educational qualification: FSLC (), WASSCE/GCE/NECO (), OND/HND/BSC(), MSC/PGD/MBA/PHD(), Others_____
4. Marital Status: Single(), Married(), Divorced(), Widowed()

SECTION B: The core subject matter

Indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree to the following statement.

1	2	3	4	5
Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neural	Agree	Strongly Agree

S/N	STATEMENT	A	SA	U	D	SD
	Perception Of Candidates Buy Votes					
1	Vote buying is a common practice in Nigerian elections.					
2	Receiving money or goods in exchange for votes is morally acceptable in Nigeria.					
3	The government effectively addresses the issue of vote buying during elections.					
4	I believe that my vote counts regardless of the prevalence of vote buying.					
	perception of candidates buy votes during the Nigeria electoral system					
5	Candidates in Nigeria often resort to vote-buying as a strategy to win elections.					
6	The electoral process in Nigeria is significantly influenced by financial incentives offered by candidates.					
7	I believe that vote-buying that result from lack of NGO support undermines the integrity of the electoral process in					

	Nigeria.					
8	I think that measures taken by authorities to combat vote-buying are effective.					
	Causes of vote buying in Nigeria electoral system					
13	Political desperation among candidates leads to increased instances of vote buying during elections.					
14	The economic situation in Nigeria compels voters to accept money or gifts in exchange for their votes.					
15	There is insufficient voter education regarding the negative impacts of vote buying on democracy					
16	Vote buying is culturally accepted as a norm during elections in Nigeria.					
	Possible solutions to the issues of vote buying in Nigeria.					
17	The current legal penalties for vote buying in Nigeria which are support by NGO should be increased to deter this practice.					
18	Implementing public awareness campaigns about the negative impacts of vote buying by NGO would help reduce its occurrence in Nigerian elections.					
19	Educational programs organized by NGO aimed at informing voters about their rights and the importance of voting without coercion would effectively combat vote buying.					
20	Enhancing monitoring and enforcement mechanism supported by NGO during elections will significantly reduce instances of vote buying.					