



POLITICAL GENDER DISPARITIES IN EKITI STATE: A HISTORICAL ANALYSIS OF THE 2014 AND 2018 GUBERNATORIAL ELECTIONS

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Abstract

This research looks at political gender disparity in Ekiti State between the gubernatorial elections in 2014 and 2018. The societal goals of equality, growth, and tranquility will not be realised unless women actively participate and include women's perspectives at all levels of decision making. Using primary and secondary materials, this paper will also disclose the patriarchal chat system of the society and male dominance of Ekiti politics, putting women to lower duties, producing inferiority complexes in women, and separating them from the main stream politics in Ekiti. The Nigerian political heritage of godfatherism, gangsterism, thuggery, and electoral incentives has defined the political landscape, making it highly dangerous for most women to enter mainstream politics. Similarly, institutional arrangements in Nigeria that limit women to home duties, as well as discouragement and stigmatisation of women politicians by their fellow women, have degraded women's political engagement in Ekiti state. However, the study will investigate the political gender inequality of the 2014 and 2018 gubernatorial elections in Ekiti state, focusing on the factors that limit women's participation in Ekiti politics and emphasising the importance of addressing these factors that impinge women's political subordination in Ekiti, which include aplausive drive on women's political involvement, building female political resistance, reformation of all religious practises, statutory or otherwise, and reformation of all religious practises, statutory or otherwise

Keywords: Politics, Gender inequality, Gubernatorial Elections, Ekiti, Nigeria

INTRODUCTION

Gender equality is a human right, and both men and women strive for equal political opportunity for women (Osadola et al, 2022). This indicates that women should also have the same status as men in order to further their human rights and make a major contribution to their own countries. The realisation of democracy requires an actual collaboration between men and women in the management of society's affairs, where they cooperate in harmony and benefit from one another's differences (Soeton & Osadola, 2018).

The Nigerian parliament is dominated by men despite the fact that the country's constitution guarantees everyone's right to participate in politics. In addition to other constitutional provisions, the constitution recognises women's right to vote and be elected as members of parliament (sections 77 and 106 of the 1999 constitution). Also, the national gender policy of Nigeria sets a target of 35 percent affirmative action in favour of women in all

elected and appointed posts by 2015 in an effort to boost the number of women in political office, party organs, and public life. The fact that so few women in Nigeria occupy political office, however, makes it evident that they have yet to profit from the laws. Protecting and advancing women's rights is substantially more challenging when there is a male dominance (Helen, 2021).

Women make up 48.78% of the country's population, according to the 2006 census report, and while Nigeria's demographic statistics by gender show an increase in the birth of females, this numerical strength of women does not necessarily translate to an increase in women's participation in the nation's political activities (Nigeria CEDAW NGO coalition shadow report 2008). In Nigeria, the percentage of women in politics has hardly risen over 3%, despite the worldwide average of 10%. (Ilori, 2019).

Although Nigeria has been an independent nation for nearly 61 years, it shows a variety of circumstances that prevent women from

participating in politics. As a result, movements to expand women's political presence have emerged in numerous nations all over the globe.

When the United Nations established a commission on the status of women in 1946, it was one of the first significant international initiatives in favour of women globally (Peterson and Runyan, 1999). In 1975, during the International Women's Year, the UN General Assembly announced the UN decade for women, which would run from 1976 to 1985. The goal of this initiative was to raise awareness of the status of women and girls across the world (Omilusi, 2021). This issue came to a head in 1995 during the fourth international conference on women, which was convened in Beijing, China, under the banner of "Equality, Development, and Peace," with the intention of reviewing and evaluating the success of the UN decade for women (Ilori, 2019)). The international congress on women that was held in Mexico was one of the biggest events of the year. The UN Assembly created the voluntary fund for the UN decade for women in 1976 to carry out the decade's goals (Oyekanmi 2004:44). Moreover, it ratified the 1981-effective Convention on the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women (CEDAW) (Ravi 2005:3). To promote the economic and political empowerment of women in poor countries, the general assembly established the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) in 1985. Also, the organisation for African unity (OAU) and the new partnership for Africa's development (NEPAD) seek to increase women's political leadership and involvement in groups that make political decisions (Olojede, 2004:120). When women, the other half of the world's population, entered development, these events marked a turning point in human resource development. Nonetheless, despite this global effort to promote women's political engagement, the globe has only seen modest advancements in women's political participation (UNDP report in 2005). According to the 2007 Inter Parliamentary Union Report, just twelve nations have reached the critical mass of 30% female participation in parliament, with Sweden, Argentina, Rwanda, and Finland electing more than 40% women to their legislative bodies (Oluwaleye & Ojogbede, 2019).

Women are underrepresented in governor, ministerial, and other executive roles in the political arena despite Nigeria being a democratic nation that advocates gender equality at all levels of society. This can be seen in the current gender gap, where the senate rejected a gender equality and equal opportunity bill that would have given Nigeria the chance to demonstrate some of the CEDAW's provisions and the protocol to the Africa Charter on Human and People's Rights on the rights of women in Africa. In voice vote, the male senators (Goitom, 2016) rejected the measure.

WOMEN AND POLITICAL PARTICIPATION

Political parties are founded on the selection, nomination, and support of candidates for elective positions, but the average global participation of women in national politics is 5%, with the exception of the Nordic countries, which have female representation in parliament like South Africa (42.7%). Finland (51.5%) and Norway (40.8%) Sweden (47.3%) Namibia (42.2%) (IPU, 2019), when proportional representation is used, Rwanda (61.3%/38.5%) stands out as the first nation in the world to achieve the 30% quotas and have a higher percentage of women in parliament than males. (IPU, 2019). Women continue to be underrepresented in all areas of decision-making, including religion, the media, culture, and the law. They also continue to face significant obstacles to their full and equal participation in the

institutions and structures that govern their lives, despite recent advances made possible by women's efforts to challenge the status quo (Omotola 2007, Ajayi 2007; the Nigerian CEDAW NGO coalition shadow report 2008, Genevieveve, 1999).

After meeting specific age and property requirements, American-born Nancy Astor became the first elected woman to take her place in the British parliament for the first time in history in 1919. (Johnson 2003) The International Convention on Civil and Political Rights (1996) and the International Convention for the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women are two national and international documents and human rights mechanisms that have been used to promote women's participation in politics (1979) Explain the nature of women's civil and political rights as well as the steps that must be taken to establish greater equality between men and women in this regard (Ilori, 2019).

Yet, the articles of the Federal Republic of Nigeria's constitution serve as the legal foundation for women's political engagement in Nigeria at the national level. Section 40 of the Federal Republic of Nigeria's 1999 constitution guarantees each and every citizen's right to participate in politics. It claims that:

Every person shall be entitled to assembled freely and associate with other person and in particular he may form or belong to any political party, trade union or any other association for the protection of his interests.

Section 42 of same constitution states further that:

Any citizen of Nigeria of a particular community, ethnic group, place of origin, sex, religion or political opinion shall not by reason only that he as such a person to be subjugated to any form of discrimination. Section 77(2) also confer the right to register and to vote for the purpose of election and that every citizen that has attained the age of 18 years.

The National Gender Policy of 2006 is an important policy document that encourages women's involvement in politics and public life. The policy's fifth goal is to achieve a minimum level of female representation in order to advance gender equality in all spheres of the nation's political, social, and economic life (the Nigerian CEDAW NGO coalition shadow report, 2008). The legislative framework in Nigeria for women in politics is based on the idea that they have an equal right to engage in government and public life as males (Oluwaleye & Ojogbede, 2019).

Nigeria accepted the convention on June 13, 1985, without any reservations, and on September 8, 2021, it approved the CEDAW optional protocol. Nigeria signed the convention on April 23, 1984. (Chikwe,2003). One of the main areas of concentration of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (1995), the main worldwide action plan on women's rights, is the involvement of women in politics and decision-making. In order to create honest and responsible government management and to accomplish sustainable development in all spheres of life, it is stated how important it is for women to be empowered and for their social, economic, and political standing to improve (Bari 2005). Notwithstanding the obstacles that prevent women from holding positions of power and the ongoing growth of women in political parties, the 35 percent quotas for women representation at the national and state level established by the Beijing Convention and the Nigerian Constitution have not been reached.

Based on this finding, the research will analyse gender imbalance in Ekiti politics and the causes of Nigerian culture's patriarchal

character. Men's enthusiasm and domination for politics have left few women in positions of decision-making, but they do support decision-making.

From the beginning of civilian administration in Ekiti state, one of Nigeria's 36 states, there has been gender imbalance in politics among various parties made up of both men and women.

The military regime in power at the time, led by general Sani Abacha, established Ekiti state in the southwest of Nigeria on October 1, 1996. It was created from the area of the Old Ondo state and is one of the newest states in the Nigerian federation. At the time of its formation, it contained sixteen local government areas (LGAs), with Ado-Ekiti serving as the capital. Ekiti state has 2,384,212 residents according to the national population commission's 2006 census.

According to Oluwaleye and Ojogbede (2019)., It was observed that political leaders under political parties have emerged and ruled both state National Assembly of Ekiti state after two years of military rule in 1999 and the first civilian government ruled under the platform of Alliance for democracy in 1999.

The Nigeria Independent Electoral Board is responsible for conducting elections in various states, so one cannot ignore the fact that political parties are the gatekeepers of any democratic government. As a result, the political participation of both men and women in the 2014 and 2018 gubernatorial elections in Ekiti state would be viewed under the auspices of two major political parties, namely "ALL PROGRESSIVE CONGRESS" (APC) and "PEOPLE DEMOCRATIC PARTY" (PDP (Helen, 2021).

It is important to remember that many political parties have controlled Ekiti state. After two years of military control, the state of Ekiti became a democratic state in 1999. Otunba Gbenga Adebayo of the Action for Democracy (AD) was chosen to lead the first civilian government. The incumbent was defeated in 2003 by Peter Ayodele Fayose of the People's Democratic Party (PDP). Fayose was the Governor of Ekiti from 2003 through 2006. Engineer Segun Adebayo Oni of the PDP was sworn in as the governor of Ekiti in 2007, however the court later declared Oni's election invalid due to electoral irregularities. The annulment of Oni's 2007 victory made Dr. John Kayode Fayemi of the Action Congress of Nigeria [ACN] the true victor of the governor's race in Ekiti. In the election on June 21, 2014, Ayodele Fayose, running on the PDP ticket, beat Governor Dr. Kayode Fayemi for the seat in all 16 local government areas of Ekiti (Durotoye 2014).

On April 13, 2014, the All Progressive Congress [APC] held its primary election. Kayode Fayemi won with 192,767 votes after the 16 local government areas of the states were tallied under the direction of senator Osita Izunaso, one of the national officers of the party and the chairman of the G-man panel. The APC constitution's article 20 subsection 3 stated that the party had the discretion to arrange direct or indirect primaries, and the primaries were reportedly in accordance with that provision. Nevertheless, Kayode Fayemi, the current governor, was competing for a second term alongside Modupe Adelabu, a professor and former university lecturer from Ado Ekiti. Nonetheless, she was the deputy governor of the state of Ekiti from May 8, 2013, until October 15, 2014. At the APC primary election, Kayode Fayemi defeated other participating male candidates.
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Ayodele Fayose won the PDP primary against three other candidates with 462 of the 477 votes cast, according to the panel's

results. Peter Odili, a former governor of the state of Rivers, chaired the panel. Caleb Olubolade, his closest challenger, garnered 7 votes, Dayo Adeyeye finished third with 3 votes, and the lone female candidate received only 1 vote. It is important to note that Fayose chose Dr. Olusola Eleka, a former university lecturer who is now a professor from Ikere Ekiti, as his running partner (Helen, 2021)

With tight security, the process began at 12:05 p.m. with the state resident electoral commissioner of INEC, Alhaji Halilu Pai, leading the team of INEC officials to supervise the primaries. Fayose competed against 13 other male candidates, but he won the PDP nomination for governor on June 21, 2014.

EKITI STATE JUNE 21 2014 ELECTION

The PDP candidate Mr. Peter Ayodele Fayose was declared the winner of the election by the returning officer for the 2014 governorship election by the vice chancellor of the Federal university Oye-Ekiti Professor Isaac Azuzu. He received a total of 203,090 votes to defeat Dr. Kayode Fayemi of the APC and the incumbent governor, who received 120,433 votes, as well as other candidates who ran for office.

While though the scenario was claimed to be mostly between three male candidates for governor, devoid of any female candidates, two of these three candidates had females as their running mates, Fayose also beat the Labor party's Opeyemi Bamidele, who received 18,135 votes. Their names are: - Hon Opeyemi Bamidele (LP) chose Dr. Olusola Eleka, a former university lecturer from Ikere-Ekiti, as his running mate. The incumbent governor, Dr. Kayode Fayemi (APC), also chose Professor Modupe Adelabu, a former university lecturer from Ado-Ekiti. The plurality voting method is used to choose the governor of Ekiti state. However, Fayose won the election in all sixteen local government areas of the state over sixteen (16) other parties with a total of 14 candidates registered with the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) to run in the election. Fayose was elected the governor of the state with about 57.9 percent of the total votes cast, indicating that there were more men than women running for office and that men were frequently elected in and elected to office. Males often make up the majority in political parties due to their dominance of the party hierarchy, which gives them an advantage in influencing the internal party politics.

APC PARTY PRIMARY ELECTION, 2018

On May 12, 2018, the APC primary election was conducted. Dr. Kayode Fayemi defeated the other candidates in the primary election by garnering 192,767 votes. Fayemi won the primary election because the other 32 candidates were unable to come to an agreement since there was no political bargaining among them.

2,326 of the 2,618 delegates expected to cast ballots for the 33 candidates who were running for office were accredited for the election, which took place inside the pricey Damlek hall in the Oke-Ila neighbourhood of the state capital Ado. Nasarawa state government Tanko Al-makira served as the election's chairman.

Delegate accreditation started at 8 am and finished at 12:52 pm. Voting began precisely at 1:16 and finished at 4:14 p.m. The electoral panel had a minor adjustment thanks to Aliu Morgaji. A week before the primary election, the person serving as its secretary was replaced. The secretary and returning officer was

Robert Okuegbwu. Paramilitary soldiers were widely dispersed along the route going to the polling location. The venue was well-guarded, with both inside and outside activity restricted. In order to prevent a repeat of the week prior's bungled primary that was torpedoed by thugs, candidates were not permitted to leave the room, and security created a ring around the voting booths. After casting their votes, delegates were requested to adjourn the room. While they were being escorted outside the building, their delegates tags were gathered, and they left the agent and candidate in charge of keeping an eye on the security agencies' manning of the voting boxes (Soetana & Osadola, 2018).

Al-makira who had before the commencement of the primary promised the aspirant of credible election they would all be proud of, finished the counting of the ballot paper by 10:43pm and all aspirant rose in unison to congratulate Fayemi emerging as the winner with 941 score to defeat Oni who came distance second with 481 votes, Kayode Ojo scored 281 votes, Femi Bamishile scored 179 votes, Wole Oloyede got 121 votes. The only woman aspirant Mojisola Yaya-Kolade scored 4 votes other aspirant like Bamidele Opeyemi scored 8 votes, Adeyanju Bodunde scored 3 votes, Ajayi Adebawale Olurantri (1), Akerele Oluyinka (11), Alabi Kolawole Oladipupo (14), Aloba Adebisi (7), Senator Daniel Olugbenga (86), Senator Arise Ayodele (2), Olumilua coker (2) and Bimbola Daramola 28 votes. Others: Eledunmare Ogunkanya (1), Esan Adekunle Patrice (0), Faparusi Bamidele (23), Fatoba Joseph (43), Kolade victor Olumuyiwa (16), Olatunji Olowo (2), Elizabeth Taye (1), Okeyodele (13), Babafemi Ojodu who had stepped down got 10 votes, Olatunji Olowo (2), Olatunji Olofunluyi (14), Oluleye Oluyede Oluwole Bamidele (6), Miyuwa Olumilua (2), Oluwole Oluyede (121), Orire Andrew (3), Owolabi Makanjuola (5) votes.

With this result, Fayemi was believed to emerge the winner of the 2018 APC primary election in a well display of loyalty to their party and in defeating PDP in July 14 governorship election. Adding from the APC primary election one could see that just one female contestant was among 32 male contestants.

PDP PARTY ELECTION 2018

The Delta state governor Ifeanyi Okowa served as the chairman of the electoral committee, and the Ekiti PDP governorship primary election was held on May 8 2018 at the Great Eagle Event Hall, Ado-Ikere Road. 2,092 eligible delegates from 177 wards participated in the primary accreditation, which began at around 11:30am due to heavy rain.

According to Jackson Adebayo, the PDP's press secretary in these states, the poll was protected by strict security to avoid the breakdown of law and order, unlike the APC primary election conducted before the PDP, which was marred by violence and had to be suspended.

Professor Kola Olusola Eleka, the incumbent deputy governor, Prince Adedayo Adeyeye, a former minister of works, and Ms.

Has shown in table 1, thirty-five political parties registered for the Ekiti gubernatorial election.

S/N	CANDIDATE FOR EKITI STATE GOVERNORSHIP ELECTION 2018.	NAME OF CANDIDATES	SEX	PARTY	AGE	QUALIFICATION
1	GOVERNOR	JACOUB ABIODUN ALUKO	M	A	69	B.SC,P.GD
	DEPUTY	ADEMOLA ADRAIN AYODELE	M	A	53	B.SC,MB.CH.B

Biodun Olujimi, the senate deputy minority whip, are the candidates fighting to represent the party in the July 14 gubernatorial election.

However, it should be noted that the only female candidate running to represent the party was senator Biodun Olujimi, who stepped down prior to the voting, albeit without giving a reason for her hasty decision. Instead, she urged her delegate to vote for Adeyeye in order to advance the party's interests.

Around 2 p.m., the governor of the delta state, Ifeanyi Okowa, called the delegates out one by one and conducted a personal head count as they waited in line to cast their ballots. He began with members of the state executive council, then moved on to legislators from the national and state assemblies, including former chief officers of the state house of assembly, and finally the head of the local government council. After the voting process, delegates were requested to leave the room. The candidate praised governor Okowa for his good work and certified that the whole process had been peaceful, fair, and credible.

Thankfully, despite the last-minute cooperation of senator Biodun Olujimi and prince Adebayo Adeyeye, professor Olusola Kolapo Eleka received 1,191 votes and prince Adedayo Adeyeye received 771 out of the 1,968 votes.

During the Ekiti state gubernatorial election set for July 14, 2018, professor Kolapo Olusola Eleka, the current deputy governor of Ekiti state, was victorious and a candidate of the People Democratic Party (Soetana & Osadola, 2018)

EKITI STATE JULY 14, 2018 ELECTION

The majority-Yoruba state of Ekiti features a homogeneous population, shared cultural ties, and a similar language. Ekiti has previously held elections in 1999, 2003, 2007, and 2014, respectively. The election in Ekiti state on July 14, 2018, was the seventh to be held there since democracy was restored in Nigeria.

For the 2018 election, candidates are being fielded by 35 political parties. Despite the fact that there were 35 candidates, the election was a straight fight between the then-current deputy governor, Olusola Eleka of the People's Democratic Party (PDP), who also chose a man as his running mate, Dayo Adeyeye, and Kayode Fayemi of the All Progressive Congress (APC), who served as state governor from 2010 to 2014 for a second term. Hence, the conflict is between those who want change and those who want consistency. The only female candidate in the APC, Mojisola Yaya-Kolade, received only four votes, while in the PDP, Biodun Olujimi abandoned her bid for office in favour of a male candidate, according to reports from the parties' primary elections. All of these results can be attributed to the patriarchal nature of Nigerian culture and the dominance of men in politics, which are the root causes of gender inequality in Ekiti politics. This study's broad description of the governor's race in Ekiti state on July 14, 2018, will be done in opposition to that scope.

2	GOVERNOR	SHOLA OMOLOLA	M	AA	43	WAEC
	DEPUTY	SHABA ABIMBOLA	F	AA	43	WAEC
3	GOVERNOR	OWOLABI BODE OLOWOPOWOKU	M	ACD	72	PHD
	DEPUTY	FAJUJI PATRIC OJO	M	ACD	52	HND
4	GOVERNOR	AGBOOLA OLANIYI BEN	M	AD	49	MBA
	DEPUTY	OMOTOSHO BABATUNDE	M	AD	58	DIPLOMA
5	GOVERNOR	SEGUN ADEWALE	M	ADP	53	MPA
	DEPUTY	OMOWUSI ANTHONIA ALABA	F	ADP	42	HND
6	GOVERNOR	ORUBULOYE DELE LUCAS	M	AGA	62	HND
	DEPUTY	OLONIYO MICHAEL AYOSELE	M	AGA	54	B.SC
7	GOVERNOR	ORIBAMISE STEPHEN OJO	M	AGAP	51	B.SC
	DEPUYT	OLUPOMILE OLUSHOLA OLAJIDE	M	AGAP	55	HND
8	GOVERNOR	AFE HENRY BABATUNDE	M	ANRP	48	B.SC
	DEPUTY	SANUSI KAZEEM OLANIPEKUN	M	ANRP	45	B.SC
9	GOVERNOR	SAHEED OLAWALE JIMOH	M	APA	44	B.SC
	DEPUTY	OGUNRIDE KOLADE IDOWU	M	APA	36	P.GD
10	GOVERNOR	JOHN OLUKAYODE FAYEMI	M	APC	53	PHD
	DEPUTY	EGBEYEMI ADEBISI ADEGBOYEGA	M	APC	74	LLBBL
11	GOVERNOR	TEMITOPE ADEBAYO	M	APDA	44	LLM LLB,BL
	DEPUTY	EJOYE OLANIKE ESTHER	F	APDA	50	B.ED
12	GOVERNOR	AYODEJI LAWRENCE AYODELE	M	APGA	62	M.SC
	DEPUTY	ADEREMI OLUSEGUN OLUWOLE	M	APGA	45	HND
13	GOVERNOR	ADEBOYE AJAYI	M	BNPP	53	NCE
	DEPUTY	ISEYEMI MODUPE	F	BNPP	44	HND
14	GOVERNOR	DAVID ADESUA AYODELE	M	DA	44	NABTEB
	DEPUTY	DADA SUNDAY LAWRENCE	M	DA	42	SSCE
15	GOVERNOR	OLARENWAJU OLALEKAN	M	DPC	41	SSCE
	DEPUTY	OKE VICTOR IGBELELEOLUWA	M	DPC	30	OND
16	GOVERNOR	AKERELE OLUYINKA GBENGA	M	DPP	54	BED
	DEPUTY	ADARAMOLA FOLAKE AFUSAT	F	DPP	60	NCE
17	GOVERNOR	SULE OLALEKAN GANIYU	M	FJP	53	BSC
	DEPUTY	OGUNTOYINBO KAYODE EBENEZER	M	FJP	54	OND
18	GOVERNOR	ADEWALE OLUSOLA AKINYELE	M	GNP	41	ADV.DIP
	DEPUTY	DHIKIRAT FUNMILOLA SALAMI	F	GNP	38	B.SC
19	GOVERNOR	AJIBADE EMMANUEL TOSIN	M	ID	35	SSCE
	DEPUTY	OLWOYO SIKIRU OLALEKAN	M	ID	35	B.AGRIC
20	GOVERNOR	AMUDA TEMITOPE KAZEEM	M	KOWA	35	SSCE
	DEPUTY	OLUWADARE AJEWOLE FAGBORO	M	KOWA	67	WAEC
21	GOVERNOR	LAWAL SIKIRU TAE	M	LP	59	PHD

	DEPUTY	OMOTOSHO BANJI VICTOR	M	LP	59	HND
22	GOVERNOR	JEGEDE OLABODE GREGORY	M	MMN	35	BSC
	DEPUTY	ESTHER IDOWU ADETULA	F	MMN	60	NCE
23	GOVERNOR	JEREMAIH ADEBISI OMOYENI	M	MPN	60	MBF
	DEPUTY	OLUWAFEMI AHMED ASHAOLU	M	MPN	58	HND
24	GOVERNOR	BABATUNDE OLADAPO ALEGBELEYE	M	NDLP	61	DIPLOMA
	DEPUTY	AROWOLO KAYODE WILLIAMS	M	NDLP	41	B.ENG
25	GOVERNOR	OLADOSU OLANIYAN	M	NPC	66	FSLC,GCE
	DEPUTY	OLUFEMI ADEDAYO ADESUYI	M	NPC	40	GCE
26	GOVERNOR	JEREMAIH ADEBISI OMOYENI	M	PANDEL	60	MBF
	DEPUTY	OLUFEMI FALUYI	M	PANDEL	69	HND
27	GOVERNOR	AYOYINKA OLUWASEUN DADA	M	PDC	41	B.SC
	DEPUTY	ADEUYA OLAYEMI OLAKUNLE	M	PDC	36	B.SC
28	GOVERNOR	OLUSOLA KOLAPO OLUBUNMI	M	PDP	49	PHD
	DEPUTY	OGUNSAKIN KAZEEM AYODEJI	M	PDP	39	B.SC
29	GOVERNOR	ANIMASHAUN GOKE	M	PPA	38	HND
	DEPUTY	ANIFOWOSE NURUDEEN	M	PPA	36	NCE
30	GOVERNOR	BEJIDE OLUWADARE PATRICK	M	PPN	58	LLB,BL,LLM
	DEPUTY	ADEKUNLE LUQMAN ADEYEMO	M	PPN	53	B.SC
31	GOVERNOR	AIYEGBUSI AKINLOYE OLADELE	M	SDP	43	B.SC
	DEPUTY	ADETAYO MARY YEMISI	F	SDP	51	MBA,ACNA
32	GOVERNOR	ADELEYE JOHN OLUSEGUN	M	UDP	56	BA. ED
	DEPUTY	AYODELE JOHNSON OLUROTIMI	M	UDP	54	HND
33	GOVERNOR	GBOYEGA OLUFEMI JACOB	M	UPN	49	DIPLOMA
	DEPUTY	MICHAEL VERONICA BOSE	F	UPN	48	NCE
34	GOVERNOR	FAKOREDE AYODEJI EBENEZER	M	YDP	37	BA
	DEPUTY	ADELOYE BAMIKOLE SEGUN	M	YDP	34	SSCE
35	GOVERNOR	OMOTAYO TEMITOPE GABRIEL	M	YDP	35	LLB,BL
	DEPUTY	DARAMOLA ESTHER BOSEDE	F	YDP	50	NCE

SOURCE: Inec, final list of candidates for Ekiti state governorship election 2018, 14th june,2018. www.inecnigeria.org

From the table, it is possible to draw the conclusion that all thirty-five (35) candidates are men, resulting in a male representation of 100% in the position of gubernatorial aspirant, while the percentage of female representation in that post ranks at 0%. In addition, it was obvious that only 10 women were chosen to compete for the position of constable, while twenty-five men were selected for the position. One may have noticed a decline in the number of women running for office in the 2018 election in the state of Ekiti. On the other hand, a male representative was proclaimed the winner in 12 out of all sixteen local government areas during the elections that took place on July 14, 2018, in the state of Ekiti. This included both the office of governor and the deputy governor.

FACTORS THAT RESTRAIN WOMENS PARTICIPATION IN POLITICS IN EKITI STATE

Here are the factors that restrain the political participation of women in Ekiti:

- (i) Political requirements: -politics requires a lot of meetings and travelling that consumes time and a responsible wife is expected to be home on time to take care of their family and this is so due to the patriarchal nature of Nigerian society that dictates conducts along gendered lines. Furthermore, the concurrence of political violence and act of thuggery in the political settings restrain women participation.
- (ii) Adequate provision of fund: - financial requirements which include registration fees, nomination fees, financing election

campaigns, party welfarism, and discrimination and as well incentives for delegates and party members, among other constitute the political positions were most women cannot fit in. Also monetization of political office were voters are expected to be given money during elections as they are not sure the elected will keep promises afterwards and thus they vote for the highest bidder. Then, the economic magnetization of women is one of the colonial legacy where their economic dis-empowerment stems from the denial of property rights, job opportunities offered on the basis of sex, and sexual division of labour. All these give men an edge over women which have also given room for women not to meet-up to their male counterparts financially (Ilori, 2019).

- (iii) Socio-cultural religious structure of the state: - there are indigenous systems that portray women as subordinate to men. Leadership role are assign to men. Childcare and housework place women at disadvantage. Women political rights are not recognized in most cultures in Nigeria talk of Ekiti that is more homogeneous in nature. A woman is believed to seek for husband's approval before taking up any political positions because any women's right is believed to be subsumed in her husband so far the bride price has been paid which gives a man control over his wife. Moreover, there are three major religions in the state (Christianity, Islam and traditional religion), they all preach the submissiveness of female to male, therefore women candidates are often subjected to gender related electoral violence, threat and hate speech because of the perception that women wants to get what is traditionally mens'. Some cultures in Nigeria and the state forbid or is a taboo that women should occupy positions as they believed that they cannot lead men, thus politics are regarded as male arena.
- (iv) Gender-related psychological factors:- this have influenced a lot of women decision whether or not to run because historically political life is organized according to males norms and values or male lifestyles. Women are not encouraged to think about politics but rather play the role in campaigning and mobilizing, support or wish to apply for positions only if they meet every qualification or through sexual assault, due to male dominated model.
- (v) Sexual violence and intimidation factors: - according to the united nation (2015) and afro-barometer survey showed that women fell "a sense of vulnerability to political intimidation and violence." Reason been that un many African states, politics is marred by violence perception, intimidation and torture regardless of your personality or political affiliation. While both genders are victims of this, it presents major barriers to women's engagement and political participation. Ekiti women actively refer to be more engage in other civic or public life than in politics, they strive to assert an influential role in determining the course of the state. Often the aftermath effects of the consequences of sexual abuse or intimidation faced by women and girls during conflicts are ignored and under-reported, especially when it comes to political participation and governance by women. Notable ideologies of African political party is that, they only think of how they can expand power and win elections, anything that doesn't give these is seen as impractical and this reflect the reality in Ekiti.
- (vi) Election violence and gender based hate speech: - election violence is coercive and calculated strategy us by political

gladiators to advance their interests or achieve specific political goals. They make use of militant, youth wings, militias or the state security force and thugs to either win the election or strengthen their post-election bargaining position. Violence against women has always been use as a target and a destructive tool in various ways throughout the electoral circle to dissuade women for participating as election administrators, voters and candidate (Para-mallam 2015). Moreso, the gender-based hate speech with the minacious intent of deterring women from presenting themselves as candidate and social stigma that politics is a dirty game creates an atmosphere that makes women to have a negative attitude towards political activities and these problems have been identified as a stumbling block to robust participation of women in political process and in governance. Just an instance of elected female deputy governors in Ekiti but this has been nothing but mere nominal.

However, investing in women's right to political participation is a necessary step to achieving global gender equality and democratic governance. In some cases, particularly in fragile contexts women may face intimidation or threat in running for office this primarily due to the fact that men or local custom and authorities may feel that this threatens the traditional hierarchy or patriarchal order.

CONCLUSION

As a result, women's low political representation is often used as a measure of gender inequality. Women's representation and leadership in Ekiti tend to be restricted to sectors that are traditionally "feminine" such as social welfare, institutional, socio-economic and cultural hurdles impede women's effective involvement in democratic elections. If a potential candidate is a single breadwinner who cannot give up her income to run in an election, that is a major barrier that is unlikely to be overcome by changes to training programmes; therefore, political accountability to women begins with increasing the number of women in decision-making positions in the state, but it cannot stop there. Gender-sensitive governance changes are needed to make all elected officials more successful at promoting and guaranteeing gender equality in public policy for both young and elderly. Hence, gender equality is a human right and equal political chance for women, implying that women should have the same standing as men in order to expand their human rights and have a substantial effect on the state. The government should work with political parties to make them an institutional mechanism for increasing women's engagement in politics inside party structures and during election seasons.

Gender inequality is not merely a feminist problem; it is essential for achieving long-term progress and a peaceful, healthy planet. If women are to be involved in the state's governing process, men must regard gender balance as an issue that must be addressed by creating an environment that tells women in Nigeria that they are not inferior to our men. As moms, teachers, entrepreneurs, community volunteers, and leaders, women have informal gender roles of influence, acceptability, innovation, and quality within the community. Women often have a quiet leadership ability that may be harassed and institutionalised in order to provide women political and formal decision-making authority.

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