

## REVIEWER'S REPORT

Manuscript No.: IJAR-51894

Date: 28-05-2025

**Title: Local Government Autonomy: A Way of Discouraging Political Apathy among the Electorates in Nigeria.**

### Recommendation:

**Accept as it is.....YES.....**

Accept after minor revision.....

Accept after major revision .....

Do not accept (*Reasons below*) .....

Rating	Excel.	Good	Fair	Poor
Originality		√		
Techn. Quality			√	
Clarity		√		
Significance		√		

**Reviewer's Name:** Dr Abdul Hameed Shah

**Reviewer's Decision about Paper:**      **Recommended for Publication.**

**Comments** (*Use additional pages, if required*)

### **Reviewer's Comment / Report**

#### **Abstract Review:**

The abstract effectively captures the core focus of the study—exploring how local government autonomy can address voter apathy in Nigeria. It clearly outlines the background context of declining voter turnout despite increasing voter registration. The explanation of systemic challenges limiting local government autonomy, such as financial dependence and state interference, is well presented. The research methodology involving qualitative analysis of secondary data and thematic analysis is suitably described. Key findings emphasize the positive impact of empowered local governments on electoral participation and trust, while also noting persistent obstacles like corruption and voter suppression. The abstract concludes by highlighting practical recommendations and the study's contribution to democratic governance discourse.

#### **Introduction Review:**

The introduction establishes the importance of local government autonomy in fostering democratic engagement by bringing governance closer to citizens. It succinctly highlights the benefits of decentralization, such as enhanced accountability and tailored public services. The discussion of systemic barriers including state dominance and manipulation of local councils sets a critical context for the study. References to relevant literature (Amah, 2018; Page and Wando, 2022) strengthen the argument and

# International Journal of Advanced Research

Publisher's Name: Jana Publication and Research LLP

*www.journalijar.com*

---

## REVIEWER'S REPORT

situate the study within ongoing scholarly conversations about governance and political disengagement in Nigeria. The narrative clearly links local governance issues to broader patterns of voter apathy.

### **Content Clarity and Organization:**

The manuscript is well-structured and logically presented. The flow from the problem statement to the theoretical and practical importance of local government autonomy is coherent. Terminology is precise, and key concepts such as decentralization, voter apathy, and grassroots democracy are clearly defined. The writing is accessible while maintaining academic rigor.

### **Theoretical and Practical Relevance:**

The study contributes important insights into the link between local government autonomy and political participation, a vital area for strengthening democratic processes in Nigeria. By addressing both structural challenges and policy implications, it offers a comprehensive understanding of how decentralization can be leveraged to reduce political disengagement. The inclusion of actionable recommendations enhances its value for policymakers and scholars.

### **Overall Impression:**

This research presents a well-grounded and timely analysis of local government autonomy as a mechanism to combat voter apathy in Nigeria. The abstract and introduction effectively set the stage for an in-depth exploration of governance challenges and their electoral consequences. The study is positioned to add meaningfully to literature on decentralization, democratic participation, and electoral reforms in developing contexts.