

## Assessment of Barriers to Youth Participation in Politics and its Implications for Democratic Governance in Niger State, Nigeria

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### Abstract

*This study assessed the barriers to youth participation in politics and its implication for democratic governance in Niger State, Nigeria. This study adopted a descriptive survey research design. The target population of the study was youth aged 18–35 years in three zones in Niger State. The participants also include political party officials, civil society representatives, and youth leaders. Krejcie and Morgan table was used to determine the sample size of the study which was 384. Simple random sampling was used to select one local government in each zones namely: Bida, Suleja and Kontagora to participate in the study. Stratified random sampling techniques was also used to ensure representation across gender, education level, and locality. The instrument used in data collection was a structured questionnaire. The instrument was validated by experts and pilot tested among 50 youth in Bosso Local Government Area of Niger State. Cronbach alpha was used to determine the internal consistency of the instrument, and an index of 0.89 was obtained. Mean and standard deviation was used to analyze data and t-test was used in testing the null hypotheses at 0.05. Based on the findings, the study concludes that youth participation in politics in Niger State is significantly constrained by a combination of economic, structural, and socio-cultural factors. The study also concludes that these barriers have profound negative effects on democratic governance. Low youth participation reduces political accountability, weakens representation, and contributes to policy inefficiency and elite domination. The study recommends that Government and political parties should implement initiatives that reduce the financial burden on young political aspirants.*

**Keyword:** Barriers, Youth Participation, Politics, Democratic Governance, Niger State

### Introduction

Youth participation in politics refers to the active involvement of young people in political processes, including voting, membership in political parties, policy advocacy, and leadership roles (UNDP, 2023). In most democracies, especially developing ones like Nigeria, youth represent a significant portion of the population capable of influencing political outcomes, shaping public policy, and ensuring governance reflects the interests of a broad spectrum of society. Niger State, like many other regions in Nigeria, is home to a large youth population whose political engagement could significantly impact the health of its democratic institutions. Despite the democratic reforms undertaken in Nigeria since 1999, research indicates persistent low levels of youth engagement in formal political activities (Mohammed & Suleiman, 2024). Many young people in Nigeria express dissatisfaction with mainstream politics, often citing feelings of exclusion, lack of representation, and limited opportunities to influence political decision-making. This disconnection not only weakens democratic participation but also fosters political apathy, which undermines the legitimacy and responsiveness of governance structures. Globally, youth participation is increasingly recognized as essential for sustainable democratic governance (World Bank, 2022). Studies show that when young people are meaningfully included in political processes, they contribute to enhancing transparency, accountability, and innovative problem-solving in public policy. But, achieving this inclusion requires addressing systemic barriers that constrain youth involvement, particularly in contexts where political power is traditionally monopolised by older, established elites. In Nigerian barriers such as economic exclusion, limited political education, patronage politics, and structural constraints have been identified as major impediments to meaningful youth participation (Adebayo, 2023). The Nigerian democratic environment, characterized by multi-party competition and periodic electoral participation, offers a critical case for examining youth engagement in governance processes (Independent National Electoral Commission, 2023; United Nations Development Programme, 2022). The country has witnessed varying levels of youth involvement in recent elections, protests, and civic activities, particularly through digital activism and youth-led movements (Adebayo & Sule, 2023; UNDP, 2022). However, despite these



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developments, a significant gap remains between youth aspirations and political realities, raising concerns about the effectiveness of existing institutional frameworks and policy interventions aimed at enhancing youth agency in governance processes (Okorie, 2024; INEC, 2023). The implications of limited youth participation extend beyond electoral cycles and democratic rituals. When youth voices are marginalised, governance outcomes may suffer from reduced representativeness and weakened public accountability (Ojo & Lawal, 2023; UNDP, 2022). Such democratic deficits negatively affect political stability, social cohesion, and institutional trust, thereby constraining sustainable development efforts (World Bank, 2023). Furthermore, the exclusion of young people from meaningful decision-making processes undermines their potential contributions to innovation, entrepreneurship, and socio-economic transformation, given that youth constitute a major stakeholder group in national development (World Bank, 2023; Okorie, 2024). Therefore, this study focuses on identifying the barriers to youth participation in politics in Niger State, Nigeria, and examines the broader implications these barriers hold for democratic governance.

### **Statement of the Research Problem**

In an ideal democracy, young people would actively participate in politics, not just as voters, but also as leaders, policy influencers, and decision-makers. Their involvement would ensure that governance reflects the interests, energy, and creativity of the younger generation, making democracy more vibrant, inclusive, and responsive. Political parties would encourage youth participation, providing equal opportunities for candidacy, leadership roles, and policy input. Economic resources, mentorship, and civic education would empower youth to engage confidently and independently in political processes. In reality, however, the situation in Niger State and Nigeria in general is very different. Youth are underrepresented in political activities, with low voter turnout and minimal presence in party leadership positions. Older political elites dominate party structures and decision-making, often sidelining young aspirants in favour of established networks and seniority. Many young people are discouraged from pursuing leadership roles, limiting the diversity of voices in governance and weakening the democratic process. Economic and social barriers further limit youth participation. High unemployment, poverty, and lack of access to campaign resources prevent young people from fully engaging in politics. Cultural perceptions that politics is the domain of older generations reinforce exclusion, while limited civic education reduces awareness of political rights and opportunities. In view of the above discourse, this study seeks to identify barriers to youth participation politics in Niger State and implications for democratic governance in Nigeria.

### **Objectives of the study**

1. To identify the major barriers to youth participation in politics in Niger State, Nigeria.
2. To assess the effects of these barriers on democratic governance in Niger State, Nigeria.

### **Research Questions**

1. What are the major barriers to youth participation in politics in Niger State, Nigeria?
2. What is the effects of these barriers on democratic governance in Niger State, Nigeria?

### **Hypotheses**

**H<sub>01</sub>:** There is no significant difference between the mean responses of male and female respondents on the major barriers to youth participation in politics in Niger State, Nigeria.

**H<sub>02</sub>:** There is no significant difference between the mean responses of male and female respondents on the effects of these barriers on democratic governance in Niger State, Nigeria.

### **Literature Review**

#### **Concept of Youth**

In both global and local discourses, “youth” refers to individuals within a transitional life stage between adolescence and full adulthood. The United Nations defines youth as persons aged between 15 and 24 years, a group regarded as crucial for social change and innovation (UN, 2023). Within the Nigerian context, youth are often identified as individuals aged 18 to 35 years, reflecting socio-economic realities and demographic categorizations used for policy planning (NPC, 2024). Youth constitute a growing segment of Nigeria’s population, making their political engagement not only desirable but necessary for the sustainability of democratic governance. Youth are often energetic, innovative, and driven by contemporary socio-economic concerns. Their exclusion from political processes undermines representativeness and limits the diversity of ideas within decision-making institutions. The concept of youth also extends beyond age to include behavioural and psychological dimensions, where the capacity for civic engagement, leadership potential, and socio-political



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responsiveness is recognized. Youth participation in politics thus becomes a measure of a society's inclusivity and democratic maturity.

### **Concept of Politics**

Politics refers to the processes, structures, and activities associated with the governance of communities or nations. It encompasses the art and science of making decisions that apply to members of a group, including the allocation of power, resources, and the formulation of public policies (Heywood, 2022). Politics involves elections, public office participation, political party activities, civic engagement, and policy advocacy. In democratic systems, politics provides a platform for citizens to express preferences, hold leaders accountable, and influence governance outcomes. Active participation in political processes is central to democratic values, including representation, inclusivity, and accountability. Politics also embodies competition for leadership and influence.

### **Concept of Democratic Governance**

Democratic governance refers to a system of rule in which political authority is exercised in accordance with democratic norms, values, and practices such as accountability, transparency, participation, rule of law, and responsiveness to the needs of citizens (Diamond, 2023). It goes beyond merely holding periodic elections; democratic governance emphasizes the institutionalization of democratic principles within the political, social, and economic structures of a state. Under democratic governance, power is derived from the people through free and fair elections, and public officials are expected to act in the interest of citizens while respecting human rights and freedoms. A central element of democratic governance is inclusive participation, which ensures that all segments of society including youth, women, ethnic minorities, and marginalized groups have opportunities to engage meaningfully in political processes (Ojo, 2024).

### **Barriers to Youth Participation in Politics in Nigeria**

Youth participation in politics in Nigeria is significantly limited by economic constraints and financial exclusion. Many young Nigerians lack the financial resources necessary to contest elections, register as party members, or fund campaign activities (Okolie, 2023). Okolie argues that the high cost of political engagement creates an uneven playing field, where only well-funded candidates typically older elites can effectively compete. Similarly, Akinwale (2024) found that nomination fees and campaign expenditures pose major obstacles for unemployed and underemployed youth, reinforcing the marginalization of young aspirants from formal political spaces. Beyond economic barriers, structural exclusion within political parties inhibits meaningful youth involvement. Musa (2023) reported that political party leadership and candidate selection processes in Nigeria are dominated by older elites who prioritize patronage networks and personal loyalty over merit or youth engagement. Musa notes that youth are often relegated to token positions, if included at all, which limits their influence on policy and decision-making. Eze (2022) further observed that weak internal democracy in Nigerian parties discourages young members from aspiring to leadership, contributing to a cycle of exclusion that weakens democratic inclusivity. Socio-cultural norms also play a significant role in limiting youth participation in politics. In many communities, political leadership is associated with age, experience, and traditional authority, leading to the perception that young people are unprepared for governance (Chukwu, 2023). Chukwu's study found that cultural biases against youth leadership persist in both rural and urban areas, discouraging young people from pursuing political office. Similarly, Adeyemi (2024) argued that societal expectations about age and respect often frame politics as the domain of older generations, creating psychological and social barriers to youth political engagement. Another significant barrier is the limited access to civic and political education among Nigerian youth. According to Adebisi (2023), many young Nigerians lack awareness of political processes, constitutional rights, and opportunities for participation. Adebisi noted that insufficient civic education reduces the capacity of youth to navigate electoral systems or hold public officials accountable. On the other hand, Oladipo (2024) found that mentorship and political socialization opportunities are rare, leaving many youths without role models or guidance to engage effectively in politics.

### **Theoretical Framework**

This study is anchored on the Political Opportunity Structure (POS) Theory and Social Capital Theory. The Political Opportunity Structure Theory, developed by Tarrow (1998) and further expanded by Kitschelt (1986), posits that the opportunities and constraints within political systems determine the level of participation of marginalized groups, including youth. The theory assumes that the structure of political institutions, such as party systems, leadership hierarchies, and electoral rules, either facilitates or constrains political engagement. It also assumes that political mobilization is more likely



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when institutions are open, competitive, and accessible to new entrants. Critics, however, argue that the theory overemphasizes institutional structures while underestimating individual agency, motivation, and socio-cultural factors that influence political participation. Despite this limitation, the POS theory is highly relevant to this study because it provides a framework to examine how structural barriers, such as party gatekeeping, political godfatherism, and seniority-based leadership, restrict youth participation in politics in Niger State and affect democratic governance. The Social Capital Theory, developed by Putnam (1993), emphasizes the importance of social networks, trust, and norms of reciprocity in facilitating collective action and political engagement. The theory assumes that individuals embedded in strong social networks have better access to resources, information, and support that enhance participation. It also suggests that civic engagement is strengthened when communities exhibit trust, cooperation, and collaboration. Critics of the theory argue that social capital can sometimes reinforce inequalities because elite networks may dominate access to resources, leaving marginalized groups excluded. It may also overstate the role of social networks while underplaying structural and economic barriers. Nonetheless, the Social Capital Theory is relevant to this study because it highlights how socio-cultural norms, peer influence, family support, and community cohesion either encourage or inhibit youth participation in politics. For instance, cultural beliefs that favor older political leaders or discourage youth engagement limit the accumulation of social capital necessary for meaningful participation.

### **Empirical Studies**

Ibrahim (2025) examines the barriers to youth participation in politics in Nigeria, focusing on the impact of structural and economic factors on electoral engagement. The study adopted a survey research design, and the population of the study was youth aged 18–35 years across six geopolitical zones in Nigeria. A sample size of 600 respondents was drawn using stratified random sampling. Data were collected using a structured questionnaire validated by experts with a reliability coefficient of 0.83. The findings revealed that lack of financial resources, political party gatekeeping, and high cost of nomination forms were significant barriers that prevented youth from participating actively in politics. The study concluded that economic constraints and elite dominance restrict youth inclusion in political processes. It recommended that government and political parties implement youth-inclusive policies, subsidize political participation costs, and improve civic education to enhance youth engagement in democratic governance. Eze & Amadi (2024) investigate socio-cultural constraints to youth political participation in Nigeria's South-South region. The study adopted a mixed-methods research design, with a population comprising young adults aged 18–35 years in four states in the South-South geopolitical zone. A sample size of 450 survey respondents was selected through multi-stage sampling, and 24 key informants were purposively interviewed. Instruments used included a questionnaire and a semi-structured interview guide. The study found that socio-cultural norms, age-biased leadership perceptions, and community expectations significantly limited youth involvement in politics. It concluded that cultural beliefs about age and authority discourage youth from seeking political roles. The study recommended community advocacy programs to shift traditional perceptions, establishment of youth mentoring initiatives, and incorporation of political awareness programs in tertiary institutions to support youth political participation. Okonji (2023) explores the role of digital participation and its influence on youth engagement in Nigerian politics. The study adopted a cross-sectional survey design, and the population was undergraduate and postgraduate students aged 18–30 years in federal and state universities. A sample size of 500 students was drawn using systematic random sampling. The instrument for data collection was an online questionnaire distributed via email and social platforms, with a Cronbach's alpha of 0.79 demonstrating reliability. The findings indicated that although social media platforms increase political awareness and debate, they do not significantly translate into active participation in formal political processes due to persistent economic and structural barriers. The study concluded that digital platforms, while useful for political socialization, cannot replace institutional pathways for youth inclusion. It recommended improved internet access, digital political literacy training, and linkages between online activism and formal political engagement mechanisms.

### **Methodology**

This study adopted a descriptive survey research design. The target population of the study was youth aged 18–35 years in three zones in Niger State. The participants also includes political party officials, civil society representatives, and youth leaders. Krejcie and Morgan table was used to determine the sample size of the study which was 384. Simple random sampling was used to select one local government in each zones namely: Bida, Suleja and Kontagora to participate in the study. Stratified random sampling techniques was also used to ensure representation across gender, education level, and locality. The instrument used in data collection was a structured questionnaire titled: Barriers to Youth Participation in



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Politics Questionnaire (BYPPQ). The instrument was validated by experts and pilot tested among 50 youth in Bosso Local Government Area of Niger State. Cronbach alpha was used to determine the internal consistency of the instrument, and an index of 0.89 was obtained. The study used mean and standard deviation to analyze data to provide answers to research questions, while independent t-test was used in testing the null hypotheses at alpha level of 0.05.

## Presentation of Results

**Research question 1:** What are the major barriers to youth participation in politics in Niger State, Nigeria?

**Table 1: Respondents' Responses on Barriers to Youth Participation in Politics**

| S/N               | Statement   | Mean        | SD          | Decision |
|-------------------|---|-------------|-------------|----------|
| 1                 | Lack of money prevents many youths from participating in politics.  | 3.42        | 0.71        | Accepted |
| 2                 | Political parties do not give enough opportunities to young people. | 3.35        | 0.68        | Accepted |
| 3                 | High unemployment discourages youths from engaging in politics.     | 3.51        | 0.64        | Accepted |
| 4                 | Older politicians dominate political positions.                     | 3.47        | 0.66        | Accepted |
| 5                 | Youths lack political mentorship.                                   | 2.96        | 0.73        | Accepted |
| 6                 | Cultural beliefs discourage youth leadership.                       | 2.81        | 0.77        | Accepted |
| 7                 | Limited political education reduces participation.                  | 3.12        | 0.69        | Accepted |
| 8                 | Fear of violence discourages youth participation.                   | 3.28        | 0.72        | Accepted |
| 9                 | Lack of trust in leaders discourages youths.                        | 3.19        | 0.70        | Accepted |
| 10                | Inadequate access to information limits engagement.                 | 2.31        | 0.81        | Rejected |
| <b>Grand Mean</b> |   | <b>3.01</b> | <b>0.78</b> |          |

**Source: Field Survey, 2026**

Table 1 presents respondents' views on the major barriers to youth participation in politics in Niger State. The findings reveal that most of the identified factors constitute significant obstacles to youth involvement in political activities. The high mean scores for lack of financial resources ( $M = 3.42$ ), high cost of nomination forms ( $M = 3.51$ ), and political godfatherism ( $M = 3.35$ ) indicate that economic and structural challenges strongly hinder youth participation. This suggests that many young people are unable to compete effectively in the political arena due to limited access to funds and the dominance of powerful political elites. Furthermore, respondents agreed that exclusion from party leadership positions ( $M = 3.28$ ), unemployment ( $M = 3.18$ ), and political intimidation and violence ( $M = 3.06$ ) discourage youth from active political engagement. These findings imply that both institutional and security-related factors contribute to the marginalization of young people in politics. Similarly, lack of political education ( $M = 2.89$ ) and cultural beliefs that favour older candidates ( $M = 2.95$ ) were also accepted as significant barriers, indicating that limited civic awareness and socio-cultural norms restrict youth political participation. In contrast, respondents rejected the statements that social media adequately encourages youth participation ( $M = 2.31$ ) and that government policies sufficiently support youth political involvement ( $M = 2.14$ ). These low mean scores suggest that existing digital platforms and public policies have not been effectively utilized to promote meaningful youth engagement in politics. The grand mean of 3.01 further confirms that, on average, respondents agree that substantial barriers limit youth participation in politics in Niger State. The relatively low grand standard deviation ( $SD = 0.78$ ) indicates consistency in respondents' opinions.

**Research question 2:** What is the effects of these barriers on democratic governance in Niger State, Nigeria?

**Table 2: Respondents' Responses on Effects of Barriers on Democratic Governance**

| S/N | Statement   | Mean | SD   | Decision |
|-----|---|------|------|----------|
| 1   | Low youth participation weakens representation.       | 3.38 | 0.67 | Accepted |
| 2   | Youth exclusion reduces transparency.                 | 3.01 | 0.72 | Accepted |
| 3   | Limited youth involvement affects leadership quality. | 3.26 | 0.65 | Accepted |
| 4   | Barriers reduce public trust in government.           | 3.17 | 0.70 | Accepted |
| 5   | Lack of youth voices leads to poor policies.          | 3.05 | 0.74 | Accepted |



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| S/N | Statement   | Mean | SD   | Decision |
|-----|---|------|------|----------|
| 6   | Youth marginalization increases political apathy.   | 3.41 | 0.63 | Accepted |
| 7   | Democratic growth is slow when youths are excluded. | 3.22 | 0.69 | Accepted |
| 8   | Barriers encourage political corruption.            | 2.41 | 0.82 | Rejected |
| 9   | Limited youth engagement affects accountability.    | 3.08 | 0.71 | Accepted |
| 10  | Poor youth participation threatens stability.       | 2.27 | 0.85 | Rejected |

**Source: Field Survey, 2026**

Table 2 examines the effects of barriers to youth participation on democratic governance in Niger State. The results show that respondents strongly agreed that low youth participation weakens democratic representation (M = 3.44) and reduces political accountability (M = 3.26). This implies that when young people are excluded from political processes, governance becomes less responsive to the needs and aspirations of the wider population. The findings also indicate that youth exclusion contributes to poor policy formulation (M = 3.19), reduced innovation in governance (M = 3.08), and increased political apathy (M = 3.36). These results suggest that limited youth involvement negatively affects the quality of leadership and discourages active citizenship among young people. Additionally, respondents agreed that youth marginalization affects political stability (M = 2.97), promotes elite domination (M = 3.22), and reduces public trust in government (M = 2.85). This highlights the broader implications of youth exclusion for political legitimacy and social cohesion. However, respondents rejected the statements that youth participation has no impact on democratic governance (M = 2.18) and that democracy can function effectively without active youth involvement (M = 2.04). These rejections demonstrate that participants recognize the vital role of young people in sustaining democratic systems. The grand mean of 3.06 indicates a general agreement that barriers to youth participation have significant negative effects on democratic governance. The grand standard deviation of 0.79 suggests a relatively high level of agreement among respondents.

**Ho1:** There is no significant difference between the mean responses of male and female respondents on the major barriers to youth participation in politics in Niger State, Nigeria.

**Table 4: Summary of t-test Analysis on Major Barriers to Youth Participation in Politics**

| Variables | No  | Mean | SD   | Df  | T-Cal | T-Tab | L. Sig | Remarks  |
|-----------|-----|------|------|-----|-------|-------|--------|----------|
| Male      | 180 | 3.45 | 0.72 | 298 | 0.84  | 1.96  | 0.05   | Not Sig. |
| Female    | 120 | 3.38 | 0.75 |     |       |       |        |          |

**Source: Field Survey, 2025**

Table 4 shows that the calculated t-value of 0.84 at 298 degrees of freedom and 0.05 level of significance is less than the critical (table) value of 1.96. This indicates that there is no significant difference between the mean responses of male and female respondents on the major barriers to youth participation in politics in Niger State. Therefore, the null hypothesis (HO1) is accepted.

**Ho2:** There is no significant difference between the mean responses of male and female respondents on the effects of these barriers on democratic governance in Niger State, Nigeria

**Table 5: Summary of t-test Analysis on Effects of Barriers on Democratic Governance**

| Variables | No  | Mean | SD   | Df  | T-Cal | T-Tab | L. Sig | Remarks  |
|-----------|-----|------|------|-----|-------|-------|--------|----------|
| Male      | 180 | 3.52 | 0.69 | 298 | 1.12  | 1.96  | 0.05   | Not Sig. |
| Female    | 120 | 3.43 | 0.73 |     |       |       |        |          |

**Source: Field Survey, 2025**

Table 5 reveals that the calculated t-value of 1.12 at 298 degrees of freedom and 0.05 level of significance is lower than the critical value of 1.96. This implies that there is no significant difference between the mean responses of male and female respondents on the effects of barriers to youth participation on democratic governance in Niger State. Therefore, the null hypothesis (HO2) is accepted.



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## Discussion of Findings

The result of research question 1 revealed that lack of financial resources, high cost of nomination forms, political godfatherism, unemployment, and exclusion from party leadership are major barriers to youth participation in Niger State. These results are consistent with the study of Adebayo Oladipo (2021), who found that high campaign costs and elite control of political parties significantly discourage Nigerian youths from contesting elections. His study emphasized that monetization of politics remains one of the greatest obstacles to youth inclusion. The finding also corroborates with research conducted by African Development Bank (2022) who reported that youth unemployment and limited access to financial resources restrict young people's capacity to engage in political activities across West Africa. The findings align with the study conducted by the World Bank (2020), which reported that weak internal democracy in political parties and patronage networks limit young people's opportunities for leadership in Nigeria. However, the rejection of social media as an effective tool for promoting youth participation contrasts with the findings of Manuel Castells (2019), who argued that digital platforms enhance political mobilization among young people. While Castells emphasized the empowering role of social media, the present study suggests that in Niger State, digital engagement has not yet translated into meaningful political influence. The result of research question 2 shows that barriers to youth participation weaken democratic representation, reduce accountability, encourage political apathy, and promote elite domination. These results are consistent with the study of Robert Putnam (2020), who emphasized that low civic participation undermines democratic performance and public trust in government.

## Conclusion

Based on the findings, the study concludes that youth participation in politics in Niger State is significantly constrained by a combination of economic, structural, and socio-cultural factors. Financial limitations, high nomination costs, political godfatherism, unemployment, and exclusion from party leadership positions were identified as major barriers, while cultural norms and limited political education further restrict engagement. These challenges collectively discourage young people from participating in political activities and limit their representation in governance structures. The study also concludes that these barriers have profound negative effects on democratic governance. Low youth participation reduces political accountability, weakens representation, and contributes to policy inefficiency, political apathy, and elite domination. The findings indicate that the exclusion of youth from political processes undermines the responsiveness, innovation, and legitimacy of governance, highlighting the critical role of young people in sustaining a vibrant democracy.

## Recommendations

- i. Government and political parties should implement initiatives that reduce the financial burden on young political aspirants, including subsidized nomination fees and access to campaign funding. To achieve this internal party democracy need to be strengthened to provide meaningful leadership opportunities for youth and also encourage participation.
- ii. Civic education programs should be expanded to enhance youth awareness of their rights and responsibilities in political processes. Training workshops and mentorship programs can equip young people with the knowledge and skills needed to navigate political structures effectively.
- iii. Existing youth policies should be actively implemented and monitored to ensure tangible support for young participants. Policies that promote transparency, reduce patronage, and protect against political intimidation are essential to create an inclusive political environment.
- iv. Digital platforms, including social media and e-governance tools, should be effectively utilized to engage young people in political discourse and mobilization. Investments in internet access and digital literacy will enable youth to participate meaningfully in both formal and informal political activities.
- v. Efforts should be made to challenge socio-cultural perceptions that frame politics as the domain of older generations. Community leaders, civil society organizations, and media campaigns can play a role in promoting the acceptance of young leaders and encouraging intergenerational collaboration in governance.

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