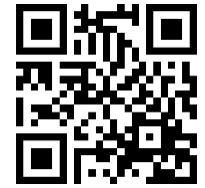


## **The Impact of Unemployment on Voter Turnout; a Case Study of Asokwa Constituency**



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**ABSTRACT:** Voter turnout and unemployment are major concerns in the world. The research studied how unemployment impacts voter turnout by engaging the people of some selected areas of the Asokwa constituency in the Ashanti Region of Ghana. In this study, the voting patterns of electorates were examined, with the topic of unemployment receiving the greatest attention. The Asokwa constituency in Ghana's Ashanti Region was the focus of the research, which examined how unemployment affects voting behavior. With 150 people as the sample, questionnaires and oral interviews were used in the data collection process to gather the necessary data for the study. The results showed that ethnicity plays a role in voting turnout, albeit its impact is less pronounced than that of unemployment. However, it does affect voting participation to a lesser extent than unemployment. The outcomes were shown graphically to explain the data. In order to combat voter indifference, recommendations and conclusions were made to advise that voters should pay greater attention to the other components of the possible government's manifesto. Additionally, the administration was asked to do its best to keep the promises it made throughout the campaign. Finally, the electorate were urged to actively participate in political activities in order to enhance the nation's excellent governance.

**KEYWORDS:** Elections, unemployment, political-party, turnout.

### **1. INTRODUCTION**

According Huber et al. (1993), democracy is a form of government that has several essential components, including frequent free and fair elections, universal adult suffrage, and strong protections for the right to free speech and association. Every adult who is eligible to vote under the constitution in a representative democracy like Ghana has the right and opportunity to cast a ballot in both local and national elections, and they value this act as a fundamental civic duty. "National elections are potent emblems of a nation-state's democratic legitimacy."

Democratic elections are competitive, recurring, and inclusive, allowing citizens to freely express their opinions about the government, publish those opinions, and propose alternatives. Elections provide a means for citizens to select representatives who would advance their interests. Ghana, the study's focus country, has received praise from academics, the international community, and political leaders alike for the way in which democracy appears to be consolidating and is paving the path for peaceful, free, and fair elections. Ghana was the first country in sub-Saharan Africa to gain independence on March 6, 1957. It has worked hard to keep its democracy, and in 2016, under the Fourth Republic, it held its seventh multi-party election.

Despite the foregoing, voter turnout has been steadily declining in various democracies since the 1980s, which has been a source of concern and debate among political scientists for many years. At the same time, other types of voluntary involvement and general civic participation have decreased. According to the international IDEA voter turnout database, Ghana has similarly seen a progressive decline in voter turnout since 2004, when 85.12 percent of eligible voters turned out for the presidential election, to a more recent reduction of 68.62 percent in 2016. Voter turnout has been low, indicating a decline in public participation, which may jeopardize the legitimacy of the administration. The most self-aware analyses of political performance have a tendency to rely on a small set of standards, arguing here for a more comprehensive typology of political goods (Almond & Powell, 1982).

Even if the percentage of the population that votes differs from one country to the next, voting is still the most common and fundamental way to measure political engagement. In OECD countries, general elections are typically attended by 70% of the eligible population, but protests and strikes are frequently carried out by a small minority. A high voter turnout is typically preferred, so this steady decline is a big global concern. Political scientists Bonica et al.(2013) claim that there is general agreement that democracies function better when more people vote. Voter turnout varies greatly between different countries. In comparison to most other regions, it tends to be lower in the United States, Asia, and Latin America. A high voting turnout indicates that a specific regime or government has the support of the populace. Additionally, it gives the government credibility and serves as a signal to the

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populace that the administration is legitimate and has the support of the populace. In high-profile elections, dictators frequently inflate voter turnout. For instance, Saddam Hussein's 2002 referendum was purported to have 100% participation. To summarize, is a 90% turnout preferable to a 70% turnout? Or does a voter turnout of 50% mean that democracy is doomed? There is ongoing debate about these issues and there is no conclusive solution. However, a low voter turnout rate is problematic since it may suggest unequal representation among particular groups, and the outcomes may not accurately reflect public opinion. Voters' disinterest is one acknowledged factor contributing to low voting turnout rates. This is the electorate's perception of apathy or disinterest as a result of specific events or situations, such as when they feel that the government is not meeting their demands. This sometimes results in a low voter turnout rate because voters become discouraged and sometimes even lose faith in the government as a result. Employment is seen as one of the essential components of a happy existence and provides one with a purpose and a way to contribute to society. According to Norden Mare, long-term unemployment can cause sadness, grievances, marital conflict, and even suicide. Additionally, it is crucial for preserving collective identity and cultural well-being to be able to pay one's expenses, support one's family, and contribute to society. Many of the country's physically fit human resources leave the country in search of work abroad due to a lack of employment. This creates a significant split in the nation's economic and social well-being. According to pioneering individual-level research by Brody and Sniderman, personal economic difficulties discourage voters from casting ballots (Brody & Sniderman, 1977). Election participation is slightly and erratically dampened by personal economic issues and discontent. Rosenstein and Hansen gave more evidence for this claim when they said that people who are unemployed are 2.7% less likely to vote in presidential elections.

The political leadership of practically every nation, with the exception of the dominating USA, which invests significant resources in initiatives aimed at reducing youth unemployment, must fight the global canker of unemployment. The 1 District 1 Factory and the Nation Builders Corps (NABCO) are only two examples of the initiatives the current government in Ghana has implemented to help lower the unemployment rate in the nation. Since unemployment is a big concern on a global scale, numerous studies have been conducted in an effort to comprehend and address this problem. The goal of the study is to look at unemployment in the context of personal psychology. Gyimah-Boadi (2007) made the claim that voters make decisions based on their ethnic orientation, as well as along tribal and social lines. As in many other African nations, voting in Ghana has frequently been characterized as being based on ethnicity. In addition, many academics believe that ethnicity is the primary factor influencing voters' election decisions. For instance, it holds that the New Patriotic Party (NPP) in Ghana has consistently attracted a sizable number of followers from the Ashanti and eastern regions because all of their candidates hail from these areas. On the other hand, in cosmopolitan regions like Greater Accra, where voting habits continue to be erratic and unpredictable, ethnicity does not appear to influence voter behavior. Instead of the widely held idea that voters' decisions are based on their ethnicity and social orientation, this research looks at how unemployment affects electorate voting decisions.

Due to the importance of voter turnout in a democracy, which reveals the level of political engagement and the degree of political equality of the populace with the government, low voter turnout is a major problem. However, low voter turnout rates are a serious issue in the majority of democracies. This is because democracy depends on citizens electing officials, and the legitimacy of such elections depends on how many people vote. On the other hand, those who are unemployed experience personal hardship due to their lack of money while unemployed as well as the poor level of self-esteem that results from a protracted time of unemployment. Voters therefore pay close attention to the platforms and messages of parties that promise to meet their demands. Focusing on the 2016 presidential election, the NPP received support from regions that were perceived to be the ethnic and territorial domain of their rivals, such as various regions in the Volta and Northern regions of the nation. This demonstrates that the voters' decision to cast their ballots was not influenced by their ethnic background but rather by the political messaging and their immediate needs; in this case, a need for a job. Voters might decide not to cast their ballots in this instance because they don't believe the government would keep its promise to give them jobs, which would lead to a low turnout rate.

Others might vote anyhow in the hopes that a change in the regime or its continuation will result in their getting the job they want. Vote out the NDC if you want jobs, the NPP's campaign slogan for the 2016 elections said, according to Dr. Bawumia. The NPP's success in the elections came as no surprise because reasonable citizens cast ballots based on manifestos. However, it is obvious that this problem had some impact on the outcome. This study aims to investigate the role that unemployment plays in influencing voter turnout. The topic of voter turnout (and other factors influencing it, such as ethnicity and religiosity, among others, have been discussed by many scholars, but the issue of how unemployment affects voter turnout has received relatively less attention. This study aims to fill that gap.

## 2. LITERATURE REVIEW

### Conceptual Framework

A rational voter will, in theory, cast a ballot based on a critical evaluation of the benefits they will receive. According to research on unemployment and voter turnout, a rational voter is more likely to cast a ballot if he believes the candidate he is supporting will give him a job. An intelligent unemployed voter will go to the polls in the hopes that the change or continuation of the current administration will increase his chances of getting the job he wants; this expectation may stem from a candidate's pledge. Instead,

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he or she may opt not to vote at all, regardless of whether they are unemployed, in the hope that this will discourage voters from casting ballots and lead to increased voter indifference.

The current study, which focuses on unemployment and its impact on voter turnout, will fill the following identified gaps in the literature, according to the existing studies on voter turnout in Africa and Ghana that were evaluated. Methodological gaps, such as works that employ qualitative and quantitative techniques to infer tenuous connections between the dependent and independent variables (Ayee, 2011), will be filled by using a more dependable approach of asking questions of a sample of respondents who meet the requirements of the study's population and administering the results directly to them. This will allow for the inference of strong causal relationships between the main variable under study and other variables. By doing this, the possibility of erroneous factors influencing the link between the actual variables will be reduced.

As the study focuses on voter turnout and other causes which determine the voter turnout of electorates, variables gaps in literature that are overly centered on sociological factors such as clientelism, ethnicity, and religion will be added onto and updated. The study gently shifts the narrative on voting to one that is more contributory, which adds to the process of democratization and its evolution in Ghana and on the African continent at large, while also adding to the body of literature that already exists on the issue under investigation.

The current study, which focuses on presidential elections and a population base that is diverse in terms of ethnicity, religion, and gender, will also cover the gaps in the scope of the earlier works mentioned above (Guardado & Wantchékon, 2018). This will give additional flexibility for generalizing results by helping to update and improve the conclusions that the numerous research studies that were evaluated drew. Additionally, considering presidential elections on a broad national scale will add to the body of knowledge already available on voter turnout since most studies tend to concentrate on parliamentary and constituency elections. The conclusions of the current study will next be compared to those from studies conducted in other African nations to determine how they compare to or differ from the Ghanaian scenario. For the purpose of this particular study, there are two major theories used. They are the rational choice paradigm and the social contract theory.

### **Rational choice theory and Social contract theory**

According to the rational choice theory, people employ logical calculations to make rational decisions and arrive at results that are in line with their own personal goals. These outcomes are related to an individual's highest and best interests. According to the rational choice theory, social phenomena are the result of personally made decisions that, in some sense, can be considered reasonable. If a choice satisfies a decision theory's consistency criteria and can be accomplished while taking into account the limits of the circumstance, it is considered rational. Rational choice theory is the view that people always make thoughtful, logical, and rational judgments. An investor selecting one stock over another because they think it gives a higher return is an example of a rational decision. Savings may also influence logical decisions. The rational choice paradigm essentially assumes that an individual's decision to vote or not, as well as how to vote, is motivated by the rewards associated with the selected course of action. To put it another way, people make decisions about how to vote based on the results they hope to achieve. The idea goes on to say that while attempting to cast a ballot, each possible result has a benefit and a cost, and the voter, being logical, would select the option that benefits him or her the most. But what exactly is rationality, one might wonder? Downs defines rationality as "participating in goal pursuit in the most reasonable manner conceivable." He then listed five requirements to support his concept of reason, including: the ability to choose among options when presented with them, The capacity to rank his choices in a particular order, He or she will always choose the most preferred alternative, even if faced with the same options at different times and under the same circumstances. His or her preference ranking is transitive, meaning that he or she prefers alternative 1 to alternative 2, alternative 2 to alternative 3, and ultimately, alternative 1 to alternative 3. Downs further limited rationality to solely political and economic motivations in order to eliminate any contradictions. This implies that any voter's choice of how to vote is influenced by political and economic factors.

According to the social contract idea, each individual's moral and political obligations are based on a contract or agreement that they have made with one another to create the society they live in. Thomas Hobbes has provided a thorough exposition and defense of this. This notion is used in contemporary times between citizens and the government because they engage in an agreement through elections, primarily to elect the officials, in exchange for the government using the sovereign power granted to the officials to safeguard and meet their requirements in the nation. However, John Locke contends that people have the right to revolt against the government, which in modern times is done through recurring elections, if it is unable to uphold their rights and provide for their wants. They also change the government.

## **DEFINITION OF CONCEPTS**

### **Voter Turnout**

The first works on voter turnout were Jr's (1984) prize-winning book *Contemporary Democracies*, which identified electoral participation as one of the three key measures of democratic performance, and two Powell (1986) essays in the *American Political Science Review* in 1987. In the 1970s, mean turnout was analyzed in 17 different countries in Powell's APSR study. He discovered

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that turnout was higher in nations with "strong party-group links" and "nationally competitive districts." "Vote choice is easier when and where groups (e.g., unions, churches, professional associations) are clearly associated with specific parties, and nationally competitive districts increase turnout because "parties and voters have equal incentive to get voters to the polls in all parts of the country" (Powell, 1986, p. 21). Powell's key finding is that the institutional setting in the United States inhibits voter turnout, and the focus is mostly placed on party-group links because they are the most potent factor in his model.

Jackman (1987) examined the average turnout in 19 nations during the 1970s, and he produced considerably clearer findings, demonstrating how five institutional factors—nationally competitive districts, electoral disproportionality, multipartyism, and unicameralism affect turnout. However, Jr's (1984) finds that turnout does tend to be higher in more economically developed nations when the socioeconomic context is taken into account. He also claims that smaller countries typically have higher turnout, but this association is not statistically significant. Because they focus on a select few well-established democracies with limited variation in economic development levels, the most influential studies of the time have largely ignored this area of research (Jackman, 1987). However, there is a good deal of evidence to back up the claim that countries with developed economies have greater turnout rates (Blais & Dobrzynska, 1998). The fundamental distinction between the poorest countries and the rest is that the relationship is nonlinear (Blais & Dobrzynska, 1998).

This begs the question of whether economic downturns cause turnout to rise or fall. Both outcomes are possible, as noted by Radcliff (1992), because economic hardship may prompt people to mobilize and address concerns, or it may cause them to completely disengage from politics. Given these two opposing possibilities, the majority of research finds a nil overall effect (Arcelus & Meltzer, 1975). According to Radcliff (1992), economic downturns boost turnout at high and low welfare spending levels but decrease it at intermediate levels. However, some of the findings are puzzling and haven't been supported by other research (Uhlener, 2001, p. 3). The inference must be that there is no discernible connection between the economic environment and participation.

### Ethnicity and Voting in Ghana and Africa

The most researched factor influencing voter participation in Ghana and all of Africa is ethnicity. Many academics contend that African voters only base their voting decisions on the racial or ethnic background of the candidate or party. The candidate of choice is typically from their ethnic group, as voting for an ethnic candidate or party is believed to increase the likelihood of receiving targeted benefits and accessing government resources (Copans, 1984). The Ghanaian Akan community's proverb "adze w) fie a, oye" which means "things at home are good" serves as a statement of this idea.

Studies on the connection between race and voting patterns came to the unified conclusion that race is not the only and most important factor influencing voters' voting decisions. Thus, other factors such as the state of the economy, the effectiveness and acceptance of the incumbent government's policies, and the opposition's pledge to meet public demands are important factors that greatly influence electorates' decisions about whether or not to support a candidate. As a result, electorates and constituents are somehow rational to choose what offers the most advantage and profit. Hoffman and Long (2013), treat the administrative regions of Ghana as potential ethnic units and draw conclusions about ethnicity based on the votes received by the two major parties along ethnic cleavages. They also claim that the two major parties in Ghana are largely made up of the various ethnic groups in Ghana. According to Arthur (2009), inter-tribal marriages and migration are the main causes of non-ethnic or bloc voting. Gyimah-Boadi (2007), Chazan (2019), Anebo (2006), and Horowitz (2000) argue that voter choices in African democracies are "issueless" and nothing more than an "ethnic census," which pitches politicization and electioneering experiences along social groups and not along socioeconomic issues as stated by Arthur and others. This is in disagreement with Hoffman and Long (2013) and ("WDR 2000: Is There a New 'New Poverty Agenda'?", 2001; WDR 2000: Is There a New 'New Poverty Agenda'?", 2001; WDR 2000: Is There a New 'New Poverty Agenda'?", 2001; WDR 2000: Is There a New 'New Poverty Agenda'?", 2001), argue that factors other than ethnicity affect.

However, Basedau et al. (2011) contend that the subject of political choice and voting behavior in multiparty systems, whether democratic or hybrid, is currently understudied. According to Ayee (2011), several academics have claimed that voting patterns in Africa may be completely and narrowly linked to the variable of ethnicity. Tavera, Naibu and Habib who dealt with the variables of ethnicity and race, respectively in the sociological explanation of voter choices in a more general setting on the African continent. Tavera in 1989 investigated the voting patterns in Zimbabwe's 1980 and 1985 presidential elections. Based on a qualitative analysis of the results, the study came to the conclusion that geography and the regional distribution of ethnic groups are the patterns that most strongly influence turnout, and as a result, voters cast their ballots in accordance with their ethnic identity and affiliation. Naibu and Habib also in 2006 made an affirmative or negative argument for or against the prevailing "racial consensus thesis" in relation to how race affects voter turnout in South Africa. Using qualitative studies of post-apartheid election data, they draw the conclusion that there is little correlation between race and voter turnout and that voters cast their ballots based on the information they have access to.

### Religion and Voting in Ghana

According to some scholars, religion in Ghana plays a significant role in determining voter turnout. In Takyi et al. (2010), they take up the variable of religion and how it influences and explains voter participation in an effort to make up for the dearth of literature



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on the subject, doing so in a close sociological tone to the studies done on ethnicity and race in Africa and Ghana. In order to investigate the relationship between religion and voting behavior in the 2004 elections, Takyi et al. (2010) used the Afro Barometer survey. Given that religion influences practically every element of Ghanaian life, researchers looked at how religious leaders can affect members' choices as well as how major political parties choose candidates based on differences between Christians and Muslims and between the north and south. They come to the conclusion that whereas Muslims prefer to support the NDC, Christians are more likely to be pro-NPP.

Abubakar in 2015 researched the dynamics of voting between the two major political parties in Ghana and the two largest Islamic sects in the tamale metropolis. He came to the conclusion that the two prominent sects, the Ahlu-Sunnas and the Tijaniyyas, align and associate with the NDC and NPP, respectively. According to a previous study, the chieftaincy struggles and the 2002 assassination of Ya Na Yakubu Andani II are the causes of the sects' entrenched political allegiances. Both studies provide an excellent background and foundation from which improvements to Ghana's voting practices might be implemented.

### **Clientelism and Neo-Patrimonialism**

Another element that some scholars contend influences voter turnout in most African nations is clientelism and neo-patriotism. In his research on how clientelism affects voters in Member of Parliament elections in Kenya and Zambia, the scholar Young (2007) came to the conclusion that, as opposed to private handouts, people are more interested in and affected by the public goods supplied by members of parliament. In a similar vein, Guardado and Wantchékon (2018) find the same results in a study of Benin and Kenya regarding the impact of vote buying on voter turnout as an imperfect transaction between candidates and voters. When examining the rationality of African voters using Ghana as a case study, Lindberg (2006) focuses on the parliamentary elections and how patronage and clientelism affect voter turnout. This earlier study came to the conclusion that, despite being widespread, giveaways and clientelist products do not always have an impact on voter turnout. Thus, they take into account factors like the health of the economy and how parliamentary members feel about development.

### **Socio-economic Variables and Voting Behavior in Ghana**

Socioeconomic considerations can have an impact on election turnout. Bawumia (1998) and Bob-Milliar (2011) study socioeconomic foundations that act as determinants of Ghanaian voters' electoral choices from various perspectives, variables, and scopes in an effort to add to the literature and insights on voting behavior using the impact of structural adjustment in the rural and urban centers, perhaps as a consolation for the lack of studies done on the rational factors that influence voter turnout in Ghana. In the 1992 Ghanaian presidential elections, Bawumia (1998) sought to explain the trends in voting between rural and urban areas. In this regard, he makes a connection between the state of the economy and the benefits of economic liberalization realized from the Structural Adjustment Program (SAP) and how it affects voting patterns in Ghana, concluding that the rural households voted overwhelmingly for the NDC while the urban constituents supported the opposition. He makes the connection that the health of the economy affects electorates' voting patterns based on the premise that the SAPs were more favorably allocated to rural areas than to metropolitan centers. Additionally, Bawumia (op. cit.) aimed to harmonize the economic voting processes in developing and advanced democracies. In a similar vein, Bob-Milliar (op. cit.) departs from the simplistic generalization that voting behavior is influenced by ethnicity in order to explain the NDC's overwhelming popularity over the NPP in Ghana's upper west area. His research concludes that the region's historical recollections and the PNDC junta's establishment of the area account for the unwavering support for its offspring, the NDC. According to this study, the territory's residents support the NDC because they see the region's creation as a catalyst for the socioeconomic development of the region and its citizens.

## **CONCEPT OF UNEMPLOYMENT**

People experience economic unemployment when they are unemployed despite actively seeking jobs. The number of jobless people is divided by the total number of people who are now working to get the unemployment rate, which is expressed as a percentage. Depending on the particular form of unemployment that is present in a nation, different implications and solutions apply. According to ITC/ILO and ILO in 2011, labor market turnover refers to how frequently jobs change throughout the economy. According to the Ghana Statistical Service, unemployment is the percentage of the economically active population that is not employed but is available for work (Ghana Statistical, 2000).

### **The Genesis of Unemployment**

Unemployment was far less of an issue before the industrial revolution than it is now (Lambert, 2022). It existed, but in an agrarian community there wasn't widespread unemployment. The economy was typically stable and underwent little change from one year to the next. However, beginning in the 18th century, the British economy experienced cycles of booms and slumps (or recessions), and with each recession, a significant number of people lost their jobs (Baah-Boateng, 2012). The print, electronic, and social media have made the issue of unemployment, particularly youth unemployment, a concern of every government worldwide today with regard to Africa. After the "Arab Spring," which was a response to regimes and governments that had acted against the will of the people and were inattentive to the skyrocketing rate of youth unemployment and its detrimental effects, it became so serious. Fajana

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(2000), contends that issues like the prolonged initial unemployment of university graduates in Nigeria, inadequate manpower planning, the expansion of educational facilities that unnecessarily raised youth expectations in Nigeria, the economic downturn, and the continued employment of a disproportionate number of expatriates are signs of a deteriorating educational system that is out of step with current needs.

The fact that the right to work is acknowledged in Ghana as both a fundamental right and a constitutional right highlights the significance of employment. This right is described as having economic rights in Article 24 (1) of the Constitution of 1992, which states that "Everyone has the right to work." Even reporting on the implementation of the right to work on an annual basis is required under Article 34 (2) for the government. However, due to the rising rate of unemployment, exercising this right to work is progressively becoming exceedingly challenging for both the government and the general public. Today, it appears that unemployment is the country's biggest problem. In fact, it has become Ghanaians' top concern that they want the government to solve, according to the Afro barometer.

The youth population, however, between the ages of 18 and 35, appears to be in a more dangerous situation. Despite making up only 26% of the country's total population, this age group represents approximately 45% of all unemployed Ghanaians. Ghana's job market situation is severe because it appears to be stuck on a narrow path leading to a bottomless hole. The rising graduate unemployment rate, which the GSS 2010 report estimates has reached over 44% of graduate school dropouts, is a new and terrifying aspect of the unemployment situation. According to Appiah-Kubi Kojo in 2011 on Ghana web, the rising rate of unemployment in Ghana can be partly ascribed to the country's economy and the government's inability to provide enough jobs to accommodate the increasing number of Ghanaians entering the labor force. Retrenchments and redeployments in the public sector are thought to have been responsible for roughly 89% of the loss of about 235 000 formal sector positions during the years of 1985 and 1990 alone. In fact, it doesn't appear that the labor market has yet fully recovered from that severe hit. This is highlighted by the significant fall in overall employment, as evidenced by the labor participation rate, which fell from 84.5% to 70% between 1991 and 2010.

### **Types of Unemployment**

The three main types of unemployment that governmental policies must be created to address are cyclical unemployment, frictional unemployment, and structural unemployment.

Structural Unemployment is one of the main categories of unemployment in an economic system. It focuses on inefficiencies in labor markets and structural issues with economies. It happens when there aren't enough open positions in the labor market to accommodate everyone looking for work. The abilities of unemployed employees do not meet the qualifications required for the open positions. It frequently suffers from ongoing cyclical unemployment. For instance, when a country's economy faces prolonged unemployment, people tend to get irritated and their skills deteriorate. Because of their inactivity, individuals might not meet the qualifications for new positions when the economy rebounds. Providing government training programs to the structurally unemployed; paying subsidies to businesses that train displaced workers; assisting the structurally unemployed in relocating to areas where jobs are available; and encouraging potential employees to continue or resume their education are all examples of policies that could be implemented to reduce structural unemployment.

Frictional Unemployment is a different kind of unemployment that exists in an economy. It is the amount of time between jobs when an employee is looking for or changing jobs. In every economy, there is some degree of frictional unemployment. It happens when the workers and the jobs are not a good fit. The incompatibility of the workers can be attributed to a variety of reasons, including attitudes, salaries, work hours, location, season, and taste. Frictional unemployment is affected by voluntary employment decisions based on each person's assessment of their own work, how it compares to current wage rates, and the time and effort needed to find a job. The implementation of apprenticeship programs akin to those utilized in Australia and Germany, as well as the creation of a computerized national job bank that would give job searchers and potential employers greater information, are two suggestions for policies to reduce frictional unemployment.

Cyclical unemployment is the term used to describe repeated unemployment that occurs during specific stages of the business cycle, beginning with the decline after a boom. This unemployment is brought on by a lack of overall demand and is correlated with a decline in the number of open positions. Additionally, it describes the kind of unemployment that develops when the economy's total demand is insufficient to accommodate all job seekers. In a down economy, fewer workers are required, less production is required, and demand for the majority of commodities declines. When unemployment is cyclical, there are more unemployed people than open positions.

Government stabilization programs, which aim to keep the unemployment rate at 100% and the requisite steady price level, can be utilized. There is a trade-off between lowering unemployment and raising the price level, which can be balanced out by using expansionary fiscal and monetary policies. If the economy is doing well and everyone has a job, policies that make the economy grow will only make prices go up. The standard of living will stay the same. The unemployment rate and price levels show cyclical movement notwithstanding the use of stabilization initiatives. This fluctuation happens because it can be hard to decide how much to change things like government spending in a timely way when trying to come up with stabilization policies (McCoy et al., 1993).

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### **DATA AND METHODOLOGY**

In this phase of the research, the researchers discussed the research design, method of data collection, target population, sampling techniques, and sample size suitable for the study. Research design, according to Saunders et al. (2007), is a framework of a study that involves the use of research instruments such as questionnaires, interviews, and others that aid in data collection, be it qualitative or quantitative or both, and finally provide a description of the data. The research design employed in this study was a case study design. The case study design allowed the researcher to study a few cases and make generalizations Saunders et al. (2011). This study was more explanatory and descriptive in that it sought to find out how unemployment affects voter turnout in Asokwa Constituency as well as address the causation, basically why the phenomenon occurred.

According to Simmons and Robertson (2012), a research population is a group of individuals who are part of a general population but have similar qualities, including age and sex. The source of the population is people, individuals, animals, countries, and objects. In the collection of data, the target population was comprised of the unemployed and their close relatives in the Asokwa Constituency. However, the total number of unemployed youth in the constituency was not known. A disproportionate quota sampling method in which the final selection was made by employing the purposive sampling technique was used. The snowball technique was also helpful in finding the respondents during the lockdown in various areas. The sample size that was used was 150 unemployed graduates in the Asokwa Constituency, though the actual number of unemployed graduates was unknown. This was because 150 was large enough to give a fair representation of the views of the unemployed at Asokwa, even though the actual number was not known. The population was categorized into three sections through quota sampling (Ahinsan, Atonsu, and Asokwa).

Primary data was the first-hand information that was collected from the targeted population in the selected study area. It comprised of information acquired through self-administered questionnaires (structured) and conversations. The secondary sources that were used for the purpose of this study were sourced from data derived from closely related existing literature or materials on the research topic that were available, as well as books, articles, theses, journals, and other documents that have been cited appropriately. For the purpose of this research, questionnaires were administered for the collection of data from unemployed graduates and their close relatives in the areas selected. Questionnaires can be thought of as a kind of written interview. They can be carried out face to-face, by telephone, or by post. Questionnaires have been used to access life events which may cause people to behave the way they do and how they react to situations (Holmes & Rahe, 1967). The questionnaire design consisted of both closed-ended and open-ended questions, which gave room for more information to be provided. This helped to collect relevant and accurate information to pursue the objective of the study and aid in the analysis of the data collected. For the benefit of the illiterates in the selected communities, interviews in our local dialect were also used to help them understand the main as well as the specific information required for the purpose of this study to avoid biases. This comprises the methods that were used for the study, compilation and analysis of the outcome of the findings from the field. Statistical and logical techniques were applied systematically to illustrate and evaluate collected data to draw a conclusion. The data was analyzed essentially to achieve both the main and specific objectives of the study. For the purpose of this study, data collected was converted into the Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) for analysis.

The results were represented using graphs, tables, and charts with clear explanations. To meet the standard ethical requirement for social research, we sorted the informed consent of the respondents and furnished them with the purpose of the research. Confidentiality was granted to all study participants, and their responses were analyzed in aggregate forms with no traces back to them. The researchers ensured that respondents participated voluntarily, without force or inducement whatsoever in any way. Leading questions were not asked for the sake of research validity because they project the answers that respondents are to give.

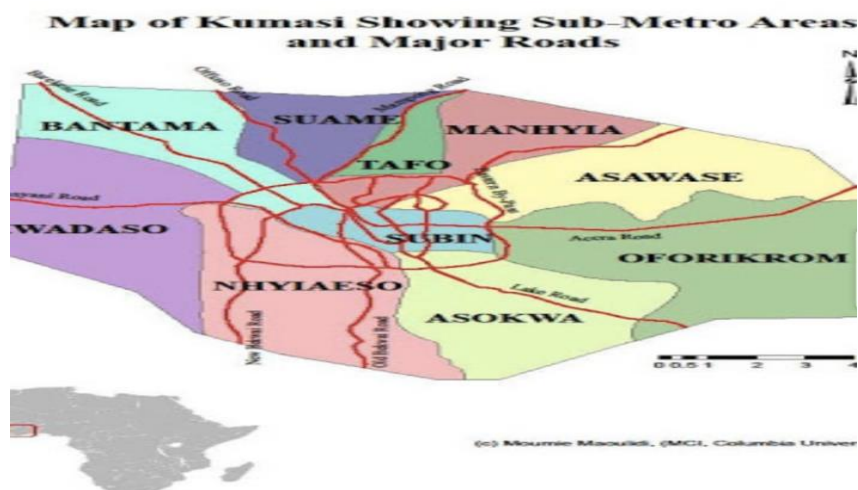
### **3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

This paper's discussion will be guided by the following set of questions: Are there other factors that can affect voting turnout aside unemployment? Is a candidate with employment policies likely to win an election? Under what condition will the unemployed turn out to vote in an election?

### **4.0 PROFILE OF STUDY AREA**

Asokwa is situated in Kumasi, Ghana's Ashanti administrative region's capital city. The capital of the Asante traditional region and the second-largest city in Ghana after Accra is Kumasi. Kumasi is a city in Ghana's southern central region that covers an area of 114 square miles (100 sq. mi). Due to its strategic location, where roads from all over the nation meet, it serves as a great center for commercial activity and attracts people in quest of employment.

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**Fig.1.** shows the map of Kumasi showing the major sub-metro areas  
**Source;** Ghana Statistical Service 2014

The major commercial district of Kumasi, which had a population of roughly 90 000, was 2.9 kilometers from Asokwa. Asokwa constituency boasted fourteen (14) electoral areas, one hundred and thirty-seven (137) polling places, and sixty-eight thousand and fifty-six (68056) eligible voters. This made Asokwa constituency's contribution to Ghana's voting processes highly regarded and thereby aided in the consolidation of democracy (Asokwa Municipal Assembly). Atonsu, Ahinsan, Agogo, and Asokwa were a few of the towns included in the Asokwa constituency. It was a varied society with a wide range of political ideologies and racial and cultural backgrounds. The entire Asokwa constituency was selected as the study region, and this is where all of the main data was gathered. Before deciding on Asokwa as the study's primary focus, the following factors were taken into account. It had a population that was highly considerable where causal inference of the topic of interest was concerned. The pool of unemployed respondents, who were the targeted population, made it an ideal place for the work. Since the study area was closer to the convenience of the researchers, there was no need to engage in any long-distance travel to get respondents to answer the questionnaires. This made movement not only flexible and comfortable, but also cost-effective. This decision was made in order to prevent too much stress, which might affect the validity of the research.

### 4.1 Generalization of the findings

The findings were all analyzed in aggregate and the responses from the questionnaires were in varying forms. A total of 77 women responded, representing a percentage of 51.3% while a total of 73 men representing a percentage of 48.7% responded. With these statistics, it is evident that the number of females who responded to the questionnaires were higher than the men, with a difference of 2.6% as was said in the introduction, the results gained from the respondents are tabulated and they are below.

**Table 4.1.** The responses on the gender of the respondents.

Gender	frequency	Percentages	Valid
Male	73	48.7%	
Female	77	51.3%	

**Source.** Researchers' field work, 2020.

The above table shows the number of respondents based on their gender responses. The above shows that the number of females who partook in the research were more than the males. As the males were represented by a total of 73 while the women were 77 in number. However, this further depicts the population structure of Ghana stating that women are of greater population than men.

**Table.4.2.** Age of respondents

Age range	frequency	Percentage
18-30	99	66%
31-40	34	22%
41-50	14	9%
51 and above	3	2%
<b>Total</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

**Source:** researchers' field work. 2020.



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The above depicts the various ages of the respondents as well as the representation of their percentages. From the above table, it can be seen that a total number of 99 persons were between the ages of 18 and 30, represented by a percentage of 66%, while 34 persons were between the ages of 31 and 40, also represented by a percentage of 22%, also 14 persons were between the ages of 41 and 50, presenting a percentage of 9% and finally for those between the ages of 51 and above were only 3, having a percentage of 2%.

**Table.4.3. Marital statuses of respondents**

All valid	Marital options	Frequency	percentages
	Married	48	32%
	Single	75	50%
	Widowed	19	12.6%
	Divorce	8	5.3%
	<b>Total</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>100.0</b>

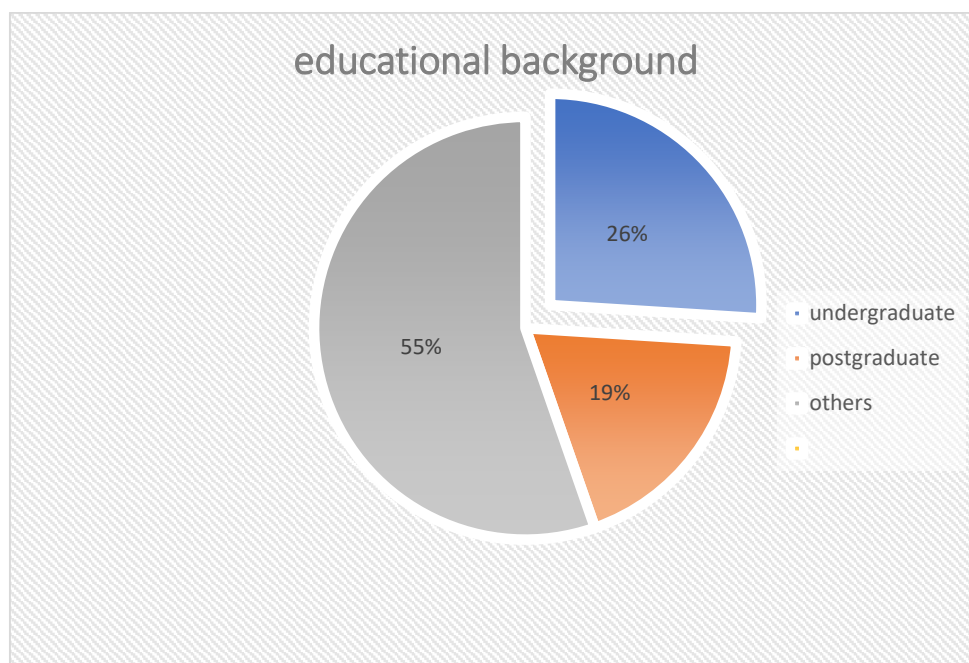
Source: researchers' field work, 2020.

With the above, it clearly shows that, the respondents of married status were a total of 48, having a percentage 32%; the single status had a number of 75 persons, with a percentage of 50%; the widowed status had a total of 19 persons, representing 12.6%, while the divorcees had a number of 8 persons, represented by 5.3%.

**Table 4.4. Educational background of the respondents**

All valid	Options chosen	Frequency	Percentage
	Undergraduate	39	26%
	Postgraduate	28	18%
	Others	83	55%
	<b>Total</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>100%</b>

Source: researcher's field work, 2020.



**Fig.4.4. Educational Background.**

Source: Field data, 2020

The pie chart above depicts the percentage of the responses by the respondents concerning their educational background. It shows the slice of the others option to be more, representing a total of 55%, with the undergraduate option following suit with a total percentage of 26%, and 19% for the postgraduate option as well.

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**Table.4.5. Responses on religion**

Options	Frequency	Percentages
Christianity	135	90%
Muslim	14	9.4%
Other	1	0.6%
<b>Total</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**Source:** researchers' field work, 2020.

Above table shows clearly the various responses about the various religion of affiliation by the respondents. Christianity had a number of 135 people, representing a majority percentage of 90%, Muslims had a total number of 14 people, represented by a percentage of 9.4% and other religion also had a person, representing a fraction of 0.6%.

**Table.4.6. Responses on occupation**

Occupation	frequency	Percentages
Student	30	20.0
Civil/public servant	2	1.3
Businessman/woman	2	1.3
Unemployed	94	62.7
Others	22	14.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**Source:** researchers' field work, 2020.

This table above also represents the number of responses acquired from the respondents on the question of their occupation. The number of students were a total of 30 persons, with a percentage of 20.0%; also the number of civil/public servants as well as businessmen/women were a total of 2 persons each, representing 1.3% each, the unemployed were a total number of 94 persons, having the percentage of 62.7%; also the other occupation option was represented by a total number of 22 persons, making a percentage of 14.7%

**Table 4.7. Responses on income.**

Valid	Income level	Frequency	Percentages
	Below Ghs100.00		
	Ghs100-250	23	15.3
	Ghs250-500	20	13.3
	Ghs500 and above	10	6.7

**Source:** Researchers field work, 2020.

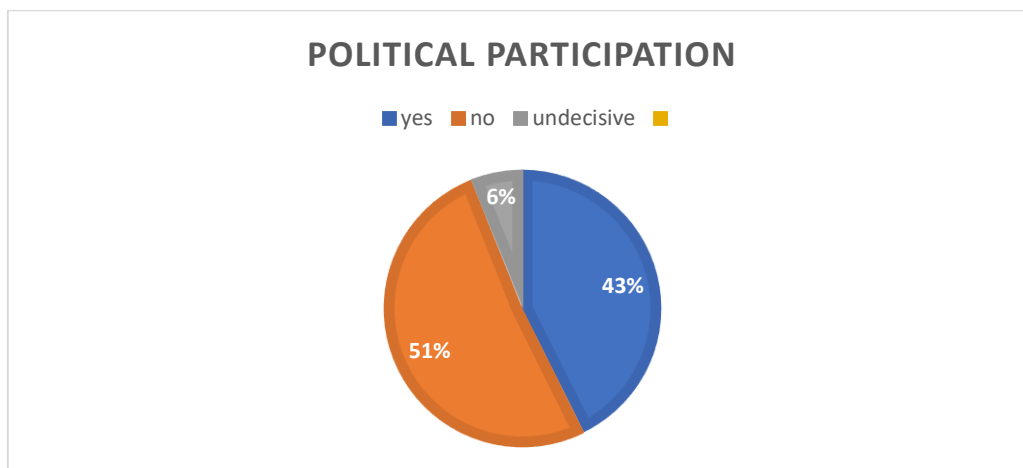
The table above also depicts the varying income levels of the respondents. The respondents with income below ghs100.00 were a total of 97 persons, having a percentage of 64.7; also, the respondents with income levels ranging from ghs100 to ghs250, were a total of 23 persons, with a percentage of 15.3%; also the income level ranging from ghs250-ghs500 had a total number of 20 respondents and a percentage of 13.3% and finally, the respondents with an income from Ghs500 and above were a total of 10 persons and a percentage of 6.7%.

**Table.4.8. Active Political Participation**

valid	Political participation	Frequency	Percentages
	Yes	64	42.7
	No	77	51.3
	Neither yes or no	9	6.0
		150	100.0

**Source:** Researchers' field work, 2020.

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**Figure 4.5: Political Participation**

Source: researchers' field work, 2020

With the pie chart above, the area in the blue color denotes the percentage for the respondents who answered “Yes” to participation in politics, having 42.7 followed by the those who do not participate in political activities with a maximum percentage of 51%, depicted in the orange color; while those who were indecisive were only marginalized by a percentage of 6% as shown in the grey section of the chart. With the statistics above, it can be seen that, political participation amongst the youth of Asokwa, is not strong. With the number of people can however be said that, the rate at which the youth in Asokwa participate in political activities needs to be carefully looked at and fixed.

**Table.4.9. Political Contribution**

Valid	Options	Frequency	Percentage
	Voting	128	85.3
	Campaigning	13	8.7
	Demonstrations	9	6.0
	Total	150	100

Source: researchers' field work, 2020.

The above table shows the various forms of political participation the respondents engage. The voting process has a higher percentage represented by 85.3, followed by campaigning which has just 8.7 and demonstrations having 6.0, thus, showing that, most people prefer to vote, than to engage in demonstrations or campaigning.

**Table.4.10. Vote presidentially**

valid	Options	frequency	Percentages
	Yes	113	75.3
	No	37	24.7
	Neither yes nor no	0	0
		150	100.0

Source: researchers journal, 2020.

The above shows that, the number of respondents who have voted in a presidential election were greater, although we have those who have not voted presidentially but have exercised their franchise during parliamentary and other forms of elections. None of the respondents were indecisive or not sure about whether or not they had voted in a presidential election.

**Table.4.11. the number of Times Voters have voted in Presidential Elections.**

valid	Options	Frequency	Percentage
	Once	42	28.0
	Twice	47	31.3
	Thrice	29	19.3

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	<b>Four times</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>10</b>
	<b>Five times</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>4.7</b>
	<b>Six times</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>6.7</b>
	<b>Total</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Source: researchers' journal, 2020.

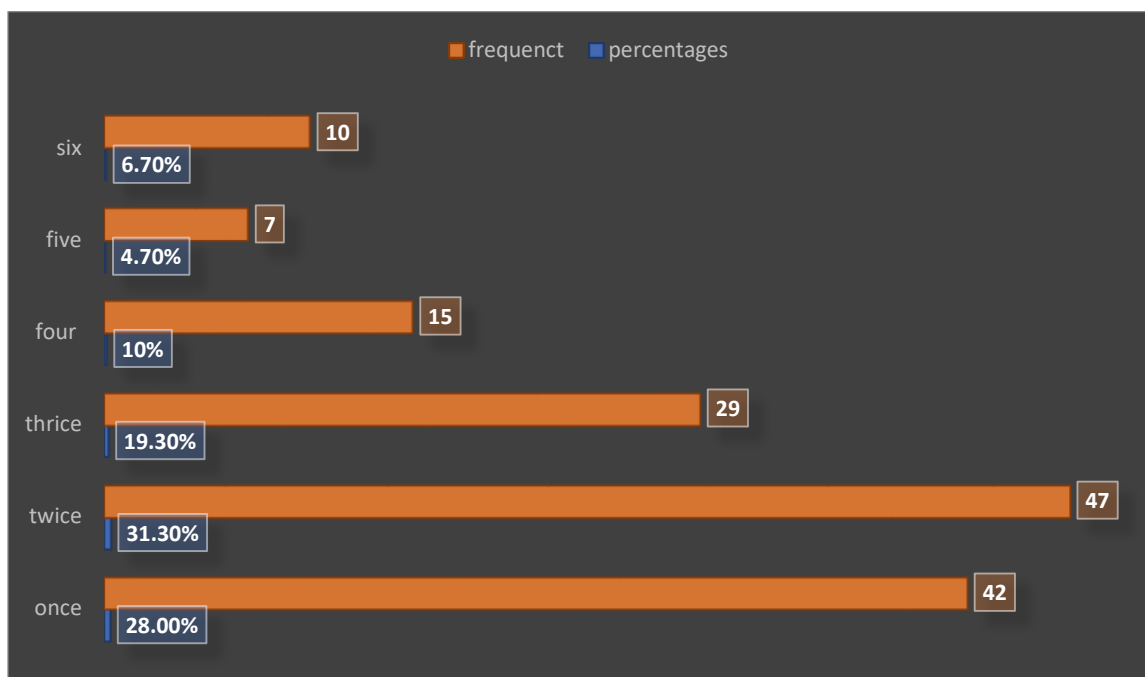


Figure 4.6 .The number of Times Voters have voted.

Source: Researchers' journal, 2020

The above graph clearly shows the percentages against the number of people who gave varying responses to how many times they had voted in a presidential election. According to the data above, the highest number of people who made up the longest bar on the graph were a total number of 47 with a percentage of 31.30%, and this number stated that, they had voted twice in a presidential election. Also, the next with the highest number were those who stated that, they had voted only once in a presidential election. According to the representation, they were a total of 42 persons, having a percentage of 28%. Those who had voted only thrice were a total of 29, and a percentage of 19.30%. the number of people who also stated that they had voted for four times were a total of 15 and a percentage of 10%, 7 was also the total number of respondents who had voted five times having a percentage of 4.7%, who were the least number. Finally, 10 and 6.7% represented the total number and percentage respectively, of the respondents who had voted all six times.

Table. 4.12. Belonging to a Political Group

	options	frequency	percentage
VALID	Yes	75	50.0
	No	68	45.3
	Neither yes nor no	7	4.7
	total	150	100.0

Source: researchers' field work

The table above, shows that the number of respondents who belonged to a political party were a total of 75 and had a percentage of 50.0%, also those who did not belong to any political party were also 68 and had a percentage of 45.3%, and finally 7 respondents responded that, they were not so sure, which also gave them a percentage of 4.7%.



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**Table.4.13. Votes based on group**

Options	frequency	Percentages
Yes	38	50.7%
No	37	49.3%
Neither yes or no	0	0.0
Total	75	100

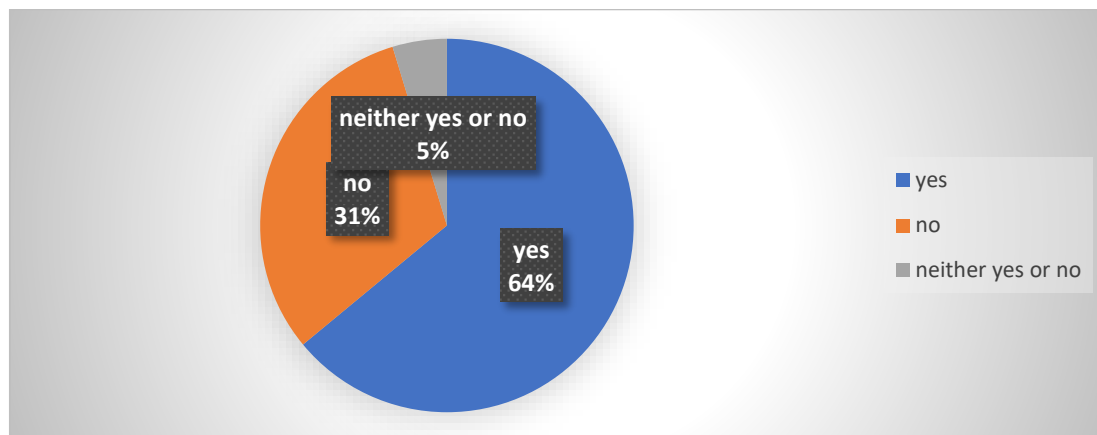
Source: researchers' field work, 2020.

The above tabular illustration depicts that, from a total number of 75 respondents who stated that they belong to a political group or party; a fraction of 50.7% said they vote along party lines, while 49.0% don't.

**Table.4.14. Support a Political Group**

Options	Frequency	Percentages
Yes	96	64.0
No	47	31.3
Neither yes or no	7	4.7
Total	150	100.0

Source: researchers' field work, 2020



**Figure 4.7. Support a Political Group**

Source: researchers' field work, 2020

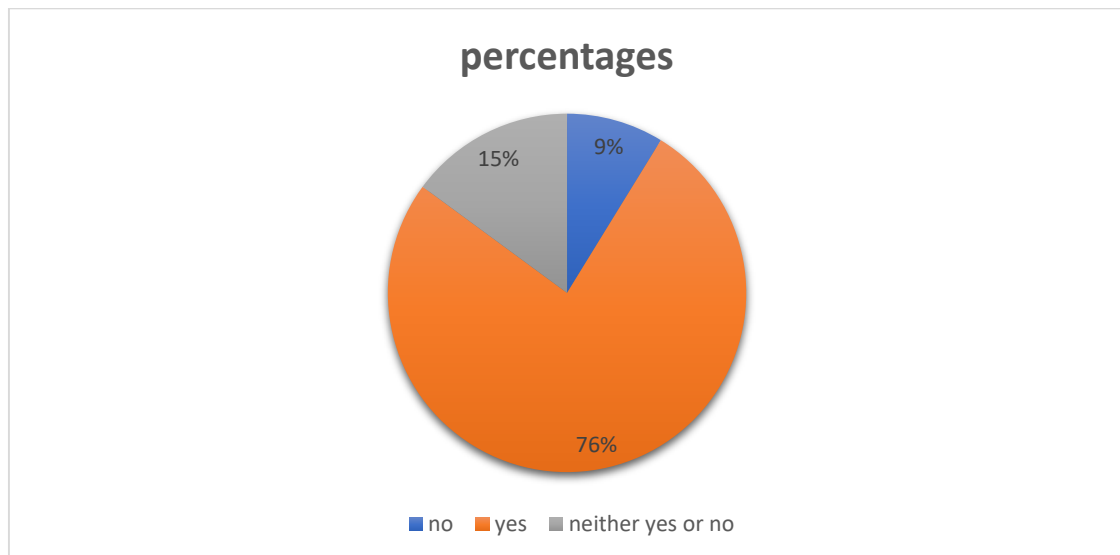
From the pie chart above, it shows the distributions of the respondents that support a party. It shows that, 64% of the respondents support a party, while 31% of the respondents do not support any political party, while 5% of them were indecisive.

**Table.4.15. Vote for the party**

Options	Frequency	Percentages
Yes	87	76.3
No	10	8.7
Neither yes or no	17	15
Total	114	100.0

Source: researchers' field work, 2020.

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**Figure 4.8. Vote for the party**

**Source:** researchers' field work, 2020.

The pie chart above shows the distribution of the respondent that actually vote for their party. 76% of the respondents confirmed that, they indeed voted for their political parties, while 8.7%, stated that, they do not support their political and finally a percentage of 15% were indecisive as to whether or not they support their political party.

**Table.4.16. Employed in area of skill**

Options	Frequency	Percentages
No	88	58.6
Yes	62	41.3
Neither yes or no	0	0.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**Source:** Researcher's field work, 2020.

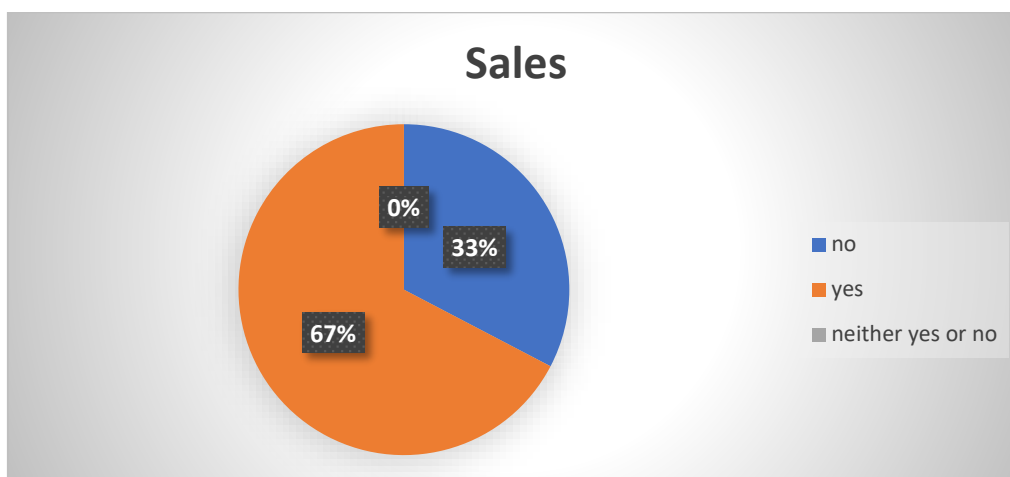
The table above, shows that a total percentage of 58.6% do not work with their skills or operate in their area of skills., while 41% of the respondents agreed that, they actual work in their skill area.

**Table.4.17. Did you consider unemployment when voting?**

Options	Frequency	Percentages
Yes	101	67.3
No	49	32.7
Neither yes or no	0	00
<b>Total</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**Source:** Researchers' field work, 2020.

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**Figure 4.9 Do you consider unemployment when voting?**

Source: researchers' field work, 2020

The pie chart above shows that, 67% of the respondents consider the prospects of employments before casting their votes, while 33% of the respondents gave a negative response.

**Table 4.18. Vote based on employment promises?**

Options	Frequencies	Percentage
No	45	30.0
Yes	105	70.0
Neither yes or no	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Source: researchers' field work, 2020.

The above table shows the percentage as well as the frequencies of the responses given by the respondents when asked if they would vote for a party that promises to give employment. In response, a percentage of 30% respondents stated that, they wouldn't vote because of the promise of employment, while a whopping 70% responded in the affirmative.

**Table.4.19. Voting based on ethnic affiliation**

	Options	Frequency	Percentages
	Yes	84	56.0
	No	66	44.0
	Neither yes nor no	0	0.0
		150	100

Source: researchers' field work, 2020.

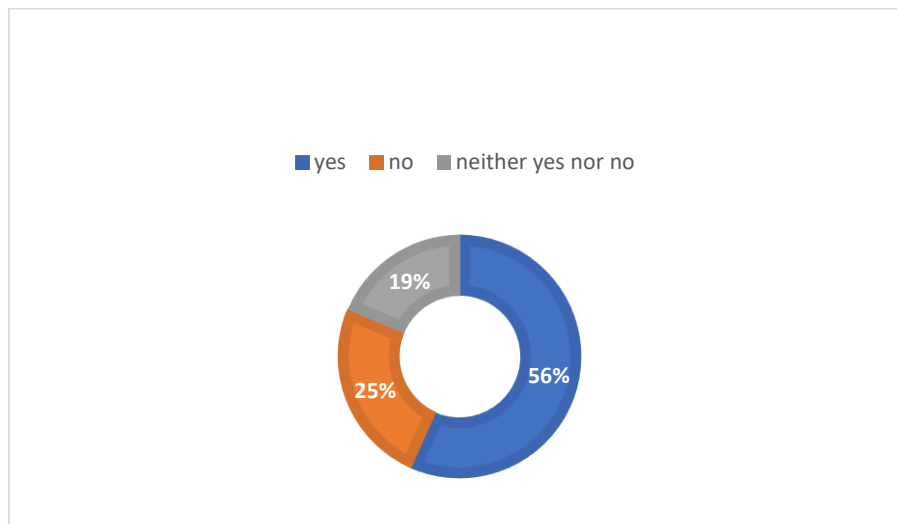
The table above shows that, 56.0% of the respondents, making a total of 84 people vote along ethnic affiliations, while 44% of the respondents, gave a negative response.

**Table 4.20. The Government doing enough in providing employment**

	options	frequency	percentages
Valid	Yes	85	56.7
	No	37	24.7
	Neither Yes nor No	28	18.6

Source: researchers' field work, 2020.

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**Figure 4.10; The Government doing enough in providing employment**

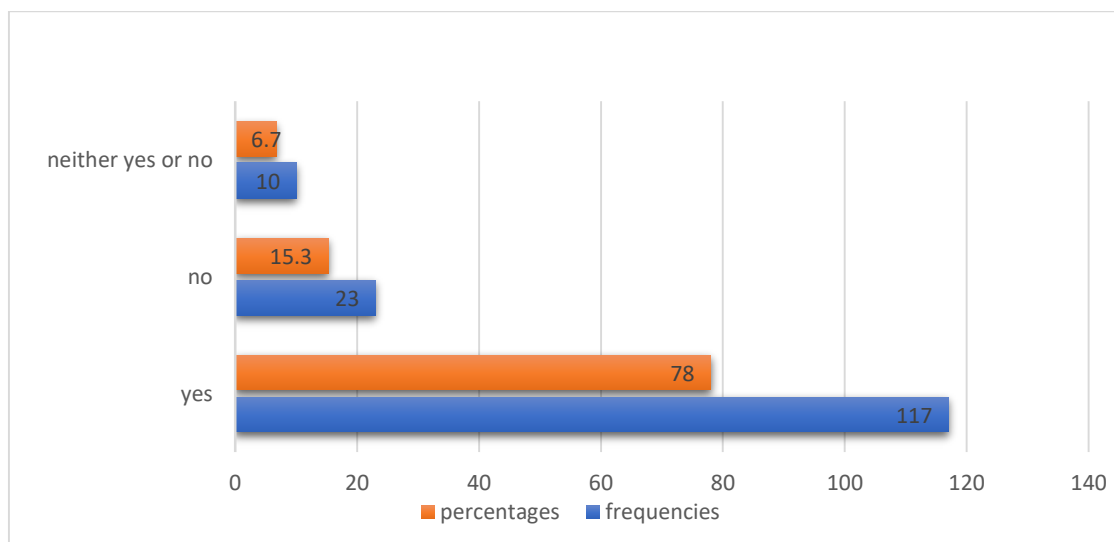
Source: Field data, 2020

The pie chart above illustrates the various frequency and the percentages of the responses by the respondents, when asked if the government is doing enough to provide employment. 85 respondents responded in the affirmative, making a percentage of 56%, 25% of the respondents also gave a negative response, while 28 respondents representing a percentage 19% responded on a neutral ground.

**Table.4.19. Do you think unemployment affects the way people turnout to vote?**

Options	Frequency	Percentages
Yes	117	78%
No	23	15.3%
Neither yes or no	10	6.6%
<b>Total</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Source: researchers' field work, 2020.



**Figure 4.11: Do you think unemployment affects the way people turnout to vote?**

Source: Field data, 2020

Above is a bar chart that illustrates the responses by the respondents on whether or not unemployment affects the way people turnout to vote during elections. According to the chart, a total number of 87 persons voted against the idea, making a percentage of 58%, while a number of 53 affirmed to that assertion, having a representation of 35%. Also, 10 persons, having a percentage of 5.8, were not sure about it.



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### 4.9.14 Quantitative Data Analysis

In the bid to properly analyze the open ended questions, the thematic method of analysis was adopted. Open ended questions are used when the researcher wants to give the respondents the avenue to speak their minds or when the researcher wants to gain more knowledge from the respondents. In the case of this research the open-ended questions were asked as a final question to find out from the respondents if they believe that, unemployment can actually play a role in the individual turning up to vote and that they should state their reasons for their answers. The major understanding or theme that cut across the various answers given were that, “sure, because, if I don’t have any job to do and the government in power did not do anything, then why should I vote”, the most frequent response was that “of course, because jobs in the country are less and if a candidate promises jobs he or she will be voted for, like the NPP, even though they disappointed us” and “ I voted for NPP because they promised jobs, so I believe unemployment is a factor”. From the responses, it can be said that, the youth of the country are beginning to get fed up of the political parties who promise jobs and do not deliver upon their ascension to power. Also, it can be deduced from the responses that, the citizens are beginning to develop the voter’s apathy which causes the voters to be indifferent and lose their hopes in political candidates thereby causing them to not cast their votes.

### 4.9.15 Discussion of findings

With the data above, it can be realized that, although some of the respondents were working, majority of them had an income level below Ghs100.00, which obviously was very low and not enough to get by during the current inflation in prices in the country and thereby yearn to acquire new jobs that can pay them enough to survive the economy. Also, the number of youths who partake in political activities were lower as compared to those who do not partake actively in political activities. This could be due to the fact that the youths are not politically socialized enough to understand their essential role in the world of politics or it may be due to voters apathy to indulge in political activities. This of course is not a good thing because, for good governance to be ensured, there is the need essentially for political participation on the side of the people and before the good youths of the country partake in political activities and become citizens not spectators, good governance and direct democracy can be realized in Ghana. It can be added that, as per the findings above, some of the youth are members of certain political sects or groups and are mostly socialized along the believes and the practices of the particular party. Sometimes these party members or sympathizers tend to be deeply rooted in the party to the extent that they follow the party blindly even doing extreme and illegal things just for their party to take the reins of power.

Another finding was that, although the political participation of the respondents was not encouraging, their contribution in other political activities were fairly accepted, like voting, campaigning and demonstrations, with the number of voting respondents being higher than the others.

It can also be deduced from the findings that, the governments and candidates for political positions are seen as corrupt and frauds, simply because they come into power and forget most of their promises made to the people. Although most people voted for the incumbent government because of their campaign promises of which one of the main ones was provision of jobs, the very people who voted for the party are complaining that, they are being disappointed and hence are seen as frauds. This is a fear because, it can cause voters indifference, which does not serve the democracy of the country well.

Also, from the above findings, it can be seen that, although unemployment is seen as a factor affecting the number of citizens turning up to vote in an election, it is not the only factor. It can be affirmed to the assertion made by Gyimah-Boadi that, ethnicity is a factor that heavily influences the voting choices of candidates in Ghana. The ethnic group or birth region of a candidate can cause voters to vote for them even if the candidate is not very eligible. This practice must be halted and the citizens of the country must be socialized and educated very well in order to put a stop to voting based on ethnic lines or orientations.

Finally, it is realized above that, most of the respondents who were unemployed, consider employment status before voting for a particular party and hence, they voted for a party that is clever enough to include employment promises in its manifesto.

## CONCLUSION, SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

### SUMMARY OF RESEARCH

#### Effectiveness of political groups

The statistics illustrated in the previous chapter showed that, majority of the respondents belong to various political groups and therefore vote on the basis how these political group. In Ghana, although the practice of multi-party system is dictated by the constitution and well- practiced, there are two dominant political parties; the New Patriotic Party and the National Democratic Party. However, there were a number of responses that showed that, although they vote in elections, they do not belong to any political groups and hence are not influenced by the decisions made in these groups.

#### Active Political Participation and Contribution

Out of a total of 150 respondents, 64 people stated that they actively engaged in political activities, while 77 more respondents stated they fairly actively participate in these activities. However, in the varying political actives, many of the respondents stated they participated in voting which according to them is the most important political activity. With the other activities such as the

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campaigns and demonstrations, there were very few affirmative responses. From the data collected, it can be said that, voting is seen as an important activity and therefore the people engage in this activity.

### **Employed in the Area of Skills**

In terms of employment, it is advisable to employ a person in the area they can exhibit their skills efficiently in order to increase productivity. However, out of the 54 employed respondents 35 stated that they were not employed in their area of skills, with 19 persons saying the opposite. Now, relating to the income level received; it can be deduced that, the majority earn a monthly income below Ghs100, which makes their standard of living very poor. It is safe to say that, due to the fact that, these respondents do not work in their expertise, their income is also affected, if they were to be employed in their area of skill or knowledge, work done will be effective and more efficient, thereby boosting income and granting a much greater wage or income.

### **Motivation to vote for a candidate**

It is safe to say per the data in the previous chapter that, most electorates or voters consider to vote for a candidate based on their promises to provide employment. From the analysis, 45 responded in the negative, thereby proving further that, employment promises are not the only factors of interest to determine the vote. Also, a greater number of 105 responses were positive, meaning that, employment provision promises by a candidate is of interest when vote casting.

### **The influence of Ethnicity on voting**

From the above, it is found that not only employment affects the voting choices of electorates, although employment affects the voting preferences of the majority. Here will look at the possibility of ethnicity affecting the voting choice by respondents. From the total of 150 respondents, 66 respondents responded that, they do not consider the ethnic affiliations of a candidate before voting, however also a majority of 84 person responded that, they were indeed influenced by the ethnic background of the candidate. It is also accepted to say that, ethnicity is another minor factor to cause voters to vote for a candidate sharing a similar ethnicity.

### **Government performance on providing employment**

The respondents were asked if the current government is delivering on its promises of employment. Out of the total number of respondents, 85 of them agreed that, the government is indeed doing its best to provide employment to the people, while 37 of them insisted that, the government could do better. There were others (28) who were quite unsure whether the government is doing its best to provide more employment to the citizens.

### **The impact of unemployment on how voters turn out to vote**

As this accepts is the most important findings of this research, since it's what this entire research is about. In another section, the respondents were asked finally if they think unemployment affects the way people show up to vote and they were asked to state their reasons for their answers. Out of 150 respondents, 137 of them thought that unemployment affects the voter turnout and the reasons were stated collectively; "the economy is difficult and things are not easy in the country, with money being scarce, jobs are difficult to come by, so if a political party needs votes to bring more jobs into the country, then they will be voted generously into power". Another submission was that, "many graduands are passing out of the various institutions and they all need jobs and vacancies to fill, however the ratio of the jobs to the number of graduates alone is not balanced, so if a candidate wants to provide more jobs in the country to help solve the issue, then their votes are with the candidate and its party. Another reason to be considered is; "the society itself does not respect the unemployed in the communities, they are seen as misfits who are lazy and useless, only feeding off of the members of their families, so in order to make a difference of their societal images by getting employed, a candidate providing jobs will be voted for".

With the above, it can be said will empirical data that, although, there are other factors like ethnicity affecting voter turnout, unemployment affects voter turnout in a much bigger rate.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

It is recommended that, the government that promise the people of employment opportunities, do their maximum best in ensuring that their promises are fulfilled in order to prevent the voter apathy talked about.

Also recommended that, although the government promises free jobs for all, it shouldn't be the sole reason why this party gets voted into power. Careful assessment of the flagbearer's policies should be done before voting.

Finally, the people should hold the government out by its promises, when they show even the slightest whim of not fulfilling them.

## **CONCLUSION**

This study has assessed that unemployment truly affects the rate at which citizens who are eligible voters vote in an election, using the various areas of Ahinsan, Asokwa and Agogo in the Asokwa Constituency inside the Ashanti Region of Ghana. Dwelling on the findings, the researchers conclude that, ethnicity and unemployment affects how many people turn out to vote in elections. However, unemployment having the more influence due to the issues in the economy, like cedi depreciation and inflation most especially during this COVID-19 pandemic in the country and in the world, as well as various societal tags on the unemployed

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people, giving by the members of the society including their family members as well. This however shows that, as far as there are no enough jobs for the people unemployed, the issue of unemployment will still be a cause affecting the ability of the people to stand up and vote. However, what is known as the voter apathy can also be felt in the voting turnout, in the sense that, when the people become fed up that, the governments that come are not delivering on their premises of providing employment opportunities, the turn out will also be very poor. Also, it can be said that, the impact of unemployment is a two-way runaway.

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