



Who Votes In Mwanza?

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Introduction:

In Tanzania we have experienced almost four periods of general election (presidential, representatives and councilors), in all periods, turnout number of Tanzanian who voted saw significant differences. We are young scientist from Butimba secondary school, we are eager to know **who votes** specifically in our region of locality **Mwanza**. Our project intended to examine demographic characteristics such as gender, age, educational level, occupations, religious affiliation, and marital status, in relation to their involvement in voting process in percentage form.

Method:

In our country we are expecting to have the general election in 25th October 2015. The study was carried out in Nyamagana district in Mwanza city. This was due to the reason that Mwanza city is our locality; also Nyamagana districts is the areas with high population. People living in this area they do attend various political parts meeting as it is depicted in the picture attached, but we want to know which groups of people do attend and why? In order to complete our project we prepared 100 questionnaires with nine questions (the copy attached) which used to collect data, all the questionnaire prepared were distributed to participant to be filled so as we captured the needed information. The sampling technique of this study was probability sampling technique in which each member has an equal chance to be interviewed. We distributed our questionnaire to various groups like teachers, political leaders, prison leaders, priest/sheikh, students, people of different gender and age etc. we went far by visiting various political party meetings conducted in our area at Butimba ward, and other areas around and the main reasons was to identify number of people attending that particular meeting in relation to the kind of people who appears to the polling stations.



The picture showing citizen attending one of the political meetings

Results:

Sex	Frequency	Percentage
Male	64	64%
Female	36	36%

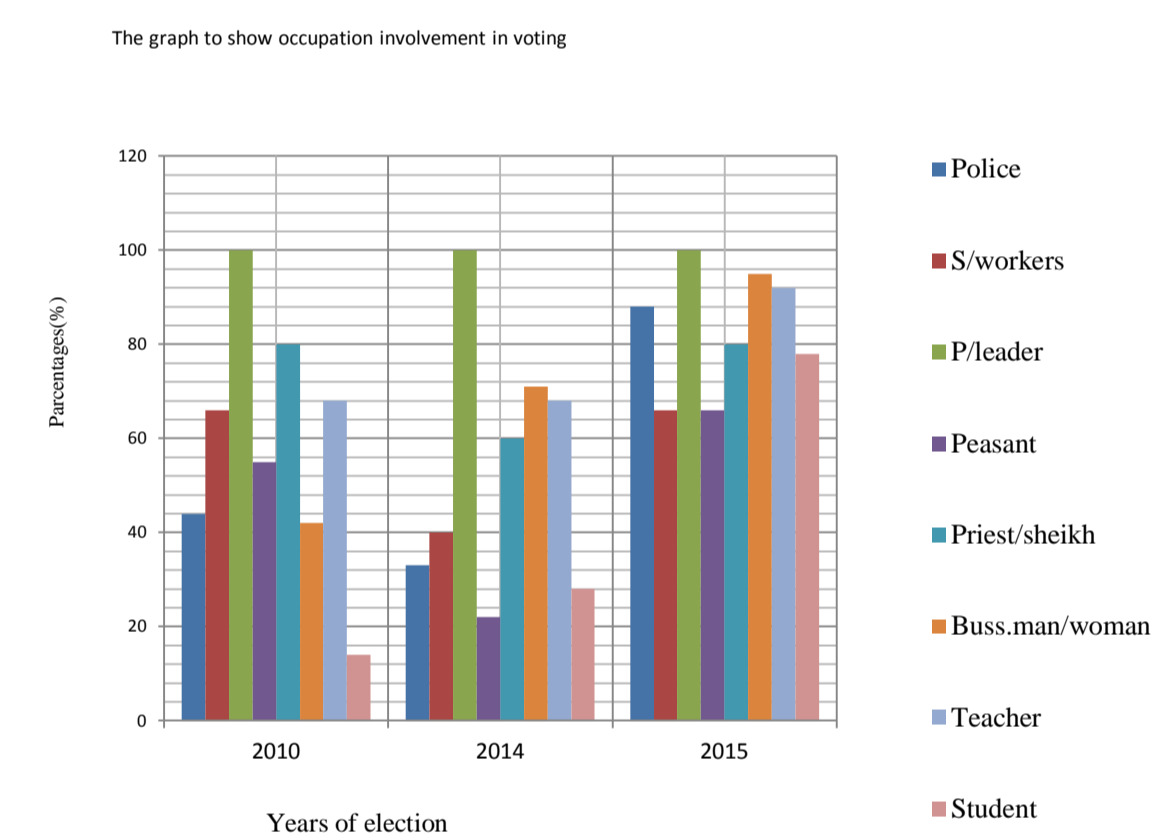
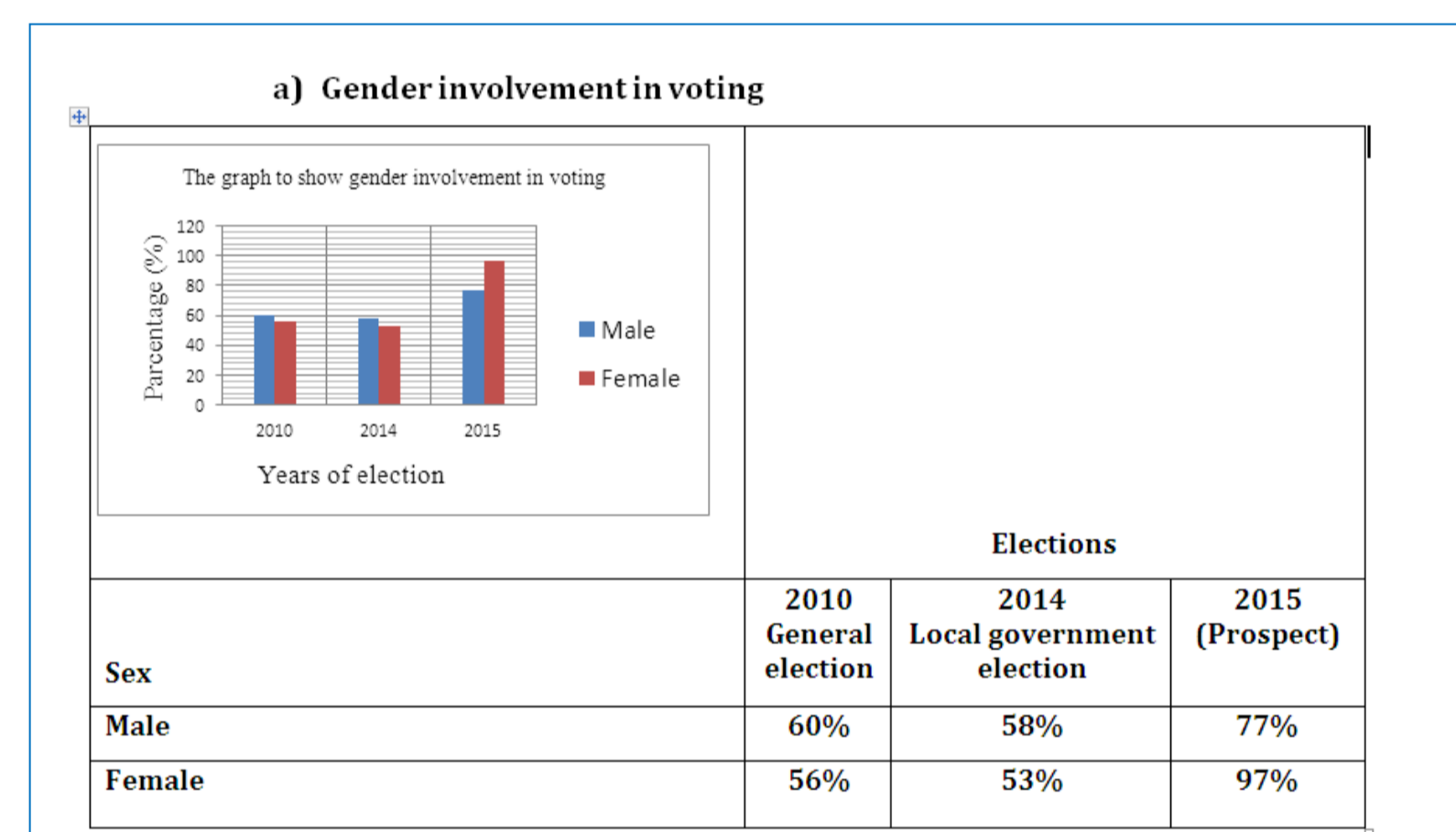
Age	Frequency	Percentage
18-22	20	20%
23-28	19	19%
29-34	23	23%
35-40	18	18%
41+	20	20%

Status	Frequency	Percentage
Single	34	34%
Married	54	54%
Widow	03	03%
Divorced	02	02%
Separated	09	09%

Categories	Frequency	Percentage
Police	09	64%
Social workers	15	15%
Political leaders	04	04%
Peasants	09	09%
Priest/sheikh	03	03%
Business man/woman	21	21%
Teacher	25	25%
Students	14	14%

Level	Frequency	Percentage
Primary	19	19%
Secondary	29	29%
Tertiary	52	52%

Categories	Frequency	Percentage
Christian	73	73%
Muslim	22	22%
Others	05	05%



The above data show that in 2010 general election as well as in the 2014 local government election male and female found in MWANZA participated almost equally, in the coming general election Oct 2015 (prospect), female are expecting to participate more as compared to male, probably it is due to civil education provided by the government and various political meeting on the importance of voting. Therefore the government should use this information to insist both male and female to participate fully in the coming general election. Civil education should be provided to all citizens so as all Tanzanian eligible to vote should full participate in voting process. Education provided also should focus on the important of people to vote; also people should know that to vote is the right of all Tanzanian citizens.

Conclusions

Our findings suggest that we can have reasonable confidence to explain who votes in Mwanza. In particular the questionnaire captured data in relation to Socio demographic characteristics which included, age, sex, religion, marital status, education and, occupation. Our findings ended on identifying people who participating in voting as it is depicted in the result section above. In our study we were just trying to investigate who votes in Mwanza in relation to social demographic characteristics. All the graph presented above show social demographic characteristic in relation to voting process, but the graph show that people of different categories are **NOT** hundred percent involving in voting process, some people are not participating at all in this vital process although vote is the right of all citizen. The following might be different reasons as to why some of people in Mwanza failed to engage in voting process.

References

Tanzania Election Monitoring Committee, (2011). The 2010 Tanzania General Elections, TEMCO, Dar es Salaam. United Republic of Tanzania, Political Parties Act (1992). Dar es Salaam.

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