

recurring deficits in electoral integrity threaten Nigeria's democratic stability and the legitimacy of its governance. These challenges not only undermine the credibility of elected officials but also erode public trust in the democratic process, potentially discouraging future participation. If unresolved, these issues could exacerbate political tensions, as evidenced by post-election protests and legal disputes challenging the declared results (BBC News, 2023).

### **1.3. Objectives of the Study**

The primary objective of this study is to assess the extent to which the 2023 presidential election in Nigeria adhered to principles of electoral integrity and its implications for the country's democratic consolidation. Specifically, the study seeks to achieve the following objectives:

- i. To analyze the role and effectiveness of the Electoral Act of 2022.
- ii. To assess the performance of the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) in managing the 2023 election.
- iii. To investigate the challenges encountered during the election.
- iv. To explore the impact of emerging political movements and public perceptions of electoral fairness on the legitimacy of the 2023 presidential election in Nigeria.