



OJASS

ISSN: 2315-5701

**OSCOTECH JOURNAL OF ARTS AND SOCIAL
SCIENCES (OJASS)**

**A BI-ANNUAL ACADEMIC JOURNAL OF THE
FACULTY OF MANAGEMENT SCIENCES,
OSUN STATE COLLEGE OF TECHNOLOGY,
ESA OKE**

MARCH 2023 EDITION

[http://ojass.oscotechesaoke.edu.n g/en/](http://ojass.oscotechesaoke.edu.ng/en/)

Vol.7 No. 1

Page 156 – 165

INSECURITY AND NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT IN NIGERIA

by

Falaiye, F.T., Fagbenle, A. O., Popoola, F.F., Adeleke A.

Department of General Studies

Osun State College of Technology, Esa – Oke

adekanmbi1964@gmail.com

08033639650, 08035805824

Oyeyemi, O. O.

Department of Educational Foundations and Counseling,

Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife, Nigeria

drbukki@gmail.com

Abstract

Insecurity has become the defining characteristic of Nigerian political scene, especially since the return to democracy in 1999. Its rising wave in the recent times has been a very perilous dimension which is fast decelerating her development and threatening the corporate existence of the country as a nation.

Available data on the level and dimensions of insecurity in Nigeria reveals an increase overtime. Since the emergence of nascent democracy, major cities and towns have become flash points of violent clashes, kidnapping, assassination, rape, hijacking, armed robbery, sabotage, insurgency and looting. Today, the centre can no longer hold due to various destructive forces that are coming together to give Nigeria, the giant of Africa a failed toga. The curiosity to examine dastard effects of insecurity on Nigeria's development informed this study. The paper revealed that Nigeria's national security is at crossroad and the effect is dastardly felt on her development. Corruption, injustice, election rigging, high level of inequality, poverty and religious intolerance are revealed as the factors that heighten the tension of insecurity in Nigeria. The paper made use of methodology of historical research which involved the analysis of secondary data obtained from relevant literature and its theoretical framework is based on democratic peace theory and relative deprivation theory. The objective of this paper was to explain how insecurity poses challenges to national development. The paper, amongst others, recommended that government at all levels should invest more on security and from time to time retain the security personnel, and by so doing gives room for a conducive environment to all sphere of the nation, in return, enhance national development.

Keywords: *Insecurity, National development, Nigeria, Political scene*

Introduction

The concept "insecurity" has been agitating the minds of all stakeholders and government in Nigeria for quite a long time. Insecurity has been devastating and unpalatable situation that has been part and parcel of Nigeria since the birth of Nigeria state being referred to as giant of Africa.

Insecurity is a serious issue in Nigeria and it is seen as a dog in the wheel of national development in the country. Nigeria has been witnessing a high rate of insecurity ranging from various activities of Fulani herdsmen, Boko Haram insurgencies, armed robbery attack, kidnapping, political/ religious crisis, murder, destruction of all government installations such as facilities by Niger Delta militants, unknown gunmen etc.

The news of insecurity seems to get from bad to worse as the security situation of Nigeria deteriorates further and further. There is crises everywhere, the centre can hardly hold with many people killed on daily basis and properties lost. The physical and physiological toll on Nigerians is great. People now sleep every night with one eye open, no one really feels safe in the country. Adeleke (2013), states that insecurity has led to destruction of lives and properties, equipment relocation and closing down of business. Fanoro (2009) opines that for more than three decade now, Nigeria national security apparatus and agenda have been under attack and even ridicule with notorious gangs and persons committing crimes against groups and group

of individuals, the government seems weak, important, baffled and unable to protect the citizens across the country to the extent that all now live under fear.

To Shettima (2012), insecurity in Nigeria can be seen in the following ways, indiscriminate destruction of lives and properties, and the dislocation of local economy with serious implication for the living conditions of the inhabitants. Aina (2020), Ogheneakoke (2014) believe that insecurity in Nigeria is as a result of absence of good government and accountability. Nwamaka and Dinwobi (2018), averre that the presence of insecurity in any environment constitutes threats to lives and properties, hinders business activities, and discourage local and foreign investors. All these stifles turn to retard the national development.

Insecurity is not a problem that occurs only in Nigeria because other nations experience the same challenges. The main point of departure is the way insecurity is managed. It is undisputable that national insecurity takes horrible and terror dimensions and has been halting the sustainability of development in the nation. It has become part of the most disturbing problems that have slowed down the pace of development in Nigeria. The political and socio-economic status of the country stands testimony to its (Sheu and Alamu, 2016).

In Nigeria, insecurity has become a great problem because it becomes a drain on national development if it is not managed properly (Tambuwal, 2021).

This paper appraised the relationship between insecurity and national development, analyzing the problem using secondary data through available literature.

It also made provision for some recommendations to move Nigeria forward in her effort to reduce or overcome insecurity.

Conceptual Clarification

This is the act of making a concept clear and distinct and to a very large extent the level of ambiguity which serves as hallmark of academic research. It is important to examine critically some of the concepts used in this paper such as insecurity and development.

Insecurity is the opposite of security and has attracted such common descriptors as want to safety, danger. Hazard, uncertainty and want of confidence, state of doubt, inadequately guarded, instability, trouble, lack of protection and being unsafe, and other (AFE, 2017).

Chiedu (2015) opines that insecurity could be described as the presence of fear and absence of economic or physical protection of persons, buildings, organizations or country against destruction or threats like crimes or attacks. To Beland (2005), insecurity is seen as state of fear or anxiety stemming from a concrete or alleged lack of protection. Therefore, it implies danger and absence of peace and security.

Development is seen as a widely debated concept that has many sides. To individual, it connotes increased skill and capacity, greater freedom, creativity, self-discipline, responsibility and material well being.

Muhammed and Abdullahi (2014) explain development as an evolutionary concept which can take the form of biological, social, physical and even structural changes or transformation. In this wise, development is seen as national development in terms of political, economic and other aspects related to social existence like peace and security.

Nwanegbo and Odigbo (2013) see development as entailing progress in all social life, increase and improvement in security of life and properties, education, goods and services produced, income distribution, employment and good governance.

Statement of Problem

The failure of government to provide for secure and safe environment for lives and properties and the running of business and other economic activities has created anger and hostility among the tribal groups (Ewetan, Ese, 2014). This has led to ethnic violence, religious violent and communal clashes in several parts of the nation and has resulted into the destruction of lives and properties, and has also stunted economic growth and development of Nigeria.

According to Ogege Sam Omadyohiroefe (2013), Nigeria as a state is faced with complex security obstacles which include ethnic crises, assassination, militancy, kidnapping and terrorism. There are several unlawful groups in Nigeria posing as a threat to Nigeria's national security like the militancy groups, terrorism groups and armed robbers etc. The conflict of Niger Delta region appeared in several ways like kidnapping of oil expatriates, frequent disruption of oil production activities through the vandalization of oil and gas installations and facilities.

The Boko Haram crisis has posed a greater security challenge to Nigeria's growth and national development, most especially in the northern-eastern part of the country.

According to Ogbonnaya and Ehigiamu Soe (2013), several attacks have from the lawless Islamic set have been targeted as the state, institutions and the civilian population. The farmers in the North central of Nigeria are always pay hosts to Fulani herdsmen who in their several attacks killed hundreds of farmers and civilians in various towns and villages. This led to the fleeing of original occupants of these towns and villages for their safety. This act has led to the scarcity of agricultural products from this region of the country.

In South-West Nigeria, the activities of kidnapers, armed robbers and ritualists have untold hardship on the population of this part of the country. Nobody can sleep with two eyes close. Everybody is now vigilante making sure he/she is part of the team that is waging war against these wicked people.

Without mincing word, all that have been said above call for urgent attention of every stakeholder in this country. The purpose of the study is to examine the relationship between insecurity and national development and suggest ways of unclogging insecurity from the wheel of national development in Nigeria.

Theoretical Framework

This study made use of Democratic Peace Theory and Relative Deprivation Theory to explain the connection between insecurity and national development.

The theory connotes that democrats are hesitant to engaged in armed conflict with other democrats as catalyst to development and growth.

Otherwise, where there is no peace no meaningful development can take place due to confused situation where there are fear, lost of confidence and others.

Relating this to Nigeria's situation, the activities of various unscrupulous elements have been a clog in the wheel of national development. The route to peace is, therefore, to encourage democratic system, the universal respect for human rights and the development of civil society. But such achievement depends largely on untroubled and robust correlation between the democratic nature of a state and peaceful inclination.

On the other hand, the Relative Deprivation Theory was propounded by Dollard et al (1939). The theory was effort to link socio-political and economic inequalities in the society to rebellions and insurrections. As individual and group-based theory of aggression, the theory argues that when expectation exceeds achievement, regardless of the absolute levels of economic consumption or the provision of political rights, frustration is generated.

Thus, collective frustration turns to anger and violence.

Applying this theory to Nigeria situation, it helps to trace the historical antecedence of conflicts, agitations and frequent rise of individuals and groups against Nigerian government. The absolute fact is that the unending failure of Nigerian government to address important challenges to development in many parts of the country may be responsible for the internal insurrection by various groups against the state.

Also, the insecurity or threats in every geo-political zone of the country are clear examples that government seems to have failed in her constitutional role of protecting lives and properties of the Nigerian people. This is clear because available evidence demonstrates that there is increasing rate of poverty among Nigerians. Individuals in Nigeria are still facing challenges of poor health status, poor state of infrastructure, high rate of illiteracy, low technological development, among others. (Anosika, 2010).

Causes of insecurity in Nigeria

Every problem that is not taking care of becomes a bigger one. The problem becomes insurmountable when the cause is not just one or two but an accumulation of many as the case of Nigeria. The known causes of insecurity are as follows:

- a. Ethno-religious conflicts: These have arisen from distrust among various ethnic groups and among the major religious in the country. Ibrahim and Igbuzor (2002). Igbuzor (2011) identified ethno-religious conflict as a major cause of insecurity in Nigeria. Achumba (2013) connotes that Ethno-religious conflict is a situation whereby the relationship between members of one ethnic or religious group and another of such group in a multi-ethnic and multi-religious society is characterized by lack of cordiality, mutual suspicious and fear and a tendency towards violent confrontation (Salawu, 2010).
- b. Weak security system: This results from inadequate equipment for the security arm of government both in weaponry and training (Achumba, 2013). This is in addition to poor attitudinal and behavioural dispositions of security personnel. In many cases, security personnel assigned to deal with security situations lack the expertise and equipment to handle the situations in a way to prevent recurrence.
- c. Bad leadership: The insecurity in Nigeria can be majorly traced to bad leadership and governance. Good leadership is paramount to meaningful development if a state would walk tall among the comity of states. Good leadership can not be compromised in a country that needs rapid development.

d. **Ethnicity:** Ethnicity is another great cause of insecurity in Nigeria. It is a social construct that can be regarded as the employment of ethnic identifications and differences to gain advantage in situations of competition, conflict and cooperation (Osaghae, 1995).

The recent 2023 election in Nigeria reflected ethnic bias as the main presidential candidates enjoyed more votes from their tribal group than any other candidate.

e. **Systematic and Political corruption:** Corruption is deeply threatening the fabric of the Nigeria society (Nwanegbo and Odigbo, 2013).

f. **Economic imbalance;** different parts of Nigeria have a different speed of development. Due to this the oil- rich regions of the country feel disturbed when the federal government use their oil and do not develop their society. People of those regions feel cheated because that. They want to take law and justice into their hands that's why they vandalise oil pipelines and cause militancy in region.

g. **Political Based Violence;** Nigeria has a long history of politically based violence since the collapse of the first republic on January 14, 1966, and the incursion of the military into governance that same date. The electoral politics in Nigeria right from 1960 till date have been characterized with violent conflicts, political thuggery, assassinations, and arson.

h. **Pervasive Material inequalities and unfairness;** A major factor that contribute to insecurity in Nigeria is the growing awareness of inequalities, and disparities in life chances which lead to violent reactions by a larger number of the people. The incessant strikes by labour, professional groups, student's demonstration and civil society groups are mainly due to pervasive material inequalities and unfairness. Their agitations are aimed at drawing public sympathy for their struggle.

Insecurity and National Development in Nigeria

Insecurity is the most intractable problem confronting the country. Empirical evidence in The Will (2021) showed that security challenges in Nigeria has continued to assume a formidable dimension threatening Nigeria's statehoods. Nigeria has been entangled in fire box of insecurity leading to deaths of innocent civilians) foreigners) members of the nation's security personnel and elected officials. The problem of insecurity has assumed alarming dimensions forcing the further development to a halt. Thus, insecurity is seen as a clog in the wheel of national development. Insecurity is a cankerworm that has eaten deep into the fabric of both human and natural resources and becomes a problem for national development. The problem is very obvious as it is seen in the destruction of few available infrastructures needed for industrial growth and development of nation. The fact that government spends more resources on curbing the menace of insecurity and its attendant destruction of few existing infrastructures makes the challenges insecurity pose to development is enormous. The Nigerian president, Major General Muhammadu Buhari (retd.) (2021), stated that insecurity manifested as insurgencies, banditry, kidnapping and urban crime of all sorts, is the single most difficult challenged facing the nation. He expressed concern that insecurity had inhibited government's ability to build infrastructure, provide the much needed social services to the people and to attract investments that drive innovation, create industries, provide jobs and create wealth. Insecurity disrupts the political stability of the country and when the political system, is not stable as a result of crisis. The government in power is distracted from pursuing its goals of transforming and developing the nation. The government rather than focusing on the agenda of

government in power is forced to channel all her energy and resources towards security at the expense of other social goods to be delivered to the people. Thus, insecurity is seen as a problem to national development. The education and its downward trend due to unknown gunmen, sit at home, banditry, kidnapping, End SARS, Boko Haram, Fulani herdsmen and other, social vices. There is no joy in all levels of education in Nigeria because of multiple effects of insecurity on education; children and students no longer go to school due to fear of unknown gunmen, kidnapers, bandits and the rest of them. The recent attack of September 16 2021 in Imo state by IPOB on students taking WAEC Examination instilled fear on students going to school. This will in turn affect the educational sector seriously, as education is part of national development. Insecurity arising from IPOB sit-at-home affects national development in tremendous ways, like education, business, economic, social and religion among others.

Nwanegbo and Odigbo (2013) stated that one of the major setbacks to development in Nigeria is insecurity, until very recently the plethora of explanations on the crawling pace of development that to be infinitesimal attention to the centrality of security to national development. It is no surprise therefore that since 1999 when Nigeria returned to civil rule insecurity hampered national development. Whilst Nigeria is endowed with abundant resources, negligence to numerous challenges of insecurity of the enrolment appears to have created porous security conditions that have endangered violence and national development. Development is achieved when people are allowed to live peacefully and without any threat to lives and properties. Nigeria is shackled with everlasting insecurity because of poverty (disunity) among multiple ethnic groups. Zumve, Ingyoroko, Aknva (2013) argued that the contemporary Nigeria is seen as a genocide, bloodshed and insecurity over the past three years due to the carnage activities of the terrorists of various groups and camps. Zumve et al., observed that insecurity, unleash havoc on the Nigeria populace. Sani, Mukhtar, Muhammad (2013) contended that insecurity constitutes a bottle neck for peaceful co-existence in Nigeria and, together with other socio-economic and political problems forms a challenge for national development. Among other challenges of national development, Nigeria is suffering from classical corruption, selfish leadership, poor economic policy and depending of foreign aids and it's a problem to national development.

Conclusion

The greatest problem confronting our country is the issue of insecurity. The rate of bombings and killings currently seen in Eastern and Northern parts of Nigeria is doing a lot of damage to the nation. Inadequate security of lives and property of the citizen is a severe clog in the wheel of national development. Insecurity occasioned by the activities of militants, unknown gunmen, kidnapers, violent armed robbery and more especially, Boko Haram in the country can shorten our dream of national development if not checked by the government. This can be done by government providing effective leadership and good governance ensuring well equipped and coordinated security.

Recommendations

Crime rate in Nigeria will be on the decline if the following measures are put in place: First, it is important that education is made compulsory at all levels - from primary up to university

level. This measure would go a long way to improve the level of awareness and increase the literacy level. The more people are educated the more security conscious they are of themselves, environment, more innovative and productive.

Second, gainful employment opportunity be created by government at all levels (state, local and federal government) so as to reduce the number of idle people because an idle mind is a devil's workshop (The present situation where the government is asking young unemployed graduates of institutions of higher learning to go back to farm is unacceptable as such leaders would not allow their own children who are graduates to become farmers. The government need to invest on social infrastructural development to create an enabling environment for economic growth and development.

Third, leadership responsibility and accountability be ensured through open declaration of assets, prosecution of corrupt leaders, dismissal and imprisonment of corrupt public officials.

Fourth, an efficient transportation system should be put in place to ease the deployment of security operatives and their over-all wellbeing be taken care of so that they will not be tempted to connive with criminals. There is the need for security sector reform through training, retraining with modern technological equipment and devices, adequate welfare and remunerations of the personnel

It is also recommended that government should create more and better opportunities for citizens to improve and develop their potentials whether they acquired western education or not entrepreneurship skills and innovation. If this is done the incidence of Boko Haram (militant religious fundamentalism) kidnapping, armed banditry, agitation for secession, and internet fraud would be averted to greater degree.

References

- Achumba, I. C., Ighomereho, O.S. & Akpor-Robaro, M.O.M. (2013). Security challenge in Nigeria and implications for Business activities and sustainable development. *Journal of Economics and Sustainable Development*, 4(2): 79-99.
- Adeleke, A. (2013). Insecurity: A threat to human existence and economic development in Nigeria. *Public Policy and Administration Research*, 3.8-13.
- Aina, V. (2020). "Rising insecurity in Nigeria causes and solutions" retrieve <https://researchcyber.com/insecurity-Nigeria-causes-effects-solution/September,2021>.
- Anosike, P. (2010). Ohanaeze tasks FG on security *Daily Sun Newspaper*, October 6.
- Beland, D. (2005). *Insecurity, Citizenship and Globalization: The multiple faces of State*

Protection, *Sociological Theory* 123(1) 25-41. <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.0735-2751.2005.0024.x>

Dinwobi, K.S. & Ozoh, J.N. (2018). Insecurity and Sustainable Development in Nigeria (in context of terrorism). *Asian Journal of Economics, Business and Accounting*, 7 (2), 1-10.

Dollard, J. Miller, N.E., Doob, L.W., Mowere, O.D., Sears, R.R. (1939). *Frustration and aggression*. New Haven: Yale University Press.

Ewetan, O.O. (2013). *Insecurity and Socio-Economic Development: Perspective on the Nigerian Experience*. A Lecturer Delivered at St. Timothy Anglican Church, Sango-Ota, Ogun State.

Igbuzor, O. (2011). Peace and Security Education: A critical factor for Sustainable Peace and National Development *International Journal of Peace and Development Studies*, 2(1), 1-7.

Nwanegbo, C.J. & Odigbo, J. (2013). Security and National development in Nigeria: The treat of Boko Haram. *International Journal of Humanities and Social Sciences* vol. 3. No 4.

Ogbonnaya, M. & Ehigiamusoe, K. (2013). Niger Delta Militancy and Boko Haram Insurgency: National Security in Nigeria. *Global Security Studies*, 4. [online] Available: [http://globalsecuritystudies.com/\(April22;2014\)](http://globalsecuritystudies.com/(April22;2014)).

Ogheneakoke, E.C. (2014). *Social Studies and National Security*, in W.P. Akpochafo and Meziobi, D.I. (ed). *Social Studies and National Security in Nigeria*, Enugu, Oshilo Consults.

Osaghae, E. (1995). *Structure Adjustment and Ethnicity in Nigeria*. Research Report Uppsala: Nordiskaafrika institute.

Sani, I; Mukhtar, J.I & Muhammed, G.L. (2015). *Insecurity and the Challenges of National*

Development in Nigeria Perspective. In Conference Committee (vol. 4, No. 2, Pg. 526).

Shettima, K. (2012). The Imperative of Peace and Development: The Challenges of Insecurity in Borno State. A paper presented at the occasion of the international security summit on terrorism and other related crimes organized by Sun Newspapers Ltd. Holding at Transcorp Hilton, Abuja from 17th -18th, April.

Tambuwal, A. (2021). State of the nation: Nigerian needs right leadership to tackle insecurity
Vanguard Newspaper, August 24th.

The Will (2021). Overcoming security challenges in Nigeria August 8.

Zumve, S. Ingyoroko M. & Atnva, I.I. (2013). Terrorism in Contemporary Nigeria: A latent function of official corruption and state neglect. European Scientific Journal, 9(8)122-140.

VOL 10 NO 1 MARCH 2023