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Research And Scholarship Amidst Security Challenges In Africa

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Introduction

Research and scholarship are some of the key drivers of national development. The importance of research and scholarship cannot therefore be over-emphasized. No nation can rise above the research output of its key research institutions. There is thus a fundamental and tenuous relationship between research, scholarship and national development (Fayomi O.S.I et al, 2018). On the other hand, research and scholarship requires a very secure and serene atmosphere to really thrive. Security has been defined or described as the absence of anxiety. Some of the questions that arise in our contemporary society include whether the security situation of our today's African societies are research enabling or not? How far is the current security situation affecting the gathering of empirical data? Can researchers even risk going into certain places in order to collect data? How secure are researchers when they publish their research findings? This is why the theme of this conference is an interesting one because it touches on the very essence of survival of Africa as a continent and as a people.

The Security Situation in Africa

There is no doubt that Africa faces and is suffering from some of the worst security challenges in history. From West Africa to East Africa, from North Africa to Southern Africa, the story is the same. It is a case of one violent crisis or another leading to serious internal and international security challenges that prejudicially affect research and scholarship.

In Nigeria for instance, the entire country appears to have been submerged by one form of internal conflict or the other to the extent that free movement of people, goods and services have become seriously impaired. In North-East Nigeria, the Boko haram insurgency had for the greater part of one decade devastated the entire north-eastern Nigeria especially Borno State, Yobe State, Adamawa State and Taraba State. The devastation has been such that whole local governments have been sacked at one point or the other leading to the greatest internal refugees crisis in Nigerian history since the Nigerian-Biafran civil war and the establishment of the greatest numbers of internally displaced persons camps in Nigerian history.

In North-Central Nigeria, particularly Kaduna, Katsina, Zamfara, and Niger States, the wreckage inflicted by Boko haram in the North-east has been repeated by bandits. In the middle belt states of Benue, Nasarawa and Plateau States, conflicts between killer Fulani herdsmen and local farmers have left in their trails untold violence and insecurity of lives and property. Farmers have been forced to abandon their farms as a result of insecurity. The result is famine and hunger as these areas known as the food basket of the nation can no longer produce food as usual. Food security is an important component of security of lives and property as there is a fundamental relationship between food security and conflict (Martin-ShieldS & Stojetz, 2018).

In South-East Nigeria, kidnapping for ransom, and agitation for the actualization of the State of Biafra by the Independent People of Biafra (IPOB) leading to heightened tension and constant clashes with State security agents have left the region a shadow of itself. The situation is so bad that IPOB declaration of sit-at-home on Mondays protest is obeyed much more better than any government directive in Nigeria. Disobedience to this order can easily lead to loss of live and or limb and properties of the ‘deviant’ citizen. The situation in South-Eastern Nigeria is so bad that in certain areas, the recruitment of child-soldiers reminiscent of the Sierra Leon or Charles Taylors Liberian war days is the order of the day. Several Federal and State highways can no longer be plied without a real fear of being kidnapped either by common criminals on a frolic of their own or by alleged IPOB and ESN operators or activists.

The story is not different in South-Western Nigeria. Ekiti and Ondo States appear to be the worst hit in the menace of kidnapping with Edo State also having a fair share. Nigeria is therefore undoubtedly facing serious security challenges at the present (Nwagboso, 2016). It cannot be otherwise when one considers the situation with the Southern Kaduna crisis and killings, with the secessionist bids from all nooks and crannies of the country. Today it is the Independent People of Biafra (IPOB); tomorrow it is the Oodua People’s Congress, next tomorrow it is the Movement for the Emancipation of Niger Delta (MEND), and next, it is Arewa Youths. If it is not herdsmen ravaging the middle belt, and some parts of the south, it is bandits wreaking havoc in the northwest especially Zamfara and Katsina States in the recent past. If it is not Boko Haram pillaging the northeast, it is kidnappers ravaging the southeast, southsouth and southwest. If it is not the Academic Staff Union (ASUU) and some other unions in the tertiary education sector of our country having faceoff with the Federal Government resulting in avoidable strike actions, it is the Nigerian Labour Congress and

Trade Union Congress in conflict with the government over hikes in pump price of premium motor spirit (PMS) popularly referred to as fuel or petrol or increase in electricity tariffs or non-implementation of agreements such as minimum wage. One will also not forget in a hurry students' protests here and there. These face-offs often result in crisis that create and fuel security challenges. I am very clear in my mind that the EndSARS protests succeeded in attracting such a huge turnout of participants to a very large extent because the teeming youths of our country were idle at home for a very long time as a result of the ASUU-FG face-off.

The Boko Haram insurgency is affecting both Chad and Niger Republic. Cameroon is facing internal conflicts arising from agitations for secession and self-rule by the people of Southern Cameroon. The Central African Republic is locked in a long crisis arising from scramble for the country's natural resources and endowment leading to persistent violence and insecurity of lives and property.

The crisis in Northern Africa, Egypt, Tunisia, and Libya are legendary. Kenya, Zimbabwe and Uganda in Eastern Africa are not left out. In South Africa, it has become a war between the indigenes and non-indigenes constantly leaving tales of wows, of death and carnages in its trail arising from xenophobic attacks.

You must agree with me that with so much crisis and violent conflicts in African States, an inquiry into the situation of research and scholarship amidst security challenges is apt. To cap it all, the Covid 19 Pandemic has foisted its own peculiar challenges on research and scholarship not only in Africa but the entire world (Betancourt, 2020).

Challenges of Research and Scholarship in Africa

Insecurity is one of the greatest challenges facing research and scholarship in Africa today. This includes terrorism, violent extremism and radicalization, banditry and kidnapping, internal conflicts and separatist groups. Apart from security, or insecurity, research and scholarship in Africa face a whole lot of challenges. These have been well documented in some other researches (Shinkafi, 2020). We shall, therefore, be content to restate some of them here. They include:

- Lack of funding – poor remuneration, heavy teaching schedules, inadequate infrastructure, unaffordable analytical tools, inadequate research grants, and inadequate budgetary allocations for Institution Based Research (IBR). The problem of funding is always there. The resources are too meagre to manage let alone investing in research.

- Scarcity of Mentors/ Lack of Orientation and Mentorship on the ethics of Research
- Lack of Writing Skills/Appropriate skills – This is a fundamental problem because the young researcher is not usually prepared for this. He may have to learn on the job. Therefore, efforts at acquiring the proper research writing skills must be made early enough.
- Lack of Motivation – Research does not appear to be properly rewarded in this country. There are hardly any funding agencies. When you have achieved all the research output, some would ask you, “how much cash does it translate to? (O pusa ikpeghe ole?). There is also the problem of non-recognition of one’s efforts by the institution, a feeling which leads to lacklustre attitude even to one’s own research. This must be avoided. Again stagnation of colleagues can have a very negative impact. When one observes the way people who have strove hard are stagnated for one flimsy reason or the other, the impetus to work hard is reduced. Notwithstanding all these, research can be also economically rewarding.
- Low demand for research by policymakers – most of our research output are not appreciated or used by policy makers and this tend to affect morale and stifle research. Research outputs end up being left either in the publications where they are published or on the shelves to continue to gather dust.
- Lack of access to latest scientific literature – In this age of technology, access to latest scientific literature may not be easy especially in the less developed countries where institutional subscription and access to literature and data bases is low. Most of such literature are locked and available only on purchase while the resources for such purchases may be lacking. Part of the problems a lot of our colleagues face in publishing in high impact factor journals arise specifically from lack of access to latest scientific literature and international data bases to support their research works. The solution many have relied on is to seek collaborators outside the country.
- Inadequate data collection sources – Data is critical especially to empirical research. Empirical research to be successful and meaningful must be founded on adequate data collection. If the sources of data collection are inadequate, it is problematic. Many young academics face the problem of inadequate data collection sources. Happily, it is a problem that can easily be overcome by correct exposure to the correct sources of data. Some data bases cannot easily be accessed. Young

researchers would have to seek collaborations with both local and international collaborators in this regard.

- Lack of focus – Many young academics when they come in do not know exactly where they want to go. They do not know where they want to specialize or where they want to concentrate their research efforts. For many, this may take a number of years to resolve but for those who identify their focus early enough, excelling is easier. This is where mentorship comes in. Where in doubt, the young academic should not hesitate to consult senior colleagues or other colleagues.
- Brain drain/Best brains are not recruited – This is one of the greatest challenges to research and scholarship in Africa today. Africa's best is migrating to Europe, America and the rest of the world in droves on a daily basis. The question is, when all these have gone, who will then carry out the research and scholarship? The research capabilities and output of Africa are now going to further develop other continents' economies leaving Africa to continue struggling.
- Corruption – Corruption, like fraud destroys everything, including research and scholarship. The beginning of corruption in the system is the recruitment process which leaves the best and recruits into the system mediocres. Such mediocres do not have the necessary skills nor knowledge to improve upon let alone improving themselves. They may also have to rely on the same corrupt and crooked means and ways to climb up the ladder with nothing to impart to younger academics. They may be bereft of any mentorship capabilities or academic leadership qualities. Such corruption may equally affect research funding where funding is released not to the best proposals but on the basis of who knows who (who know man).

The Way Out

The question that must agitate our minds is this – what has other countries done to get out of the woods as far as research and scholarship is concerned. How have other countries dealt with these challenges to successfully nip them in the bud? Can we learn a thing or two from them?

I believe that we can learn one or two things from other climes. To begin with, the greatest step towards solving the problems of research and scholarship in Africa is prioritization. Government, institutions of government and private companies and individuals must wake up to the challenge and clarion call to prioritize research and scholarship in this country and

Africa as a whole. If research and scholarship is prioritized in Africa such that it is as lucrative as going into politics or business, the likelihood that it will attract and retain the best brains for the development of the continent is high. If you ask yourself, how many foundations are autochthonous and funding research activities in Nigeria, you will see that it is just a handful. Overseas, journal article publications are sponsored by agencies and funding bodies. In Nigeria, and most other African countries, individuals have to fund their own research and research publications. There must be a paradigm shift in this regard if research and scholarship must take its pride of place in our scheme of affairs.

Secondly, on the issue of mentorship, young scholars or academics must endeavour to identify early in their career mentors who can assist them in realizing their academic dreams. Our older colleagues are encouraged to take on the role of mentoring the younger ones and directing them aright even when some of them do not appear to show the requisite interest. That is the calling of the academic.

Most importantly, the young academic must take his destiny in his hands and place priority on his or her personal development. Personal development is the key or answer to the quagmire of problems in research and scholarship. It is personal development that will equip the young academic to overcome the hurdles. The young academic must learn to devote a part of his earning for attendance at conferences and workshops where he can pick up necessary skills without waiting for anybody's sponsorship. It is amazing how one attendance at a conference opens the door to a world of opportunities for collaborations and exploits. The young academic must also learn to keep aside part of his earnings to training in IT and computer technology.

Develop online survey and research skills. Invest in technology and exploit technology. It is one sure way of by-passing a whole lot of security and insecurity challenges in research today. It also helps in getting instant feedbacks and avoidance of physically chasing the return of questionnaires and survey papers from the respondents. In some instances, the packages also assist with the analysis of the data. It is a strongly recommended option.

Learn to collaborate. Establish collaboration and linkages with other researchers in other institutions and locations. Learn to rely on or use locals who are familiar with the terrain in acquiring empirical data in difficult or otherwise insecure and unsafe terrains. That is why it is good and necessary to attend conferences and workshops. These are the avenues for meeting with colleagues from various backgrounds and places, and establishing flourishing social, economic and research ties.

Take a course in research grant writing. Take a course in research methodology. A rigorous study in research grant writing prepares the young academic to compete favourably with others in today's competitive world for the available research funding opportunities. It is a desideratum, a sine qua non for a successful career in today's research and scholarship. Attracting research grants means that the applicant is able to present convincing research proposals. It is an art that can be learnt. Again, research methodology and grant writing are like Siamese twins. Both go together. One of the inhibiting factors for researchers in the arts and humanities and law is the lack of requisite knowledge and skills in empirical research methodology. Their curricula, generally, are not designed to adequately equip them with these skills. By the time they are going into academics as a career, most are ill-equipped for empirical research which is where the funding in research is. A set of empirical data well gathered and analysed can always give rise to multiple impact factor journal articles. In order to overcome this lacuna in initial training, the young academic must take it upon himself or herself to acquire these knowledge and skills on his or her own. Please do not wait for any institutional sponsorship or support. It may never come. Take the bulls by the horn and equip yourself. You will be the better for it. The bottom line is, do everything possible to improve yourself and start early. That way, the security challenges, though acknowledged to exist, may no longer present inhibitions that cannot be overcome. Rather, they become stepping stones to greater research output and scholarship.

I thank you for listening.

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Voter's turnout in Presidential elections in Nigeria: 1999-2019

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Abstract

This paper is anchored on Voter's turnout in presidential elections in Nigeria: 1999-2019. Voter's turnout simply means the percentage or number of persons of voting age population for the percentage of registered voters, who actually participated to vote in an election. Elections are the means by which the people choose and exercise some degree of control over their representatives. There are two main types of elections. These are direct and indirect election. The frequent use of voter turnout in literature to explain the reason why people vote tends to question the feasibility of the survival of democratic process in Nigeria. It also basically raises a credible question to the organization and structure of the electoral institutions in this case (INEC) Independent National Electoral Commission. The main objective of this study is to find an explanation to the socio-dynamics of voter's turnout in Nigeria by using figures of voters in the Nigerian presidential election covering the period under review. This paper relied on secondary data and adopted Rational Choice theory as its theoretical framework. The finding is that electorates vote on the ground of patrimonial and primordial attachment. The study concluded that there exist a sharp difference between the number of registered voters and votes cast in Nigerian presidential elections covering the years under review. Its recommendations among other include that voters education campaign should be intensified to enhance voter turnout in Nigeria

Keywords:

Voters, Turnout, and Election:

Introduction:

Electoral process refers to a series of actions that are taken to bring about changes in government through the selection of leaders. Voter turnout in a country can be measured by

considering the nature of political culture, political participation and political socialization, this simply means the behavioural disposition of the citizens towards the government in a democratic government of the day vis-a-vis every other political activity in the country.

Nigerian election from 1999-2019 is not actually showing profound evidence of a growing tenet of democratic activities as is concern voters active participation in the electoral process. According to Mozaffar (2012, p.86), the conduct of credible election is essential in any democracy, and is at the core of citizens democratic rights. Elections in democracies play the vital role of ensuring representation of popular will and help to secure the legitimacy of the political system, in this context, the body that is established and charged with the responsibility to conduct elections by the constitution of the federal republic of Nigeria (1999) as amended, and the electoral Act (2010) is the guard for (INEC) Independent National Electoral Commission.

According to Ibrahim, Liman, and Mat (2015), the nature of voting behaviour in Nigeria has remained constant from the first republic with only little changes in the fourth and fifth republic, hitherto, Nigerian choices were determined by ethnicity, tribalism, regionalism religious affiliation etc. Gilbert and Barigbon (2015) further revealed in their study that from 1999, Nigerians fully monetized politics and money-politics shaped their voting behaviour, and the reason for their turnout was for monetary gains. Poverty, lack of democratic consciousness and rigging nature of election has resulted in this political menace. Similarly, Idike (2014), stated that “political parties have rather brought into government, so many people of doubtful integrity and character who became guilty of corruption and their cases helped in accentuating the political apathy scenario”

The broad objective of this, describe voter’s turnout in presidential election in Nigeria, 1999-2019:

Voters Turnout:

The term voter turnout refers to the percentage of eligible voters who cast a ballot in an election. Roberts, (2019, p.33) conceived voter turnout as the total number of people that vote in a given election, sometimes given as a percentage. Defining turnout as the share of

population that has cast its votes is correct but not necessarily complete. Geys (2016, pp. 34-35) opines that, when turnout is defined as a share of the population, a clear operationalization of the population variable is also needed. The ratio of the number of voters to the entire population, to the population of voting age, to the eligible population or people registered to vote must be considered.

The number of electorates who turn out to vote for their government is important in understanding people's political participation. Voters turnout emerged from indirect democracy, as members of democratic society where obligated to elect their representative through a voting process.

Direct Election: This is a more democratic system that reflects popular choice because the electorates cast their votes directly to select the candidates of their choice through the ballot box or the open ballot. The voters vote for the final representatives who will form the government. it is common in many states. It is sometimes used in legislative elections in Nigeria.

Advantages of Direct election

1. Direct election is democratic;
2. Direct election is not much affected by corruption and bribery;
3. It gives the opportunity to the citizens to have a direct say in the type of policies the government may pursue.
4. It ensures that those chosen to represent the people reflect the true wishes of the majority of the electorate.

Disadvantages of Direct election

1. Direction election is expensive.
2. Direction election is easily rigged.
3. It allows the election of incompetent representatives into government.
4. It lead to violence and thuggery.
5. It leads to victimization of voters.

Indirect election: This is a type of election whereby voting is done in stages. First of all, the electorate elects a body of people known as the electoral college, and members of the electoral college are given the mandate to choose the final representatives who will form the government on behalf of the people. In other words, indirect election takes place when the

elected representatives vote for the final representatives on behalf of the electorate. Another name for indirect election is electoral-college system. Indirect election was used in Nigeria for the selection of members of the constituent assembly in 1977

Advantages of Indirect election

1. It is not too expensive to conduct;
2. It minimizes electoral malpractice. In other words, final representatives who are to form the government are often selected without much electoral malpractice.
3. It ensures the selection of capable and competent people as the representatives.
4. It puts the selection of the national leaders in the hands of better-informed and enlightened persons (i.e. electoral-college.)

Disadvantages of Indirect election

1. It is easily affected by bribery and corruption.
2. It denies the citizens a direct and full participation in the selection of their leaders.
3. It often, does not reflect the true choice or wishes of the majority of the electorate when the final selection is completed.
4. It denies the citizens the opportunity to have a direct say in the type of policies the government will adopt.

Electoral College:

This is used in indirect elections in countries like USA for electing the President (and in Nigeria when a winner does not clearly emerge after the presidential election). In USA it implies that the masses will not vote directly for their president but instead will vote for some eminent men and women who will meet later and vote the president on their behalf.

By-election:

This is an election held to fill a vacant seat in the executive or legislative caused by death, resignation or disqualification of the incumbent.

Primary election: This is a mini-election within the political party to choose those they will present as their candidates for the general election.

Purpose of Elections:

1. It serves as a means of selecting or appointing political leaders or office holders.
2. It serves as a means of changing the government in a smooth way. To change
3. The government, ruling party is voted out.
4. It ensures the acceptance of political leaders by the led. It makes government legitimate.
5. It encourages stability in the government and help to check abuses or excesses of the government.
6. It is a means by which the citizens participate actively in the government of their state (i.e. popular participation). It makes people politically awake and aware.

7. It educates the people on their rights. This is done during the electioneering campaign
8. It serves as a means of ensuring that political sovereignty is vest in the people.
9. It serves as a means of testing the popularity of the government or the political office-holders.

Functions of an Election:

1. Elections are primary a means of legitimizing the right of the ruler to rule.
2. It is a means of recruiting future political leaders,
3. It provides the electorate the only means of participating in government.
4. It is a form of political communication between the government and the citizens.
5. It is also a means which political decision makers become sensitive to the electorate's demands and in turn are in a position to educate the electorate on important political issues.

Theoretical Framework:

This paper adopted the rational choice theory, propounded by William Riker, and it is used to described where actors are actions their basic units, this theory necessarily concerns actors and so begins with axioms about their actions. Believing that actions and outcomes vary according to the range of institutions and the kinds of actions guided by them, political scientists have separated their theories roughly by this consideration. An economist thus concern mainly the processes and outcomes produced by voluntary exchange, where of cause all participant benefit politics, on the other hand mainly concerns processes and outcome produced by group decisions which are practically bonded on those who cannot resign from the group, hence in politics there are losers as well as winners and it is politics, not economics that is the decimal science Riker (2018, pp.23-24) applied this version of rational choice theory which they variously called rational choice, social choice, formal modeling or positive political theory used to explain almost everything, including voting, legislation, wars and bureaucracy. Rational choice theory then assumes that an individual has preferences among the available choice alternatives that allow them to state which option they prefer.

The rational agent is assumed to take account of available information, probabilities of events, and potential costs and benefits in determining preferences, and to act consistently in choosing the self-determined best choice of action.

Application of the theory:

The rational choice theory of voting has a long history, Down (2007, p.55) recognized that, where voting is costly, individuals will consider both how much they care about the outcome and likelihood that their vote will influence the outcome (be pivotal). In large elections, the likelihood that an individual's vote will be pivotal is so small as to make it unlikely that the expected benefit of voting will outweigh the costs. This of course, leads to the difficulty that if elections are large, no one will have the incentive to vote, but, if no one votes any one vote can determine the outcome so that the incentive to vote will be high. Without developing it fully, Down suggested a solution based on the idea that there important private and social benefits to the act of voting the might accrue to individuals and give them the incentives to vote

The rational choice theory, emphasize the effort to maximize political gains. For example, if voters feel their vote may not produce the desired outcome, they may opt not to vote. Here, the core determinants are the issues or party programmes which come closest to the democratic aspirations of the voter. Making an informed decision in such a situation requires that voters have access to adequate and appropriate information.

Riker and Ordeshook (2008, p.78) extend Downs ideas in a useful model of the decision to vote that starts with the rational assumption that individuals will vote if their expected utility from voting is higher than their expected utility from not voting. According to Campbell et al (1960) and Varba and Nie (1972) voting research is rich in empirical regularities yet a parsimonious theory of voter turnout has proven to be elusive. Early, attempts to explain why people vote were based on the so-called social-psychological studies, which started with the idea that people vote if they develop the appropriate mental inclinations, for example, if they have a sense of citizen duty.

Suffrage:

Suffrage is the right to vote and be voted for. It is the right to participate in an election as a voter and as a candidate. Another name for suffrage is franchise. Enfranchise means giving a citizen the right to vote and be voted for. Disenfranchisement means the deprivation of the right to vote and be voted for.

Types of Suffrage:

- ❖ **Universal Suffrage:** It is when every citizen is given the right to vote and be voted for. Universal suffrage does not exist in any state because no state gives franchise to children and mad people.
- ❖ **Universal male suffrage:** This allows only adult males to vote and be voted for. Females are not allowed to vote and be voted for. For example, it was obtainable in the Northern Nigeria before 1979.
- ❖ **Universal adult suffrage:** This allows only adult males and females “to vote and be voted for” during an election. Universal adult suffrage is obtainable in many states in the World. It allows for greater political participation.
- ❖ **Limited suffrage:** It is when franchise is restricted of limited. Under limited franchise, right to vote and be voted for depends on the fulfillment of special conditions or requirements expected of every eligible voter under the law of the state. Such conditions are age, sex, education, race, wealth and religion.
- ❖ **Tax-payers’ suffrage:** Only those who pay taxes and produce receipt of payment are allowed to vote.
- ❖ **Property-owners suffrage:** In this kind of society only those who own properties like land, houses or earn a certain amount of income are allowed to vote. This suffrage was used in Nigeria in 1922 during the time of Clifford’s constitution when only those who earn an annual income of 100 pounds and above were allowed to vote.
- ❖ **Colour suffrage:** Here only those who are of a particular race are allowed to vote. In South Africa before 1990 only the whites and colour people were allowed to vote. This kind of suffrage was employed to debar black from voting, but the situation has changed now.
- ❖ **Educated people’s suffrage:** In this kind of society only those who are literate are extended the right to vote. In the early part of the 20th century the literacy and property qualifications were used in the USA to prevent blacks and new immigrants from voting.

Requirements of Universal Adult Suffrage:

Universal adult suffrage has been adopted by many states including Nigeria. These are the qualifications for voting and being voted for under universal adult suffrage:

1. **Citizenship:** Citizens have the right and duty to vote and be voted for; foreigners or aliens have no right or duty to vote or be voted for.
2. **Age:** Many states have a minimum age required for voting and being voted for. In Nigeria, the voting age is 18 years and above.
3. **Registration:** Citizens who are qualified to vote are to register their names in the voters register. If a citizen's name is not in the voters register, he may not be allowed to vote.
4. **Residence:** A citizen who wants to vote should have lived in the constituency or ward where he wants to vote for a specified period of time. In Nigeria, it is between six months and one year.
5. **Sanity:** Only citizens who are mentally sound are allowed to vote and be voted for. Mad persons are not allowed to vote.
6. **Non-criminal record:** Criminals in prison are not allowed to vote and be voted for. In Nigeria, any citizen convicted of felony cannot contest for an election until ten years after serving his prison sentence.
7. **Solvency:** A citizen who is not able to pay all his just debts will not be allowed to stand for election. Anyone declared bankrupt is not allowed to be voted for.
8. **Regular tax payment:** This is a requirement for being voted for (i.e. contesting an election). To qualify as a candidate, the citizen must show an evidence of having paid his tax as and when due for three consecutive years prior to the year he will contest an election.

Disenfranchisement:

This refers to the deprivation of a citizen's right to vote. Disenfranchisement can take place due to any of the following reasons:

1. Conviction for a criminal offence- this however excludes political prisoners;
2. Conviction for electoral malpractice in a preceding election;

3. Proof of insanity of bankruptcy;
4. Loss of citizenship where one is an immigrant.

Qualification for election and Voting in Nigeria:

1. To qualify as a voter, a person must have reached the age of 18 year or above and must have been registered as a voter in Nigeria before the general elections.
2. A voter must be a citizen of Nigeria. Aliens are not permitted by the constitution to register as voters in Nigeria.
3. According to section 65 of the 1999 constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria as amended, a person shall be qualified for a election if:
4. He has been educated up to at least school certificate level or its equivalent; and
5. He is a member of a political party and is sponsored by that party.
6. To qualify for membership of the House of Representatives and the House of Assembly, he must be the citizen of Nigeria and attained the age of thirty years and above.
7. The Senate, if he is citizen of Nigeria and has attained the age of thirty five years.

Section 131 of the 1999 constitution states that a person shall be qualified for election to the office of the president if, he is a citizen of Nigeria by birth; and he has attained the age of forty years; he is a member of a political party and sponsored by that political party; and he has been educated up to at least school certificate level or its equivalent.

8. Section 177 of the 1999 constitution states that a person shall be qualified for election to the office of the president if, he is a citizens of Nigeria by birth; and he has attained the age of thirty-five years; he is a member of political party and sponsored by that political party; and he has been educated up to at least school certificate level or its equivalent.

Voter's turnout in presidential election in Nigeria from 1999-2019:

From 1999 to 2019 seven elections took place. However, in the context of this paper, the presidential election from 1999-2019 will be reviewed. The 1999 election year was a period of renewal that witnessed the transition from military rule to civil rule. The 1999 election was between former president Olusagun Obasanjo of PDP and Olu-Falea of AD all Yorubas and also Christians. The Northern elite supported Obasanjo and his president in order to appease the Yoruba ethnic group of the wound of annulment of June 12th 1992 election. Former

president Obasanjo was the anointed candidate and won with majority of the votes albeit, a low turnout of voters in the North and East. The West voted for Olu-Falae instead of Obasanjo but Obasanjo enjoyed the support of power brokers from the North and the East emerged victorious.

A probable explanation of the high turnout for the 2003 presidential election was the fact that it was contested by twenty of the thirty registered political parties. One reason given for the comparatively high turnout is that the electorate had confidence in the electoral body that conducted the election and that many voters wanted to associate with the ruling party Olaniyi (2018, p.77).

In 2003, Obasanjo contested under the platform of PDP with the power of incumbency against Muhammadu Buhari of APP, where Obasanjo won in a landslide victory amidst outcries of massive rigging and electoral malpractice. Obasanjo attempted a third term tenure against the legal provision of the constitution but it was resisted in the build up to 2007 presidential elections. As a result, he anointed sick incapacitated Yaradua to context in 2011 in which he eventually won against Buhari of ANPP in a highly controversial election full of rigging and malpractices. One vital issue that one should consider in the presidential in the fourth and fifth republic in Nigeria is the fact that, the elite from all sections of the country united and were rigging the outcome of the elections as against the will of the electorate. But, still there is escalation of the use of politics of ethnicity and religion even more pronounced that before.

The result of the 2011 presidential election, which the two major contenders were between the then former president Goodluck Jonathan and Buhari. The dominant political parties, among them were the Peoples Democratic, (PDP) the Action Congress of Nigeria, (ACN), and Congress for Progressive Change (CPC), and the All Nigeria People Party (ANPP) waged elaborate and well-funded political campaigns.

The Nigerian democratic process is that of political behaviour and voting system where electorates vote for political leaders on the ground of patrimonial and primordial attachment instead of those candidates that can improve their living condition and develop the country through good governance.

Table 1: Summary of presidential election result from 1999-2019:

	1999	2003	2007	2011	2015	2019
Population	108,258,035	129,934,091	131,859,073	162,471,000	197,565,448	203,545,978
Voters registered.	57,938,094	60,823,022	61,567,036	73,528,040	67,422,005	64, 056,430
Votes cast	30,280,052	42,018,735	35,387,517	39,409,520	29,432,083	45,600,760

Source: Independent National Electoral Commission records.

In Nigeria, the systemic voter turnout since 2007 is an indication that Nigerians have greatly become apathetic towards elections. Statistics from the (INEC) captured the trend in voter turnout in the country; 52.2% in 1999, 69.08% in 2003, 57.49% in 2007, 53.58% in 2011, 43.65% in 2015 and 41.45% in 2019. It is an undisputable fact that if the masses of a particular country refuse to fulfill their electoral obligation, then there is disconnect between the masses and the government, thus bringing to question the democratic right and acceptability of the government (Falade 2014).

The Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) is Nigeria's national electoral management institution established in 1999 by the constitution of Nigeria as amended, repealed by Electoral Act of (2010) as amended which empowered INEC as the electoral umpire in the country, to organize election into various political offices. The establishment of INEC precipitated the transition from military rule to civil rule; the sole responsibility was to conduct transparent and credible elections in Nigeria.

The Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) became more determined to curb rigging of elections result and other electoral irregularities introduced electronic card reader which must be used during the election to screen the voters before they are eligible to vote. The rationale behind this according to INEC Chairman, Professor Attahiru Jega was to avoid inflation of result and rigging. The really played a vital role also in determining the outcome of the result (Babayo, 2017). Since the introduction of the card reader through electoral reforms, the spate of violence during elections has decreased, compared to previous times when there was no credible means to identify and verify eligible votes. These reforms in Nigeria electoral system has contributed to increased confidence on the electoral system thereby resulting to increase in voter turnout.

Table 2: Summary of Presidential election results from 1999-2019 at a glance:

Details	1999	2003	2007	2011	2015	2019
Numbers of registered voters	57,938,094	60,823,022	61,567,036	73,528,040	67,422,005	64, 056,430
Total vote cast	30,280,052	42,018,735	35,387,517	39,409,520	29,432,083	45,600,760
% of voter's Turnout	41.14	69.08	50.75	53.68	43.65	40.45

Source: Extract from Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) Presidential results.

Table 3: Summary of Presidential election results from 1999-2019 at a glance:

Details	1999	2003	2007	2011	2015	2019
Registered voters	57,938,094	60,823,022	61,567,036	73,528,040	67,422,005	64, 056,430
Rejected votes	800,432	2,538,246	NA	1,259,506	844,519	2,780,045
Valid vote cast	29,479,620	39,480,489	NA	38,209,98	28,587564	43,879,777
Total vote cast	30,280,052	42,018,735	35,387,517	39,409,520	29,432,083	45,600,760
% of valid votes cast	50.88	64.91	56.07	51.97	42.40	40.05

Source: Extract from Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) Presidential results. (1999-2019), Abuja.

Table 4: Summary of Presidential election results from 1999-2019 at a glance:

Details	1999	2003	2007	2011	2015	2019
No of registered voters	57,938,094	60,823,022	61,567,036	73,528,040	67,422,005	64, 056,430
Total votes cast	30,280,052	42,018,735	35,387,517	39,409,520	29,432,083	45,600,760
Differences b/w no. of registered voters & votes cast	27,658,893	18,804,287	26,169,519	34,058520	37989922	18,655,670
% Difference	47.74	30.92	42.51	46.32	56.35	47.75

Source: Extract from Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) Presidential results. (1999-2019), Abuja.

Conclusion:

- (1) The rate at which voters turned out and participated in the presidential elections in Nigeria from 1999-2019 was not as encouraging as it ought to be in a democratic government where the will of the people (voters) count and speak loud through elections.
- (2) The paper also state that the percentage of valid votes in the presidential elections in Nigeria from 1999-2019 are generally poor and below expectation.

- (3) The low level of turnout of voters can be attributed non awareness of the electorate on the election guideline and voting process by the electoral umpire and political parties to the electorate and particularly the issue of illiteracy and ignorance mostly amongst the people at the rural areas.
- (4) The observed differences between the number of registered voters and the total number of votes cast in the presidential elections in Nigeria in recent times could be based on political apathy, lack of sincere issue of benefit on political parties manifestos and lack of trust on political representatives among others.

Recommendations:

1. During electioneering periods, INEC should do well to engage the leadership of local organizations and communities in educating their members on the electoral guidelines and process in order to reduce the rate of invalid or rejected votes during elections and to guarantee the choice of the people to be elected.
2. Political parties should see the need to focus on issue based manifestos that can motivate the voters to turn out and participate actively and fully in the general elections.
3. The government should endavour to enact stringent laws that can help to drastically reduce to its barest minimum the issue of voter's intimidation and ballot box snatching by the security operatives during elections.
4. Government should guarantee security for voters, and can engage the community vigilante groups for the security of the INEC staff and the election materials.

5. Voters should do well to have a change of attitude towards elections, they should no longer show apathy to general elections in the country for with their active participations, manipulation of the process may be difficult for those political tugs and their pay master.
6. There should be proper voters education by INEC and political parties, to adequately informed the electorate on the important of voting during elections.

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The Effect of Dividend Payout and Capital Structure on Firms' Value among Manufacturing Firms in Nigeria: Panel Regression Approach

by

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Abstract

One of the key factors that attract investors to invest in a company is the market value of the firm. Two of the most important determinants of firm value are the dividend payout policy and capital structure of a company. Both of them send signals to prospective investors on the performance of the company. This study aims at empirically analyzing the effect of dividend payout policy and capital structure on firms' value among selected manufacturing firms in Nigeria. We estimated panel regression models using

data from 26 sampled firms covering the period between 2016 and 2020. Our result indicate that dividend payment to shareholders is positively related to firm value, capital structure is negatively related to firm value. However, a key finding of this study is that capital structure is negatively related to firms' value for models without the interaction term but when dividend policy interact with capital structure of the firms, the effect on the firm value becomes significantly positive. Thus capital structure and dividend policy are joint decisions. We conclude that maintaining optimum levels of debt and equity is a relevant consideration to avoid the vagaries of the market towards the assessment of firms worth and investment potentials among the Nigerian manufacturing firms.

Keywords: firm value, dividend payout policy, capital structure, panel regression

1. Introduction

The core mandate of firm management is to ensure that the capital of the shareholders and returns on their investments are maximized. This is achieved based on the performance and market assessment of the firm. A key market performance indicator is the firm value or corporate value of a company. According to Hirdinis (2019) firm value reveals the efficiency of a firm management in terms of net cash flow from investment decisions, growth and cost of capital to the company. It signals the present and future success and credibility of the firm to the market. The perception of potential investors on the market performance of a company is usually based on the assessment of its corporate value. A high corporate value indicate a good company performance while a low corporate value indicate a company with poor performance. A company's creditors view the corporate value closely because it is related to the liquidity of the company and their ability to repay loans provided by the creditors. From a heuristic point of view, a low valued company will be rated low for investment prospects (Rahman, 2014; Setiadharna and Machali, 2017).

One of the major determinants of firm value is the financing strategy of its management. The Capital structure shows how a firm finances its investment opportunities. Capital structure of a company connotes the combination of present and long-term debt, equity as well as other sources through which a firm finances its long term assets. It is measured as the ratio of the value of debt to the value of a company's own capital. According to Shah and Khan (2007), capital structure decisions is at the center of many decisions in corporate finance. Financing of a firm's investment opportunities with debt or equity has certain implications for the company's performance. A debt-financing firm consents to fixed repayments over a specified period despite the firm's profit or loss position while an equity-financing firm avoids

repayments but relinquishes part of the ownership interest to the investors as stockholders (Chen et al, 2005). Furthermore, Faulkender et al (2006) argued that the financial manager faces a challenge of using excessive amount of external borrowing as this may over-leverage the firm in the midst of other obligations to institutional creditors or individual investors with the tendency to disrupt the firm's profitability and cash dividends. Thus, the financial manager strives to achieve optimal capital structure. Graham and Harvey (2001) explains that optimum capital structure is achieved by balancing the marginal cost and marginal benefits of capital. From a theoretical viewpoint, capital structure is optimized when there is a balance between debt and equity. A company's financial policy should be geared towards determining appropriate capital structure (i.e mix between debt and equity) which optimizes the value of the firm. Thus, firm managers aim at the capital structure that will have the highest firm value and be beneficial to the firm's stockholders (Ross et al., 2013). More so, an optimum capital structure ensures that firm's stock price is maximized.

Firm value is also maximized through dividend payment policy. Dividends represent a return to shareholders. Dividend policy form part of the key financial policies of the firm. A sustained dividend payment reduce risk in the eyes of the investor. Due to agency problem, paying dividend helps to provide a guide to the manager and the stockholders on wealth and profit sharing arrangement. The perception of the market will be positive if managers are able to sustain earnings per share in the foreseeable future irrespective of reduction in the asset base of the firm. Laux (2011) posits that dividend payment policy is generally based on a residual approach. This implies that financial managers finances all the projects that return at least the weighted average cost of capital (WACC) before using any remaining cash or new shares to distribute to the owners.

Miller and Modigliani (1961) utilized the dividend irrelevance theory to justify lack of connection between firm value and dividend policy. They argued that the way a firm chooses to divide its earnings between dividends and reinvestment has no impact on firm value because of the perceived trade-off between higher payouts (leading to lower retained earnings) and lower capital gains in the future. Thus, stockholders who preferred dividend buys the shares of firms whose policy is to pay dividend while those who want capital gains will buy the stocks of growth firms that reinvest earnings. This is known as the Clientele Effect which suggest that investors align with firms that represent their risk profile. However, Lease et al (2000) expressed skepticism concerning a irrelevance theory of dividend policy. They stressed that optimal dividend policy may be firm-specific. Financial managers are

usually occupied with the issue of signaling, agency costs, and taxes in dividend decisions. Lease et al (2000) suggest that dividend policy is important in an imperfect world of noisy markets and managers weigh how the various market frictions influence firm's value and manage dividend policy accordingly.

A company's value can be reflected in the stock price of its assets, such as marketable securities. The ability of the company to pay dividends is one of the factors that influence the stock price. The ability of the company to pay dividends could serve as a signal to outsiders about its worth. The size of this dividend may have an impact on the stock price. High dividend payments tend to increase stock price, and an increase in stock price indicates that the firm's value is also high. Likewise, if the dividend payout is insignificant, the stock price tends to fall. The ability of the firm to generate profits is the determinant of dividend payout. When a company earns a lot of money, it has a better chance of paying dividends than if it loses money

Decisions on capital structure and dividend payment policy are the core of firms' financial management. Faulkender et al (2006) posits that capital structure and dividend payment policy are jointly determined as part of a continuum of control allocations between managers and investors, and hence cross-sectional variations in both are driven by the same underlying factors. Brealey et al (2011) maintains that the capital structure of the firm together with the firms' dividend payout policy are among the major determinants of firm value. They further explained that aligning the capital structure and dividend policy with the firm's corporate objective is a critical process that requires a thoughtful consideration. The debt-equity financing decision captures a fundamental challenge confronting firms' financial managers. This is because poor capital structure decisions may result in loss of strategic asset value (Elfakhani, 1995). For instance, when a firm's leverage is high and equity is low, investors control the firm. Conversely, when a firm's leverage is low and equity is high, lesser amount of dividend is paid while control will be in the hands of firm's managers. In order to increase the firm value, the managers of the firm must cautiously align its capital structure and dividend policy because it can impinge on firm value and market perception of the firm. Therefore, decisions that bother on increasing firm value must be approached cautiously.

There are many independent studies that link capital structure and dividend policy on corporate financial performance and firm value (Grullon, et al 2000; Eriotis et al 2002; Frankfurter et al, 2002; Amidu, 2007; Salawu, 2007; Gill et al, 2010; Olokoyo, 2013; Akhmadi and Robiyanto, 2020). The findings of these studies have not been uniform in terms of the

nature of the relationship between these variables. Some found a positive relationship while others found a negative relationship. This scenario suggest inconclusiveness of the findings concerning the relationship between capital structure, dividend policy and firm value. Since firms make joint decisions on capital structure and dividend payment, studies on firm value cannot be carried without any of the variables. This constituted a research gap. We filled this gap including interaction term of capital structure and dividend policy on firm value in Nigeria with a view to establishing if capital structure and dividend policy have a joint effect on firm value.

We organize the rest of the study as follows: in section 2, we reviewed selected literature, section 3 discusses research methodology, section 4 dwelt on result and its discussion. Section 5 concludes the study.

Literature review

Capital structure and Firm Value

The effect of capital structure on firm value has been a contentious issue in corporate financial research. Many theories and empirical investigations postulate various channels of influence on firm value and capital structure. The Irrelevance theory of Modigliani and Miller (M&M) (1958) asserts absence of relationship between capital structure and firm value in symmetric world. That is, capital structure is not relevant in firm valuation. Thus, it is irrelevant whether a company finances its growth by borrowing, issuing stock shares, or by reinvesting its profits. If there is no information asymmetry, a firm's value is determined by its ability to create value, regardless of whether the capital is sourced internally or externally. M&M assumes that there are no corporate taxes and bankruptcy cost, no information asymmetry and that the market is efficient. But the assumptions of the irrelevance theory operates only in a perfect market as ideal market is imperfect with the existence of information asymmetry, agency problem, bankruptcy cost and tax considerations which affect optimal capital structure decisions. However further study by M&M (1963) assumed the existence of corporate tax and opines that issuing debts is risk-free as the cost of interest from debt reduces corporate tax and thus act as tax buffers. The weighted average cost of capital (WACC) falls as capital structure (leverage) rises. This prompts companies to finance their operations by obtaining more capital through loans. As the ratio of debt increases, the more firms benefit from tax savings increase. In turn, firm value linked to debt-equity ratio will increase. In practice, no business is funded entirely through debt. The impact of taxation on

optimal capital structure became a source of many researches. Miller (1977) modelled three different tax rates and still concluded that capital structure is irrelevant for firm value. However, Ufuk and Owers (2019) support the existence of relationship between different types of taxes on financial leverage and income to investors. According to Ufuk and Owers (2019), firms can gain from interest, dividend and capital gains. In explaining this relationship, they assumed a uniform tax rate for personal income from dividend, interest and capital gains as well as a uniform tax rate for corporate income. Further assumptions are that earnings before interest and taxes exceed the interest payments on firm's outstanding debt. Given these assumptions, they developed a model for total periodic cash flows to shareholders and lenders of the firm that incorporates different types of taxes (interest income tax, equity income tax, corporate income). The composite model yielded three components that represents after-tax cash flow of an all-equity non-dividend-paying firm to its shareholders; cash flow from firms' outstanding leverage (debt) and cash flow based on the dividend payout policy. After deriving the value of the leveraged firms that pay dividends and value of an all-equity firm with zero dividend payout, they found that the extent to which dividend payout has an impact on the firm's optimal capital structure depends on the tax differential between capital gains and dividends. Using their model, Ufuk and Owers (2019) provided insights into the nature of the relevance of the interaction effect of dividend payout ratios and leverage under differential tax regimes. When tax differential is positive, the valuation effect of leverage is linear and positive in the payout ratio. This implies that when the tax differential is large, firms with high payout ratios carry higher leverage. When tax differential is small, firms with low payout ratios carry low leverage.

Following the postulation of the Trade-off theory on capital structure, it is important to balance the benefits and costs of using debt by looking at the debt-equity ratio (DER). Higher DER is associated with greater risk. This affects investors assurance in the company which in turn affect the firm's worth. According to the Trade-off theory, when a company issues debt, it considers both the profit (tax breaks) and the costs (agency fees and bankruptcy fees). At the early stage of debt financing, the agency and bankruptcy costs of the debt are low which enhances the value of the firm. However, as debt increases, the risk of bankruptcy increases. Thus, optimal capital structure is reached when the marginal benefit equals the marginal cost (Jensen and Meckling, 1976; Myers, 1977; Harris and Raviv 1990).

The Pecking order theory as developed by Myers and Majluf (1984) has also been utilized to explain the link between capital structure and firm value. The theory explains the order of

firms' priorities in the choice funds to finance their investments. This theory postulates that a typical firm will first prioritize the use of retained earnings to sponsor their projects due to its relative low cost. The second choice in the pecking order will be a call for external debt. This also follows due to the internal understanding of the actual firm value which investors are unaware of. Finally, the management of the firm may decide to issue new shares and generate equity in order to raise funds to execute their operations. Each of these decisions make signals to the market. The use of retained earnings may affect the amount of dividend payable to already existing investors which signals the worth of the firm to outsiders. For debt call, the ratio of leverage in the capital structure indicate the success story of a company's management. This broadcast information to the rational investor. However, a firm's financing needs decides the level of leverage. For issuing of new equity, a rational investor make assume that the firm's stock is overvalued and anticipate a likely decrease of the stock price in the near future. Many empirical studies on firm value and capital structure exists. Setiadharna and Machali (2017) studied the effect of asset structure and firm size on firm value with capital structure as intervening variable. They found a direct effect of asset structure on firm value. Hirdinis (2019) studied the impact of capital structure and firm size on firm value when moderated by profitability in Indonesia using a sample of 47 mining companies list in the stock exchange. His result showed that capital structure has a significant positive impact on firm value while profitability has no a significant effect on firm value. Empirical findings support a positive relationship between capital structure and firm value (Rahman , 2014)

Dividend payout policy and firm value

The ultimate goal of the firm is to increase shareholders' wealth. Shareholders' wealth in turn can be evaluated by share price increases and high dividend payouts. Firms' dividend policies are critical in business sustainability because they reflect a firm's expectation of growth and have a large effect on the market share price. Investors get attracted to firms with strong dividend payment potentials. Thus, dividend policy is a good signal to the worth of the firm and setting a company's dividend payout policy is a major dilemma in management. This is because investors closely follow corporations' payment policies. Therefore, unanticipated changes in those policies can have a big impact on stock prices (Laux, 2011). It is important to resolve the issues of information gap between the firm managers and the shareholders due to agency problems. The principal-agent problems forms the core basis for dividend payment

decisions of firms. According to agency theory, dividend payments align the interests of managers and shareholders which reduces agency problems. Easterbrook (1984) explains that dividend payments limit the free cash flow available to the firm's management which reduces overinvestment and in turn benefits firms' market value.

Again, Miller and Modigliani's (1961) utilized the irrelevance theory in their explanation of dividend policy and firm value. M&M hinged the theory on the assumption of perfect market and rational investors. They argued that a firm's worth is decided solely on the basis of its earning potential and business risk while the value of the firm is assessed solely by the revenue generated by its assets, not how this money is divided between dividends and retained earnings. Consequently, shareholders' wealth is not affected by the dividend decision. Therefore, they would be indifferent between dividends and capital gains. They argued that the way a firm chooses to divide its earnings between dividends and reinvestment has no impact on firm value because of the perceived trade-off between higher payouts (leading to lower retained earnings) and lower capital gains in the future. Therefore, dividend preferred stockholders buy the shares of firms whose policy is to pay dividend while those who want capital gains will buy the stocks of growth firms that reinvest earnings.

However, irrelevance theory has been faulted on its assumptions due to the existence of information asymmetry and imperfect market. Lintner (1962) proposed a direct linkage between the firm's dividend policy and its market value. They argue that investors favor current payouts over future dividends or capital gains because they are less risky. As a result, large dividend payout ratios increase the firm's worth. Ross (1977) proposed the Signaling theory in the relationship between dividend payout policy and firm value. According to this theory, the dividend payout policy of a company releases signals to investors about the worth of the firm. This theory support the idea that high quality firms tend to pay more dividends than low quality firms. This is due to asymmetric information between the manager who knows the actual worth of the firm and the investor who receives the signal but lacks knowledge of the income distribution of the firm. The management who anticipate the use of more debt will pay more dividend and transmits signals of more cash outflow to the investor while a firm that anticipate the use of retained earnings uses less debts and pays less dividend. The market will view the value of the firm positively if managers are able to sustain earnings per share in the foreseeable future despite reduction in the asset base of the firm. Laux (2011) explains that dividend policy is generally based on a residual approach. This implies that the managers will first finance all the projects that return at least the weighted

average cost of capital (WACC) before using any remaining cash or new shares to distribute to the owners.

3. Research Methodology

In this section, we present our data sources and methods of data analysis. We specified an econometric model to ascertain the relationship between our dependent variable and independent variables. The data for this study was sourced from annual reports of companies listed on the Nigerian Stock Exchange between 2016 and 2020. We sampled 26 publicly traded manufacturing firms that consistently published annual reports.

Model Specification and justification of variables:

This study utilized the panel regression model to achieve the objective of this study. A standard panel data model can be specified as

$$y_{it} = x'_{it}\beta + u_i + e_{it} \quad (1)$$

Where $\{y_{it}, x_{it}\} = t = 1, \dots, T; i = 1, \dots, n$ and u_i is unobserved individual-specific effect, e_{it} represent the error term. We assume that the individuals i are mutually independent, u_i and e_{it} are independent (Hansen, 2016). e_{it} is independent and identically distributed across individuals and time and it is uncorrelated with x_{it} . The above model can be estimated using the ordinary least square (OLS) method if $E(x_{it}, u_i) = 0$. When this condition fails, OLS becomes inconsistent. This implies that the unobserved individual-specific effect u_i is correlated with x_{it} . This condition can be regarded as a random effect and the generalized least square (GLS) method can be used to estimate the model in place of OLS. However, random effect model has very strong assumptions and it is seldom used in applied research (Hansen, 2016). To overcome this, a fixed effect model can be estimated as follows

$$y_{it} = x'_{it}\beta + d'_i u_i + e_{it} \quad (2)$$

Where d_i is a vector of dummy variables and OLS estimation of equation (2) will be consistent because $E(e_{it} | x_{it}, d_i) = 0$.

Following the standard panel regression model, we specify four models to be estimated in our study. The essence of specifying four models is to capture individual effect of each of our key explanatory variables on the dependent variable before interacting them in a separate model. The models are presented as follows.

Model 1. Relationship between Firm Value and Capital Structure

$$PBV_{it} = f(TDTA_{it}, ROA_{it}, SIZE_{it}, TAX_{it})$$

where

$$y_{it} = (PBV_{it}), x'_{it} = (TDTA_{it}, ROA_{it}, SIZE_{it}, TAX_{it})$$

$$PBV_{it} =$$

$$\beta_i + \beta_1 TDTA_{it} + \beta_2 ROA_{it} + \beta_3 SIZE_{it} + \beta_4 TAX_{it} + \sum_{j=1}^n Firm_{it} + \sum_{k=1}^f Year_{it} + \varepsilon_{it} \quad (3)$$

Model 2. Relationship between Firm Value and Dividend Policy

$$PBV_{it} = f(DPR_{it}, ROA_{it}, SIZE_{it}, TAX_{it})$$

where

$$y_{it} = (PBV_{it}), x'_{it} = (DPR_{it}, ROA_{it}, SIZE_{it}, TAX_{it})$$

$$PBV_{it} = \beta_i + \beta_1 DPR_{it} + \beta_2 ROA_{it} + \beta_3 SIZE_{it} + \beta_4 TAX_{it} + \sum_{j=1}^n Firm_{it} + \sum_{k=1}^f Year_{it} + \varepsilon_{it} \quad (4)$$

Model 3. Relationship between Firm Value, Capital Structure and Dividend Policy

$$PBV_{it} = f(TDTA_{it}, DPR_{it}, ROA_{it}, SIZE_{it}, TAX_{it})$$

where

$$y_{it} = (PBV_{it}), x'_{it} = (TDTA_{it}, DPR_{it}, ROA_{it}, SIZE_{it}, TAX_{it})$$

$$PBV_{it} = \beta_i + \beta_1 TDTA_{it} + \beta_2 DPR_{it} + \beta_3 ROA_{it} + \beta_4 SIZE_{it} + \beta_5 TAX_{it} + \sum_{j=1}^n Firm_{it} + \sum_{k=1}^f Year_{it} + \varepsilon_{it} \quad (5)$$

Model 4. Relationship between Firm Value and interaction of Capital Structure and Dividend Policy

$$PBV_{it} = f(TDTA_{it}, DPR_{it}, ROA_{it}, SIZE_{it}, TAX_{it}, INTR)$$

where

$$y_{it} = (PBV_{it}), x'_{it} = (TDTA_{it}, DPR_{it}, ROA_{it}, SIZE_{it}, TAX_{it}, INTR)$$

$$PBV_{it} =$$

$$\beta_i + \beta_1 TDTA_{it} + \beta_2 DPR_{it} + \beta_3 ROA_{it} + \beta_4 SIZE_{it} + \beta_5 TAX_{it} + \beta_6 INTR + \sum_{j=1}^n Firm_{it} + \sum_{k=1}^f Year_{it} + \varepsilon_{it} \quad (6)$$

The variables in the model are defined as follows:

PBV_{it} = Price to book value (proxy for firm value)

ROA_{it} = Return on assets (proxy for firm's profitability)

DPR_{it} = Dividend payout ratio (proxy for dividend policy)

$TDTA_{it}$ = Total Debt to Total Assets (proxy for leverage/capital structure)

$SIZE_{it}$ = Natural log of total asset (proxy for firm size)

TAX_{it} = corporate tax (proxy for tax)

$INTR = TDTA * DPR$ (interaction variable to capture the joint effect of dividend policy and capital structure)

We included firm size ($SIZE_{it}$) and corporate tax (TAX_{it}) as control variables. $Firm_{it}$ and $Year_{it}$ represent fixed cross sectional and period dummy variables respectively.

In models 1 – 4, β_i represent the unobserved individual effect or individual heterogeneity arising from individual firms in our sample. ε_{it} represent time-variant idiosyncratic errors across time. β_i can be treated as a random effect or a fixed effect model. If β_i is a parameter to be estimated for each cross section observation i , fixed effect model is the appropriate model unless we viewed β_i as random variable with random effects. The models can be estimated via pooled ordinary least squares method. The shortcoming of Pooled OLS estimation is that it neglects the panel structure and individual heterogeneity in the panel. In this study, we select the firm fixed effect model to allow β_i to be correlated with the observed explanatory variables. So we estimated cross sectional and period fixed effect model (FEM) that captures the panel structure and individual heterogeneity in the panel.

Variable Definition

Price to book value (**PBV**) is the dependent variable. PBV is the ratio of the market value of a company's shares (share price) over its book value of equity. The book value of equity, in turn, is the value of a company's assets expressed on the balance sheet. It is the proxy for the firm value which is the investor's perception of the success of a company. This is reflected in the company's share prices. Ifada et al (2019) stated that high stock prices can provide a good signal to attract investors' interest in making investment decisions. Thus, the increase in the share price of a firm indicate investor confidence in the firm. Therefore, investors will be willing to pay higher given the expected yield increase.

Total Debt to Total Asset (**TDTA**) ratio demonstrates the degree of financial risk or solvency. This shows the leverage ratio of the firm. It is a ratio that measures a company's ability to meet its long-term liabilities. This ratio gives an indication of the amount of leverage (funds which the firm must payback with interests) used by a company for investment purposes (Umer *et al.*, 2012). A low ratio is an indication that the company has a strong equity position whereas a higher ratio indicates that the company is highly geared to invest. Leverage magnifies gains and losses in the capital structure and the company may face financial difficulties if their profits fall or interest rates rises. The ratio of leverage or solvency is a tool to measure how big the company depends on the creditors and bond holders to finance the firm's assets. Firms with high leverage rates rely mainly on external facilities to finance their assets. While companies with lower rate of leverage more or less finance their

assets with their internal funds. A firm that is able to offset all of its liabilities with her own assets are believed to be solvent.

Return on assets (**ROA**) measures the profitability ratio of the firm. This ratio is measured relative to costs and expenses and analyzed in comparison to assets to see how effective a company is in deploying available assets to generate sales and profits. The use of the term "return" in the ROA measurement typically refers to net profit or net income accruing from the value of earnings from sales after all costs, expenses, and taxes. ROA is net income divided by total assets. The more assets a company has accumulated, the more sales and potential profits the firm may generate. As economies of scale help lower costs and improve margins, returns may grow at a faster rate than assets, ultimately increasing ROA. It is widely regarded as the most useful measure to test firm performance (Abdel Shahid, 2003; Tian and Zeitun, 2007).

Dividend Payout Ratio (**DPR**) is the ratio of Dividend per Share/Earnings per Share. The dividend policy in this study is measured using Dividend Payout Ratio (DPR). The target payout ratio is defined as the proportion of the net income to be paid out as cash dividends (Chen et al,2005). The dividend policy is part of the firm's spending decisions, when it comes to internal spending of the company (Elfakhani, 1995). If dividend paid out by the company is not well appropriated, it will shock the source of internal funds of the company also known as the retained earnings. According to Brigham *et. al.*, (2009), the optimal dividend policy results in a balance between current dividends, future growth and maximizing stock prices. In determining the optimal dividend policy, companies must define the amount of earnings to be paid-out to shareholders

Firm Size (**SIZE**) has also been linked to the value of the firm. Given that the size of the company is a significant factor that determine dividend payout, investors perceive a high dividend paying firm as a large firm. This is because large and mature firms are most likely to make huge profit which can be paid to shareholders as dividends. Unlike the large companies, small companies utilize the net profit to invest in new projects which reduces the amount of dividend to pay (Sierpinska, 2016). More so, large firms are more likely to obtain cheaper external capital than small firms as they enjoy relative easy access to capital market (DeAngelo, DeAngelo and Stulz 2006). This sends positive signal to investors on the value of the firm. In this study, SIZE is measured as the natural logarithm of total assets which serves as proxy to firm size. Thus, we assume that firm size is positively related to firm value.

Corporate Tax (**TAX**) moderates the effect of leverage and dividend payout policy on firm value. Ufuk and Owers (2019) support the existence of relationship between different types of taxes on financial leverage and income to investors. Using their model, Ufuk and Owers (2019) provided insights into the nature of the relevance of the interaction effect of dividend payout ratios and leverage under differential tax regimes. They argued that when tax differential is positive, the valuation effect of leverage is linear and positive in the payout ratio. This implies that when the tax differential is large, firms with high payout ratios carry higher leverage. Similarly, when tax differential is small, firms with low payout ratios carry low leverage. However, a positive tax differential of any level of leverage that increases the dividend payout will always decrease the firm value. Ufuk and Owers (2019) emphasize that stockholders are taxed at the same rate on their dividend income as bondholders are on their interest income. Therefore, taxes are deducted only for interest payments of the firm which makes dividend payment to be costlier than interest payments. This effect disappears when the tax differential is zero since it is then equally costly for the shareholders to realize capital gains income and receive dividend income. This indifference makes the payout decision irrelevant. Thus, we assume that corporate tax is negatively related to firm value

4. Results and Discussion

This section of the study presents result and analysis of the estimated panel regression model. Tables 1 - 4 report the result of the panel regression model of this study. In order to ascertain the best suited and acceptable model to capture the relationship between the dependent and independent variables of this study, we estimated the model using the pooled OLS and fixed effect models.

Relationship between PBV and DPR

Table 1 shows the result of Model 1 which captures the relationship between PBV and DPR. We reported the result of the Pooled OLS as well as the result of the fixed effect model. The essence of doing this is to compare the results of the two estimators and verified if there was improvement in the result by estimating the fixed effect model. We confirm the existence of a significant positive relationship between PBV and DPR for both POLS and fixed effect result at 1%, 5% and 10 % level. This implies that dividend payment policy positively affects firm value in our sample. The F-statistics are statistically significant for the models showing that the variables in the linear regression model are jointly significant. The R^2 value of 98 percent showed an improvement in the fixed effect model.

Table 1: Relationship between PBV and DPR

Dependent variable: PBV				
	POLS		Fixed Effect	
	Coefficients	p-value	Coefficients	p-value
DPR	1.011***	0.000	0.953***	0.000
ROA	0.418***	0.000	0.459***	0.000
SIZE	0.002	0.947	0.066***	0.015
TAX	-0.082***	0.000	-0.086***	0.000
Intercept	0.639***	0.000	0.701***	0.000
Year-fixed effects	No	-	Yes	-
Firm-fixed effects	No	-	Yes	-
R ²	0.90	-	0.98	-
F-statistic	304.7	0.000	194.1***	0.000

Note: ***Significant at 1% level; ** Significant at 5% level and *Significant at 10% level

This result is in line with the hypothesis that dividend policy has a positive effect on firm value. Firms who pay dividend seldom have agency problems because stockholders interest are protected by managers. This signals to the market that the value of the firm is high when managers sustain earnings per share. Agyei and Marfo-yiadom (2011) found that dividend policy is positively related to firm performance based on the signaling theory which posits that investors perceive sustained dividend payment as an indication of financial strength and better management. Laux (2011) explains that managers would have financed all projects before paying dividend. Even though managers have the tendency to pay dividend due to agency issues and signaling, Lease et al (2000) argues that there should balance in dividend decision. This balance ensures that optimal dividend policy is adhered to and the right market valuation of the firm is achieved. However, dividend payout can give a negative signal to the investors when information asymmetry exist between managers and stockholders. When a managers pay dividends in the presence of worthy projects, it represents an error. The investors expect managers to identify good projects that earn returns and make the firm grow over time. Therefore, paying dividends could signal to shareholders that projects returning at least the WACC have not been found. This yields a negative effect on firm value (Laux, 2011; Ali et al, 2018).

Two of the control variables are positively related to firm value while one is negatively related to firm value. Specifically, ROA and SIZE are significantly positively related to PBV in the fixed effect model which indicate that profitability and size of the firm is important in firm valuation. This conforms to the findings of Justyna (2019), Fama and French (2001), that

size and profitability are significantly positively related to dividend payment. Large firms are more likely to make more profits than small sized firms. Corporate tax is significantly negatively related to firm value. This confirms that taxes deducted only for interest payments of the firm makes dividend payment to be costlier than interest payments. This indifference makes the payout decision irrelevant. This is in line with Ufuk and Owers (2019) who found that corporate tax is negatively related to firm value.

Relationship between PBV and TDTA

Table 2 shows the result of Model 2 which captures the relationship between PBV and TDTA. There is a negative and insignificant relationship between PBV and TDTA for both POLS and fixed effect results. The F-statistics are statistically significant while R² value of 90 percent showed an improvement in the fixed effect model.

Table 2: Relationship between PBV and TDTA

Dependent variable: PBV				
	POLS		Fixed Effect	
	Coefficients	p-value	Coefficients	p-value
TDTA	-0.009	0.219	-0.002	0.824
ROA	1.293***	0.000	1.010***	0.000
SIZE	0.314***	0.000	0.253***	0.000
TAX	-0.137***	0.000	-0.157***	0.000
Intercept	1.465***	0.000	1.709***	0.000
Year-fixed effects	No	-	Yes	-
Firm-fixed effects	No	-	Yes	-
R ²	0.39	-	0.90	-
F-statistic	20.6***	0.000	28.6***	0.000

Note: ***Significant at 1% level; ** Significant at 5% level and *Significant at 10% level

The result implies that overleverage (more debt than equity) affect firm value negatively. We accept the hypothesis that capital structure is negatively related to firm value. This finding contradicts the irrelevance theory of Modigliani and Miller (1958) that capital structure (equity and debt) does not affect firm value. DeAngelo and Masulis (1980) advocated an optimum combination of debt and equity that guarantees the growth in the firms' performance. An over-leveraged firm has the greater chance of bankruptcy. This attracts high interest charges as creditors view such loans as being very risky. This affects investors assurance in the company which in turn affect the firm's worth. When a company's leverage is low, the tax benefits outweigh the costs; however, as debt accumulates, the costs rise

rapidly. As a result, leverage generally has a negative impact on firm value. However, Jensen and Meckling (1976), Myers (1977) and Harris and Raviv (1990) argues that an optimal optimal capital structure can yield a positive relationship with firms' worth when the marginal benefit equals the marginal cost of the capital. Our findings contradicts Setiadharna and Machali (2017) and Hirdinis (2019) who found a positive relationship between capital structure and firm value.

Relationship between PBV, DPR and TDTA

Table 3 shows the result of Model 3 which captures the relationship between PBV, DPR and TDTA. The result confirm a significant positive relationship between PBV and DPR as well as a negative and significant relationship between PBV and TDTA for both POLS and fixed effect results.

Table 3: Relationship between PBV, DPR and TDTA

Dependent variable: PBV				
	POLS		Fixed Effect	
	Coefficients	p-value	Coefficients	p-value
DPR	1.025***	0.000	0.968***	0.000
TDTA	-0.015***	0.000	-0.007***	0.001
ROA	0.397***	0.000	0.484***	0.000
SIZE	0.0004	0.990	0.048*	0.072
TAX	-0.045***	0.005	-0.073**	0.000
Intercept	0.470***	0.000	0.641***	0.000
Year-fixed effects	No	-	Yes	-
Firm-fixed effects	No	-	Yes	-
R ²	0.92	-	0.98	-
F-statistic	314.2***	0.000	207.5***	0.000

Note: ***Significant at 1% level; ** Significant at 5% level and *Significant at 10% level

Unlike the result in Table 2, the inclusion of DPR and TDTA significantly improved the fit of the model. This confirms that capital structure and dividend payment considerations should be made simultaneously. Due to principal- agent problems and issues of information asymmetry, managers pay out dividend to investors as a positive signal to outsiders that the firm is making profit in order to maintain favourable firms' worth. This leads to new investors coming on board which helps managers to use equity financing to augment debt for project financing. Again, ROA and SIZE are significantly positively related to PBV in the fixed effect model while corporate tax is significantly negatively related to firm value.

Relationship between PBV and INTR

Table 4 shows the result of Model 4 which captures the relationship between PBV and the interaction term, INTR. From the result, all the estimated parameters of both models (POLS and fixed effect) are statistically significant which shows an improvement due to the interaction term.

Table 4: Relationship between PBV and INTR

Dependent variable: PBV				
	POLS		Fixed Effect	
	Coefficients	p-value	Coefficients	p-value
ROA	1.241***	0.000	1.114***	0.000
SIZE	0.205***	0.007	0.143***	0.006
TAX	-0.096***	0.002	-0.122***	0.000
INTR	1.144***	0.000	0.760***	0.000
Intercept	0.714***	0.000	1.115***	0.000
Year-fixed effects	No	-	Yes	-
Firm-fixed effects	No	-	Yes	-
R ²	0.67	-	0.94	-
F-statistic	65.7***	0.000	60.2***	0.000

Note: ***Significant at 1% level; ** Significant at 5% level and *Significant at 10% level

The result confirm a significant positive relationship between PBV and INTR. This result further confirm the evidence in Table 3 that firms' managers must simultaneously consider capital structure and dividend payment to investors. This result confirm that even though capital structure is negatively related to firms' value, its impact on firm value becomes significantly positive when it interacts with dividend policy. Brealey et al (2011) argues that aligning the capital structure and dividend policy with the firm's corporate objective is a critical process that requires a thoughtful consideration. This is because debt-equity financing decision presents fundamental challenges to firm managers. Elfakhani (1995) argues that poor debt-equity combination can result in a loss of strategic asset value. In a scenario when a firm's leverage is high and equity is low, investors control the firm. But when a firm's leverage is low and equity is high, lesser amount of dividend is paid while control will be in the hands of firm's managers. Thus, decisions geared towards increasing the value of the firm, requires the managers to cautiously align its capital structure and dividend policy because it can impinge on firm value and market perception of the firm. Again, ROA and SIZE are significantly positively related to PBV in the fixed effect model while corporate tax is significantly negatively related to firm value

5. Conclusion

This study focused on the interaction effect of capital structure and dividend payout ratio on firm value of selected sample firms listed on the Nigeria Stock Exchange from 2016 to 2020. The objective was to ascertain the effect of firms' capital structure and dividend payment policy on firm value. Previous studies concentrated on the effect of leverage, profitability and dividend policy on firm value without considering the interaction effect of leverage and dividend policy. This gap has been filled by this study which finds that capital structure and dividend policy are interdependently related to firm value. A key finding of this study is that capital structure is negatively related to firms' value but when dividend policy interact with capital structure of the firms, the effect on the company value becomes significantly positive. We conclude that managers should strive towards maintaining optimum levels of debt and equity to avoid the vagaries of the market towards the assessment of firms worth and investment potentials.

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**ASSESSMENT OF CORRECTIONAL SERVICES AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC
IMPLICATIONS FOR PRISON INMATES IN AFOKANG PRISON IN CALABAR,
CROSS RIVER STATE, NIGERIA**

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ABSTRACT

This paper assesses correctional services and socio-economic implications for prison inmates in Cross River State, Nigeria. The study is predicated on the observed conditions of prison inmates that are characterized by despicable and deplorable inhuman treatment. More often than not, inmates are subjected to impoverishment, loss of identity and livelihood. Worst still, inmates who are freed are tagged “ex-convicts”, stigmatized, discriminated and denied their fundamental human rights. The recidivism experience has been the worst, as

ex-convicts are not socially accepted and with little or no chances of securing a job. This makes it difficult to fend for themselves and their families. These frustrating experiences faced by these ex-convicts makes them to want to commit more crime and to be re-arrested. Also, the rehabilitation and reformation services tend to be neglected and not managed according to international best practices. In the light of these observations, it is suggested among others that prison reform in Nigeria is imperative. The reforms should center on restructuring the prisons in line with the UN framework and the 2030 agenda for sustainable development goals which spelt out that over reliance on incarceration should be minimized and that rehabilitation and social reintegration of inmates should be strengthened within and after their release. The study also recommends that strategic policy be put in place to address the challenges faced by prison inmates and ex-convicts, through empowering them economically and socially, especially with employment opportunities, infrastructural development and ensure functional participation of ex-convicts in community developments efforts. Word count: 248

Key Words: Assessment, Correctional Services, Prison Inmates, Socio-Economic Implications, Reformation, Rehabilitation, Reintegration.

INTRODUCTION

The Nigerian Correctional service, formerly known as Nigerian Prison Service is a government agency of Nigeria which operates prisons. The prison's headquarter is in Abuja and under the supervision of the Ministry of Internal affairs. The name was changed from "Nigeria Prisons Service" to "Nigerian correctional service" on 15th August, 2019 after the Nigeria Correctional Act of 2019 was signed into Law. The bill was passed by the 8th Assembly of the House of Representatives but the signing was done two months after their tenure had expired. Albrecht (2010) opined that rehabilitation service in Nigeria prison is neglected and not managed according to international best practices.

Prison is an institution where convicted criminals and those awaiting trials are kept. Unfortunately, the Nigerian prison system does not allow inmates awaiting trials to undergo any form of rehabilitation irrespective of the years spent in the prison before trial. This is applicable to inmates across the nation. The prison population globally is increasing, placing enormous financial burden on the government. Studies have shown that prisons in Nigerian do not achieve some of its most important objectives like correctional and rehabilitation services. According to Anupam (2014) the reformation and rehabilitation of prison inmates have not been effective. This is because as prison inmates are relea into the society they continue in their crime behavior, becoming hardened and dangerous to the society. Indeed, so many schools of thoughts are of the notion that the prison is a place where offenders are punished by keeping them away from the public and in order to safeguard the society. It is a

trite fact that many persons are in the prison for minor or major offences, and despite their incarcerations, the world outside continue to battle with issues of crime and insecurity. Besides, the cycle of impoverishment, insecurity of lives and property, joblessness, theft, kidnappings, drug use and abuse, depressions continue to be perpetrated at increasing dimensions (Anupam, 2014).

Borne out of the need for prisons to perform her statutory functions of correcting and rehabilitating inmates, the name “prison” was changed to “Correctional Service”. As the new name implies, correctional service institution is a training ground and school for prisoners to prepare them positively for life after prison and re-integrate them back to the society for better future. However, this does not seem to be happening during recidivism, as ex-convicts are not socially accepted, are stigmatized and with little or no chances of securing a job. This makes it difficult to fend for themselves and their families. These frustrating experiences faced by these ex-convicts makes them to want to commit more crime and to be re-arrested. Thus, this paper examines the correctional services and its socio-economic implications for prisoners, their families and the society in general.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Purpose and functions of prisons

The prison serves as the correctional agency for the offenders; an institution for prisoner’s reform and rehabilitation into the society after release (Muhammad et al, 2017). However, the basic functions of the prison include confinement, social isolation, punishment, deterrence, repentance, protection and reformation. According to Brun and Porta (2014) the three major components of punishment are certainty, celerity and severity. They went further to explain that certainty is the assurance that the offenders would be punished and celerity is the speed to which justice is dispensed, while severity is the measurement of the punishment when compared with the crime committed. Opafunso and Adepoju (2016) assert that prison is an institution for the confinement of persons who have been remanded in custody by a judicial authority or who have been deprived of their liberty following conviction for a crime. A person found guilty of a felony or misdemeanor may be required to serve a prison sentence. The holding of accused persons awaiting trials remains an important function of contemporary prison, and in some countries, such persons constitute the majority of the prison population. Rehabilitation has been considered an important and integral component of

the institutional management of the convicted offender while in the prison (Ayuk, 2013). According to Charles (2020) the main goal of the reform of the prison services in Nigeria is to rehabilitate the inmates, develop and maintain behavioral change in them and for them to have sustainable livelihood and re-integration into the society as well as live responsible and productive citizen after serving their jailed terms or otherwise. Charles further stated that adequate fund and efficient management of the prisons services and state policies advances non-custodial measures and are important enablers of the 2030 agenda of sustainable development goals which provided common framework to member's state to reduce over reliance on incarceration, reduction of prison's population, strengthen prison management and improve prison conditions as well as advance the rehabilitation and social reintegration of the offenders after their release (Ayuk, 2013). The UN position on incarceration is based on the understanding that no one should be subjected to arbitrary arrest, and that denial of liberty in response to a criminal charge or offence should be a measure of last resort, with consideration first being paid to non-custodial sanctions (Haney, 2006; Isokon, Onyema, & Tangban, 2021). According to Good and Pirog (2016) a well managed and efficient prison system should respect human dignity and operate in line with international norm and standards. Good and Pirog (2016) also added that effectively managed prison system constitute a core element of efforts to maintain peace and security, public safety and respect for human rights. In this regard, prison reform on the treatment of offenders should be viewed as an integral part of 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, especially with regard to Sustainable Development Goal 16 which focuses on peace, justice and strong institutions, as well as Goal 3 which emphasizes good health and well-being and Goal 5, which centered on gender equality and Goal which aim at reducing inequalities.

Implications of imprisonment for prison inmates, family and society

Studies continue to report minimal (negligible) institutional rehabilitation outcomes among the prison inmates serving various offences particularly in developing countries. Further reports indicate that the rate of recidivism and re-conviction has increased in some of the regions particularly sub-Sahara Africa. For instance, Flew (2009) reported that individual's freedom is a fundamental human right, as recognized by the law, but the loss of one's freedom as a result of imprisonment is inevitable. The social and economic impact of imprisonment on the prisoners and their families cannot be overemphasized. Flew (2009) also reported that the family of the prisoner would suffer from some level of stigma and

discrimination in the society. Thus, they may be isolated and kept away from their usual social activities, which is not only harmful to them but the society as well.

The prisoners are also affected when they are released from prison because they are called ex-convict and in Nigerian law, they cannot secure a job or contest an election and cannot function socially because of stigma. For some who cannot condone this, resort to committing more crime and returning back to prison. According to MacDonald (2018) the judicial imprisonment or confinement of criminals is for the safety of the public, irrespective of the social and economic implications to the prisoners and his family who are now vulnerable, because they are also punished indirectly for the crime of the victim. The psychological and financial impact on the family of the prisoners is inexplicable and the social and economic implications of the prisoner's after his release is horrible and always in want and poverty (MacDonald, 2018).

Mike and Rod (2012) noted that prisons in Nigeria falls below the expectation of what a correctional center should be. Amnesty International (2009) reported that the major problem facing Nigeria prison is congestion of inmates awaiting trial. According to latest report of the World Prison Brief (2020), the proportion of prisoners awaiting trial was 33 per cent in Australia, 38.7 per cent in Canada, 22.5 per cent in USA, 38.2 per cent in Denmark, 12.1 per cent in England and Wales, 12.2 per cent in Ghana, 29.3 per cent in South Africa, and 72.2 per cent in Nigeria. The report also indicated that in the US, while some suspects spend 10 years awaiting trial in Nigeria, they spent up to 15 years.

Overcrowding in Nigeria prisons is responsible for the terrible living condition in some of the prisons, causing damages to the physical and mental well-being of inmates (Oyeyipo & Asamu, (2020). Allen (2010) reported that Nigeria has 84.1 per cent occupants of Nigeria prisons causing majority to be overcrowded. Awopetu (2014) stated that overcrowding occurs in Nigeria prisons when the number of inmates exceeds the capacity of the facility, making it impossible for inmates to be in a humane, safe and psychologically appropriate manner in the prison as this poses a serious problem, especially those located in the major cities. On their part, Scott and Flynn (2014) stated that the Nigeria prison is overcrowded, and this hinders the prison process management of reformation, rehabilitation and re-integration into the society after discharge.

According to Fagan and Richard (1999) imprisonment affects the wellbeing of inmates in different dimensions. Generally, imprisonment denies the victims of their freedom, employment and income. By state law, it denies ex-convicts the right to vote and be voted for

or hold public office. The individual may be barred from engaging in certain occupations in some places, and may be denied the right to even access any loan or credit facility (Bachul, 2008). The ex-convicts are also discriminated and stigmatized by the public. Several literatures had shown that imprisonment often leads to the breakup of families and social relationships and causes minimal parent involvement with their children (Hagan & Dinovitzer, 2019). Long term imprisonment affects the mental health of inmates (Adams, 2012). Tosh (2012) observed that lockups and isolation dehumanizes inmates by making them have low self-esteem, become depressed, frustrated, rejected and condemned by the society as a whole. Because the entire prison structure is based on seclusion, the convict is isolated from the society and everything that motivate his offences (Bachul, 2008). Bassel (2009) reported that in almost all third world countries, prisoners are vulnerable and marginalized groups and are subject to discrimination and eviction in the society.

Detention is a global challenge, in 2019, more than 11 million people, including 410,000 children, were held in prisons across the globe, representing an increase of 25 per cent since 2000 in the total number held. The number of female prisoners worldwide represented a small minority of the prison population in most countries; the number grew by 50 per cent over the same period, reaching more than 714,000 women (Bassel, 2009). Bassel (2009) also assert that the major problem of incarceration in Nigeria is that majority of the inmates are males of prime working age and does not have a reformative effect. This according to him exacerbates many of the challenges faced by individuals who have been convicted by the law. In addition, long or harsh jail sentences may result in so-called institutionalization, which affects prisoners' personalities and social life in a way that makes their social reintegration even more difficult when released and after release from prison, they have difficulty finding and keeping a job (Brenda, 2011). Brenda (2011) further identified some of the social implications of inmate to include loss of accommodation, difficulty in gaining employment, poor health, stigmatization, discrimination, poverty, loss or no identity, social isolation, Oncrease risk of reoffending and increase recidivism. On their part, Foss and Bonn (2009) enumerated the economy implication of inmates to include human resources loss, susceptible active population, maintenance support cost, prison construction and increase unemployment.

Impact of correctional services on prison inmates

According to Nigerian Correctional Service Annual Report (2015) prison inmates are provided with adult and remedial education programs which does not only identify the causes

of the inmate's anti-social behavior but also endeavors to set them on the road to reform through induced self-rediscovery and eventual change for better. Fredga (2011) described the three immediate objectives of prison education to include: (1) ensure the inmates are engaged in meaningful livelihood after their discharge (2) change their attitude and behavior and (3) enable inmates to gain employment, vocational skills and or advance in further education and training. Correctional education has been helpful in the reduction of recidivism and post-release employment. Ozuliman (2008) reported that there are lower rates of re-arrest, re-conviction, and re-incarceration due to the intensive correctional education that was put in place in the system.

According to Ozuliman (2008) one of the basic principles of the UN was that all prisoners should have the right to take part in cultural activities and education aimed at full development of the human personality. He went further to described correction to encompass several programs such as service, facilities and organizations responsible for the management of people accused or convicted of criminal offences, such as prison, jail, probation, halfway house, education and work release programs, parole, supervision, counseling and community service. Fredga (2011) assert that educational training is expected to give inmates a sense of direction and build their capacity to acquire skills that will make them productive when they are released. The prison system is also expected to inculcate basic moral values that will make offenders become law-abiding citizens. Prisons are generally conceived as corrective institutions which are the prime objective of establishing prisons all over the world. Ayuk (2013) pointed out that prisons are usually structured to identify and address the peculiar problems of each inmate and went further to state that literacy and other educational programs have been found to significantly reduce the rate of recidivism in countries worldwide. He further reiterated that the main aim of establishing prisons in all parts of the world, including Nigeria, is to provide reformation and rehabilitation programs for those who violate the rules and regulations of their society and that the provision of these services continues to be on the front burner of public discourse.

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

In the assessment of correctional services and socio-economic implications for prison inmates in Cross River State, Nigeria, the penology theory was adopted. The proponents of this theory were Alexander Maconochie, Cesare Beccaria and Cesaro Lombroso. The theory is centered on prison reforms, prisoner abuse, prisoner rights, reactivism, and purpose of punishments

(deterrence, retribution, incapacitation and rehabilitation). The theory conceived of punishment as the necessary application of the law for a crime. Although it assumed that punishment will deter people from committing crime, but very well concerned with the effectiveness of the social processes that are devised and adopted for the prevention of crime. It advocates that the repression or inhibition of crime should be effective management of prisons and criminal rehabilitation. It addresses how criminal activities can be prevented through appropriate punishment.

The modern penologist like Cesare Beccare condemned torture and the death penalty as punishment for crime and instead advocated for measures that can change the attitude of the offender, so that when they return to the mainstream in their communities, they will be useful members of the society. The theory emphasizes the need for convicted criminals to be rehabilitated. In other words, it recommends a more constructive approach in treating offenders which should include reformation and rehabilitation of prisoners towards changing them to become good citizens. The idea is that both treatment and training can be used simultaneously to change the behavior of inmates, and making them live as a law-abiding member of the society after their release. Rehabilitation was viewed as a humane alternative to retribution and deterrence, though it does not necessarily result in an offender receiving a more lenient penalty than he would have received under a retributive or deterrent philosophy. Rehabilitation was criticized in the USA in the 1970s, it gained greater acceptance in 1980s and 90s after several researches on its value. It has been proven that a carefully implemented rehabilitation program could reduce recidivism.

METHODS AND MATERIALS

The research used a descriptive survey design to assess the correctional services and socio-economic implications for prison inmates in Afokang prison in Calabar, Cross River State, Nigeria. It adopts both quantitative and qualitative instruments such as questionnaire and Focus Group Discussion (FGD) for the collection of data. The FGD was organized primarily for prison officials. The study population comprises prison inmates in Afokang Correctional Center in Calabar South, Cross River State. These included males and female prison inmates. They were estimated to be 4800 (Afokang Correctional center, Calabar, 2022). It was from this total number of prison inmates that a total sample of 480 respondents representing 10 per cent of the total inmates was selected for the study.

This sample was selected through systematic random sampling technique. The researcher went through two registers containing the names of prison inmates. One register was for male inmates while the second register was for the female inmates. From each of the registers, every tenth (10th) name was selected and the inmate was then located and interviewed. University students assisted in the data collection processes after they were properly instructed. The Focus Group Discussion (FGD) was also organized for prison officials. The FGD session was made up of 10 participants. The session lasted for one hour. Discussions were recorded and notes taken and later transcribed verbatim by a research expert. The analysis was done using ATLAS.ti 8 software for windows. The quantitative data was analyzed with descriptive statistics such as frequency tables and simple percentages.

RESULTS

Prisoners' current conditions

Table 1 shows respondents' opinion on the conditions of prison inmates. Analysis of result shows that items such as infringement of fundamental human rights, ill-treatment, no form of training, no skill acquisition programmes, poor feeding conditions, no form of rehabilitation and poor reform activities were considered by majority of the respondents to be the conditions prison inmates were confronted with. The other item as prisoners are not allowed to meet visitors was not a consideration.

Table 1: Responses to the conditions of prison inmates (n=480)

S/n	Items	Agree	Disagree	Don't know
1	Infringement of fundamental human rights	320(66.7%)	107(22.3%)	53(11%)
2	ill-treatment	316(65.8%)	153(31.9%)	11(2.3%)
3	No form of training	215(44.8%)	253(52.7%)	12(2.5%)
4	No skill acquisition programme	273(56.9%)	164(34.2%)	43(9%)
5	Poor feeding conditions	370(77.1%)	85(17.7%)	25(5.2%)
6	Prisoners are not allowed to meet visitors*	106(22.1%)	363(75.6%)	11(2.3%)
7	No form of rehabilitation	361(75.2%)	108(22.5%)	11(2.3%)
8	Poor reform activities	343(71.5%)	124(25.8%)	13(2.7%)

Source: Fieldwork, 2022.

* Implies wrong notion

Experiences of ex-convicts

Table 2 shows responses to the experiences of ex-convicts. The analysis showed that majority of ex-convicts were stigmatized, condemn as failures, cannot hold elective offices, have lost their valuables, cannot be employed in any public job, are hardened criminals,

only a few people interact with them (ex-convicts), were easily discriminate against. That many persons hate ex-convicts and recidivism is a common practice among ex-convicts, are often not cared for by the public. However, from the analysis, ex-convicts possess unique potentials which were not utilized by the public and only few interact freely with ex-convicts.

Table 2: Responses to experiences of ex-convicts (n=480)

S/n	Items	Agree	Disagree	Don't know
1	A lot of ex-convicts were stigmatized	395(82.3%)	54(11.3%)	31(6.5%)
2	Most people condemn ex-convicts as failures	317(66%)	98(20.4%)	65(13.5%)
3	Ex-convicts cannot hold elective offices	355(74%)	103(21.5%)	22(4.6%)
4	Most ex-convicts have lost their valuables	266(55.4%)	193(40.2%)	21(4.4%)
5	Cannot be employed in any public job	381(58.5%)	58(12.1%)	41(8.5%)
6	Most ex-convicts are hardened criminals	196(40.%)	263(54.8%)	21(4.4%)
7	Only a few people interact with ex-convicts	151(31.5%)	317(66%)	12(2.5%)
8	Ex-convicts are easily discriminate against	313(65.%)	127(26.5%)	40(8.3%)
9	Ex-convicts possess unique potential	314(65.4%)	135(28.1%)	31(6.5%)
10	Many persons hate ex-convicts	244(50.8%)	214(44.6%)	22(4.6%)
11	Recidivism is a common among ex-convicts	313(65.2%)	147(30.6%)	20(4.2%)
12	Ex-convicts are not cared for by the public	132(27.5%)	318(66.3%)	30(6.3%)
13	Family treat ex-convicts with understanding	116(24.2%)	353(73.5%)	11(2.3%)

Source: Fieldwork, 2022.

Available correctional services for prison inmates

Table 3 shows responses to available correctional services in Afokang prison in Calabar to include social welfare services, penology /punishment and probation services. However, reformations, rehabilitations, reintegration programs and Training/skill acquisition were non-existent in the center.

Table 3: Responses on available correctional services for prison inmates (n=480)

S/n	Items	Agree	Disagree	Don't know
1	Reformations*	155(32.3%)	303(63.1%)	22(4.6%)
2	Rehabilitations*	148(30.8%)	311(64.8%)	21(4.4%)
3	Reintegration programs*	154(32.1%)	285(59.4%)	41(8.5%)
4	Social welfare services	149(31%)	310(64.6%)	21(4.4%)
5	Penology /punishment	316(65.8%)	152(31.7%)	12(2.5%)
6	Probation	197(41%)	243(50.6%)	40(8.3%)
7	Empowerments*	122(25.4%)	327(68.1%)	31(6.5%)
8	Training/skill acquisition*	381(58.5%)	58(12.1%)	41(8.5%)

Source: Fieldwork, 2022.

* Implies the non-available correctional services

DISCUSSIONS

Findings reveal that the way and manner in which inmates were treated has infringed upon the fundamental human rights by denying them training and correctional services including reformation and rehabilitation. Thus, the major effect of imprisonment of inmates in Afokang prison has been the denial of right of inmates to live comfortably, eat decent foods and to reform them so that when they are released, they would be useful to the society. This finding is in agreement with previous studies. Fredga (2011) and Bassel (2009) assert that the condition under which prison inmates find themselves does not anchor on human right approach and no due respect is paid to ethical principles, especially the right to be tutored, trained or be educated. The incarceration of offenders is typically carried out-without regard for their basic human rights and integrity. The findings also agree with Foss and Bonn (2009) who reported that prison inmates are not only disenfranchised but also treated as criminals who deserve to be punished for the offence they committed and not as persons who needed to be helped in changing their behaviors. The findings also support Bachul (2008) who opined that incarceration of offenders is characterized by the violation of human rights.

The ill treatment meted to prison inmates makes them unable to cope with or adapt easily to the society whenever they are released. This also undermines their ability to make fast and meaningful existence. The inmates sometimes experience inhuman, degrading treatment or harsh punishment. The findings also indicate that prison inmates were impoverished by their incarceration, especially as most had lost most of their valuables and source of livelihood, such that many of them became dependents and unemployed. This is in support of Ozuliman (2008) who reported that poverty and ill treatment of prison inmates exist in almost all African countries, although they manifest themselves differently across countries and communities.

It was also revealed that inmates that were released on completion of their jail terms (ex-convicts) not only did they found it difficult to recover all they have lost, but it also interferes with attempts to cope with the future. Evidence from the study also showed that ex-convicts were spited by community members as well as stigmatized and discredited. This is in agreement with Fredga (2011) who reported that ex convicts were seen as undesirable people by some persons in the society. This is also in line with Brenda (2011) who reported that ex-convicts were believed to be significantly discredited and this serves to reduce their status in the society. The ex-convicts were also receiving poor treatment in healthcare, education and

other social amenities. From the legal point of view, ex-convicts were not allowed to be voted for any elective office or be appointed into any public office.

More so, the over population of the prison tend to be a major challenge that need to be addressed. The overcrowding of the prisons has caused widespread diseases that caused some inmates to lose their lives. It was also found that prisoners and family members suffer from pains, neglect, stigma, insults and pity from members of the society. Findings also revealed that inmates who later had gained freedom found it difficult to adjust and also be wholly accepted by community members who stigmatize them. The ex-convicts also found it difficult in securing a job, because of their past criminal records and by the simple fact that they were tagged “ex-convicts”. The inability of these ex-convicts to secure jobs leads to poverty and makes them idle and therefore ready to commit more crime and be hardened and re-arrested thereby putting the lives of citizen at risks.

CONCLUSION

The incarceration of persons without regard to their right to fundamental human rights or privileges has become a concern in recent times. Often times, the burdens of imprisonment become so heavy upon not just the victims but also their family members and the society in general. In most cases no attempt was made to cause behavior change among the inmates and no humanitarian support and care given to them, leading to some of them becoming hardened criminals at the long run. Moreover, the negative attitude of the society toward ex-convicts was usually intense. It was further observed that the prisons in the study area are not fulfilling their main objections of reformation and rehabilitations.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the findings of this study, we call on governmental agencies and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) concerned with the reforms and implementation of correctional centers’ programmes to embark on vigorous training and education of prison inmates. The correctional services should emphasize attitudinal change and the need for incarcerated persons to given human treatment.

The prison officials should be used in creating a comfortable environment for prison inmates to stay and strive. Efforts should also be made to educate the public workshops, seminars, and conferences to cause behavior change among the public towards ex-convicts. The study also recommends that government should address the challenges facing prison inmates and ex-

convicts. The government should take responsibility of the harsh economic situation and put measures in place in the economic and the prison institution to enable them fulfill the objectives and thereby reducing recidivism and crime rate.

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POLITICS, SECURITY CHALLENGES AND ERODING AFRICAN VALUES IN NIGERIA

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Abstract

There is a strong connection between politics, security challenges and eroding African values in contemporary Nigeria. This connection is such that African values engender good politics and security, while the lack of it could lead to serious security problems. The Nigerian state is a perfect example of a democratic state, which evidently manifests the latter part of this cliché. Today, there are intractable security challenges that pose a serious threat to the existence of the country and which appear to have defied possible solution. Arguably this is due to the fact that some African values which were crucial in regulating peoples' behaviours and maintaining stability in traditional society have been eroded by some modern forces of change like colonialism, globalization, and foreign religions- Christianity and Islam. Therefore, the paper examined the relevance of African values in addressing this hydra-headed monster in democratic Nigeria. The paper adopted the discursive approach in analyzing data gathered through critical review of literature and personal experience. It argued that the intractable security challenges in Nigeria is partly due to eroded African values, especially the values of respect for sanctity of human life and traditional political institutions which were the baseline for maintaining a peaceful and stable society. Also, it recommends introduction of these values at all levels of Nigerian education system as a way of reviving these values. Overall, it concludes that unless African values are given its primary place, addressing insecurity in Nigeria might be a herculean task.

Keywords: *Politics, security challenges, African values, sanctity of human life, and traditional political institutions.*

Introduction

Good politics and security are two indispensable components of a prosperous democratic nation. On the contrary, bad politics and insecurity are inimical to the prosperity and socio-

economic development of any nation. The Nigerian state evidently manifests the latter. Arguably this is due to the fact that some African values which were crucial in regulating peoples' behaviours and maintaining stability in traditional society have been completely eroded in contemporary Nigeria by some modern forces of change. Consequently, the Nigerian society is now bedeviled by a number of intractable security challenges that appear to have defied possible solution. More specifically, there is the challenge of Boko-Haram and Islamic State of West African Province (ISWAP) in the north-east; banditry and herdsmen versus farmers' clashes in north-west and north-central; agitation for Yoruba nation, ritual killings and kidnapping in south-west; agitation for self-determination by Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB) and its attendant consequences in south-east; and militancy, kidnapping, cultism and ritual killings in south-south. Clearly, these security challenges pose a serious threat to the existence of the country and have put scholars of different fields of human endeavour to task on how best to address this hydra-headed monster. However, a lot still needs to be done. Therefore, the paper examined the relevance of African values in addressing the security challenges in Nigeria. To achieve this, the paper used the discursive approach in analyzing data gathered through literature review and personal experience. It is the thrust of this paper that the intractable security challenges in Nigeria is partly due to eroded African values, especially the values of respect for the sanctity of human life and traditional political institution which were the baseline for maintaining peace and stability in traditional society. For purpose of clarity, the paper is divided into six main sections which include the introduction; the concepts of politics and democracy; conceptual meaning of African values; interrelation of politics, security challenges and eroding African values; factors responsible for eroding African values; and the conclusion.

The Concepts of Politics and Democracy

The term "politics" appears to have a more precise definition, although scholars differ in their approaches on how it should be defined. For example, in defining the term, the New International Webster's Comprehensive Dictionary of the English Language (2010:978) describes politics as the science of civil government that involves the activities or intrigues of a political party. In essence, the concept of politics by this dictionary definition has something to do with the activities of a political party and government. The Greek concept of politics according to Akubor (2018:108) refers to a process by which people debate matters concerning the political community and take actions in an attempt to realize the public interest or the common good. Hence, he notes that politics concerns the management and

allocation of resources for the benefit of the greatest number of people in any given society using political parties as vehicles in seeking the mandate of the people (Akubor, 2018:111). In politics, there is usually a social contract between the government and the citizens of any given society as Gough (1936:2-3) has noted. In this light, Hornby (2000:899) conceived politics simply as the activities involved in getting and using power in public life, and being able to influence decisions that affect a country or a society. The implication of Hornby definition is that politics concerns the process of taking power and using this power to influence public life either negatively or positively. But Nmah (2007:119-127) adds that politics does not only have to do with the process of adjustment and interplay of power but also of interest as well within the public life and affairs of a society on national and multi-national levels. By and large, it is safe to define politics as the process which involves the acquisition of power from citizens through the use of political parties and political campaigns for purpose of providing governance to such citizens within a given state or society. Regrettably, what has emerged in the Nigerian situation instead is a form of pseudo-politics in which politicians usually make promises during their political campaigns but after acquiring political power abandon the masses to their fate.

Conceptual Meanings of African Values

As a continent, Africa is known for its distinct cultural and social values. Therefore, it is not misleading to state that it is these African cultural and social values that provide Africans, with the unique sense of identity, personality, history and beliefs as well as differentiates the continent from other continents. This does not imply that other societies like Indian, China, and the West are bereft of distinct cultural and social values. In fact, every human society has its set of values, governing every aspect of human life for which Africa is not an exception. However, the interconnection between African cultural and social values on the one hand, and security and peace in traditional African societies on the other hand, gives this discourse its particular relevance. This explains why Kanu (n.d) believed that the question of values is akin to human society and activities, and as such are the guiding principles found in any society. Kanu arrived at this conclusion because the value system of any society is the cultural outlook of the people and the understanding of the belief system and cultural system. This means that societal values are so crucial to the existence of any society that without it, the equilibrium of the society becomes difficult if not impossible to maintain.

In a typical traditional African society, cultural or social values were the taboos, that is, regulating principles, guiding policies, or codes of conduct, which regulated the day to day activities of individuals in the society. Consequently, in the view of Columbus (2014:209), values be it cultural or social are not just principles or standards commonly held by peoples but they include ideas shared by members of a society with respect to what is good, right and desirable; things worth striving for, and which differ from society to society and have the tendency to change with time due to acculturation. Thus, he conceived of African traditional values as those social ideals that are indigenous to African people, which either enhance or hinder inter-communal relations. The implication of Columbus' definition as it were, is that there are both negative and positive African values. The negative values are those that hinder inter-communal relations while the positive values enhance inter-communal relations. Suffice it to state however that this is misleading because the word value itself does not carry any negative connotation; instead it presupposes something positive and valuable. More comprehensively, Awoniyi (2015:2) argued that African cultural values embrace all aspects of African life namely people's history, philosophy, poetry, psychology, medicine and health care delivery, economics, politics, ecology, etc. This means that values include attitude, beliefs, behaviours and actions that are cherished and acceptable as standards of behaviours, which each society expects that members should abide by. In other words, cultural or social values have to do with ethical standards of a society.

Moreover, Falade, Akinola and Adejube (2009:482) described value as a coherent set of attitude, behaviour and action adopted and or evolved by a person, organization or society as a standard to guide its behaviour and preferences in all situations. However, they observed that referring to African cultural values does not imply by any means that there are no cultural impediments or negative features of African cultures; instead, there are because some cultural beliefs, practices and institutions they argued, which many may regard as cultural values could be taken by others as cultural disvalues (2009:482). There are two implications that could be drawn from the above definition. One is that as much as there were positive values in traditional Africa; there were also negative values which co-existed side by side with the positive ones. Two is that values have no universally accepted meanings; hence, what may be referred to as values in Africa may be disvalues in other societies. Suffice it to state that it is not difficult to understand why these authors arrived at this conclusion when some instances in traditional African society are taken into cognizance. For example, it is a fact that traditional African communities once considered human sacrifices as a norm and

acceptable means of appeasing the gods during moments of epidemics or inexplicable situations. Similarly, it is also a widespread fact that the killing of twins was a predominant cultural practice in some traditional African communities and was only abolished by Christian missionaries. Given these instances, it is understandable why these authors observed that the meaning of cultural values may be relative based on the context in which they exist. However, this is not always the case, since values are acceptable standards or behaviours which each society uses in maintaining the moral equilibrium of society. It is arguable therefore, that what may be relative to each society are not cultural values but cultural disvalues. For the term values in whichever context it is used presupposes something positive and not negative. This agrees with Igboin's position that values have intrinsic value and are ends in themselves (Igboin, 2011:97). Consequently, he argued that values can be institutional and cherished by either individual or a group of people living within a given society. Similarly, values are the standards which members of the community adhere to in their personal and communal interaction in order for them to achieve their individual or communal goals (2011:98&99). This view has affinity with Sogolo (1993:119) cited by Igboin (2011:99) who wrote in his work that African values are a set of institutionalized ideals which guide and direct the patterns of life of Africans.

From the foregoing therefore, we may take African values to refer to the social, cultural, and religious principles or standards that guided the behaviours of traditional Africans. It is the unwritten set of moral attitudes, behaviours and actions transmitted and adopted by traditional African community as a standard to guide and regulate peoples' daily choices with a view to maintaining the equilibrium of society. These values manifest over a period of time through shared experiences, environments and social interactions. It should be noted that Africa is inhabited by various ethnic nationalities with diverse cultural heritages and values. However, there are values and practices that Africans share in common which cut across the various ethnic nationalities and distinguish them from other peoples of the world. Some of these African values include respect for sacredness of life, strong sense of communal life, high respect for elders and constituted authority, value for integrity and good name, good parental care for children, value for mother-tongue and proverbs, high sense of hospitality, sacredness of marriage, good human-relations, strong family-ties, high regards for hard-work and dignity of labour, respect for the dead, etc. The significance of these African values in the society is that they promoted peace and security as well as regulated the moral equilibrium of traditional communities in Africa. In the next section, two of these African

values which relate to politics and security and have been eroded by modern forces of change shall be discussed.

Interrelation of Politics, Security Challenges and Eroding African Values

As earlier stated, there are many African values that regulated behaviours of Africans in traditional society. However, there are two African values which particularly relate to politics and security that require a brief discussion in this paper. The first is the respect accorded to the traditional political system commonly known as chieftaincy or kingship, and the second is the high regard people accorded for human life.

First, political leadership in traditional African society was a very serious matter. The political structure that existed was commonly referred to as chieftaincy or kingship system of leadership. Igboin observed that in some cultures, it was pyramidal and highly religious and traditionally fixed to the lineal succession. However, in some other societies, it could be hierarchical and centralized with the King as the head and commander-in-chief of the military (Igboin, 2011:100). For example, prior to the British imperial control of the late 19th century, the Yoruba and Benin Kingdoms had highly centralized structures in which the chief executives directly interfaced with their councils of chiefs in matters of decision making or settlement of disputes. The king was usually selected by hereditary and specifically by primogeniture (i.e. from father to son). In fact in this system, it was required that the incumbent would name his successor while still alive in order to avoid divergent interests concerning the stool that may put the kingdom into a state of unrest at his demise. In other cultures, the political structures in operation were relatively simple and stateless. For example, the Igbo and other ethnic groups like the Abua in the south adopted a political system that is best described variously as segmented or stateless model. The uniqueness of this political system is that decision making powers rested on various bodies such as the council of elders, village council, age grades, etc. One benefit of this political system is that it did not give room for a single individual or group to claim absolute monopoly of power. Hence, the political system that existed was more democratic than autocratic and in the event that an incumbent king exercised the latter, his subjects usually become discontented. Similarly, in the north, there were several large and well-developed political structures that existed during pre-colonial era as well. For example, there was the Kanem-Borno Empire, which was known to have wielded strong influence along the entire region of east of Lake Chad to central Sudan using a highly centralized political system.

The relation between the African system of chieftaincy or kingship, politics and security is that each of these kingdoms had their unique political values which regulated individuals' behaviours in their respective communities. Also, there was a traditional security system put in place in each of the communities to secure the people night and day under the supervision of the council of chiefs or kings who were the commanders-in-chiefs. In traditional society, the security men were usually able-bodied and men of integrity who had no criminal records in the community. Moreover, they were properly scrutinized before being enlisted in community security. In most cases, they were required to take an oath of allegiance before a traditional priest who thereafter fortified them to do the job. Those who violated their oath of allegiance for any reason were accordingly meted with serious punishment as prescribed by the king, council of chiefs or traditional priest as the case may be. This prevented others from committing similar offences and the peace and security of the society was maintained. This explains Onwubiko's position that African idea of security and its value depended on personal identification with and within the community (Onwubiko, 1991:154). In all, the political structure that existed in traditional Africa was the one in which subjects had high regard for their leaders and the leaders were responsible in ensuring that their domains were secured and peaceful. Today, the story is different as politicians pay little or no attention to the welfare of their subjects and may even go to the extent of buying guns for their followers to use it against their perceived political opponents.

The second African value that relates to politics and security is the high regard people accorded for life in traditional African society. Traditional African societies had a deep sense of the sacredness of life. The respect and dignity accorded to human life transcended the confines of the immediate family members. This explains why sanctions were usually given to people who wished their enemies dead not to talk of their neighbours. This is because as Igboin noted, members of extended family, community or tribe were regarded as brothers whose lives must be preserved and protected at all cost. Also, the notion of human value is intrinsically linked with a wide range of brotherhood, which may not be biologically based (Igboin, 2011:99). This sense of brotherhood and sisterhood was so strong that family members were made to have at heart the names of their relatives and family-trees, even if it meant tracing them to previous generations. All this helped in promoting a strong sense of good human relations in which members of the society cordially related and tolerated one another without resorting to bloodshed. Therefore, children in traditional Africa grew with the strong awareness that life was sacred and avoided at all cost anything that could result to

bloodshed. Although, some scholars have observed that there were handful expressions of abuse of life in spite of the appreciation of human value. For example, Gyekye (1996:26) cited by Igboin (2011:99) has identified some incidences of abuse of life in traditional Africa to include cases of inter-tribal wars and ethnic conflicts, slave trade, burial of people along with deceased Kings and nobles, which was based on false metaphysics. However, it could be argued that this was not the case because such incidences even if they happened were rare. Moreover, incidences like inter-tribal wars and ethnic conflicts were often retaliatory because Africans believed that “injury to one is an injury to all” and once a member of a community is attacked or assaulted, the victim’s community would often go for reprisal attacks leading to inter-tribal wars and ethnic conflicts. Therefore, the real idea behind inter-tribal wars in traditional Africa was not to abuse the sacredness of life as Gyekye and others have postulated but to reaffirm the respect accorded to it. Unfortunately, today, some of these values have been eroded by modern forces of change resulting to the spate of insecurity we have today. The next section will discuss some of these modern forces that have eroded African values.

Factors Responsible for Eroding African Values

It is a fact that the security challenges in Nigeria today is traceable to a number of factors namely, religious extremism, poverty, high employment rate, bad leadership, political desperation, eroding African values, etc. However, one that stands out amongst others is the eroding African values. As stated above, African values played significant role in promoting peace and stability in traditional society. Regrettably, in recent times, some of these African values have been eroded by modern forces of change such as colonialism, globalization, science and technology, western education, Christianity, Islam, etc. For example, Frank (2015:2) has argued that the coming of the colonial masters could be blamed for the gradual erosion of traditional value system. This ebb according to him was possible with the introduction of western education. Prior to colonialism, traditional Africa has its own system of education known as informal education. This informal education was done through oral tradition and its purpose was essentially to prepare individuals to meet the challenges of the society. With the advent of colonialism however, the African system of education was displaced and we now have formal education that was designed according to Frank (2021:2) to alienate Africans from their culture, values, language and original sense of identity and in which the classroom plays a significant role. Igboin is then perfectly in order to have described colonialism as an imposition that unleashed deadly blow on African culture by

introducing values alien to Africa such as rugged individualism, corruption, capitalism and oppression (2012:101).

But aside, colonialism, globalization has also significantly contributed in eroding African values through the transfer of modern sophisticated technology. In simple terms, Rai (2018) described globalization as the process of making the world into a global village. In globalization, all countries of the world are linked together to form a single community. Arnett (2002:774) conceived it as a process by which cultures influence one another and become almost identical, through trade, immigration and the exchange of information and ideas. The impact of globalization is not limited to the areas of immigration, technology, media, ideology and finance but also to cultural practices and psychology of the people (2002:774). From the positive side, globalization provides huge opportunities for socio-economic and industrial activities through the advancement of modern technology. In particular, it has made technology transfer very easy. Also with globalization, overseas' employment opportunities have become commonplace and people could have access to services that may be lacking in their countries of abode. In the area of information technology, globalization has made the spread of information faster and more efficient since the world has become a global village. But while this is so, it has also come with much that is undesirable. For example, Arnett (2002:778) observed that globalization has negatively affected the existing set of the social relation and organization in Africa as well as created a crisis of national identity with which the different cultural cleavages were known for and replaced it with western lifestyle. A typical case in view is the replacement of African communal lifestyle with western individualistic lifestyle. Worst still, is the fact that globalization has brought proliferation of weapons in African society thereby giving access to illegal possession of weapons by citizens. Consequently, the value people once accorded to the sanctity of human life has become eroded. This explains why insecurity has continued to be on the rise in African countries, especially Nigeria. Thus, it is safe to argue that globalization is one of the main factors that have contributed in eroding African values, especially the African value of respect for the sanctity of human life.

Finally, in addition to colonialism and globalization, the introduction of foreign religions namely Christianity and Islam have also played significantly role in eroding African values. Prior to the introduction of both foreign religions, Africa had its own indigenous religion which was rooted in the culture and tradition of the people and served as the moral code for defining peoples' attitudes and behaviours in the society. Therefore, Christianity and

Islam were historically unknown to Africans. Christianity was the religion of the West while Islam was the religion of the Arab world. However, with colonialism and trans-regional trade, both religions were successfully introduced into the continent of Africa. In Nigeria in particular, Christianity has now spread widely in the southern region of the country and influenced practically all aspects of African life. Consequently, some of our most cherished cultural values have been abandoned due to the influence of the Christian religion in Nigeria. Similarly, Islam on its part has also had strong influence on the northern region of the country to the extent that it has subsumed the native culture of the Hausa and other tribes that constitute the region. Awoniyi (2015:2) is then perfectly in order to observe that African cultural heritage has been maligned in many ways simply because many overzealous Christians and Muslims have branded it as barbaric, primitive, unprogressive and unrevealed. The implication of his position is that the arrival of both religions have broken the moral foundation of traditional African society and replaced it with a moral conception that is alien to the people of Africa. Hence, African moral values have been eroded not only by colonialism and globalization but also by Christianity and Islam.

Conclusion

In this paper efforts have been made to examine the interrelation between politics, security challenges and eroding African values in Nigeria. In traditional African society, African values particularly, respect for the sanctity of human life and the respect accorded to the traditional political institution of chieftaincy or kingship were the baseline for maintaining a peaceful and stable society. This was so because unlike present day politics and politicians, those who occupied leadership positions in traditional African society like the chiefs or kings and their deputies were responsible to their subjects and ensured that security of lives and property was paramount. Hence, there were community security systems for which recruitment processes were highly transparent, incorruptible and uncompromised. Also, respect for the sanctity of human life and dignity was highly entrenched in traditional African society to the extent that the mere wish of death even to perceived enemies was considered a taboo and offenders were meted with appropriate sanctions to serve as deterrents for others. African values therefore served as moral standards for which human behaviours and actions were regulated for the benefit of society. Regrettably today, these African values have been eroded by modern forces of change such as colonialism, globalization and foreign religions amongst others, giving rise to bad politics and the intractable insecurity challenges that are evident in Nigerian society today. Therefore, to address bad politics and the security

challenges bedeviling the Nigeria society, there is need, to reinvent African values through introduction of these values at all levels of Nigerian education system. Until this is done, good politics, security and stability might be difficult to achieve in Nigeria.

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INSECURITY IN NIGERIA: A THREAT TO ENTREPRENEURSHIP ACTIVITIES- THE SOUTH-EAST EXPERIENCE

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Abstract

The study ascertained the influence of insecurity on entrepreneurship activities in South East, Nigeria. A survey of 400 business owners from a population of 5,073,672 was the sample size. Hypotheses tested using population t-test and simple linear regression revealed that causes of insecurity on entrepreneurship activities is significantly high and negatively influence entrepreneurship activities. The study proffered relevant recommendations.

Keywords: Insecurity, Entrepreneurship Activities, South East, Nigeria

Introduction

The term entrepreneurship is a multi-faceted concept, which does not have a consistent definition and conceptual clarification. According to Nwekeaku (2013), Entrepreneurship embodies unique knowledge and capabilities that spur an entrepreneur into progressive and creative thoughts which are crystallized into short and volatile enterprise choices that result to sustainable profitability. Entrepreneurship is creativity, innovation employed in the process of production and creation of value, every nation with great development is built on the premise of entrepreneurship and it is the life blood of a nation which creates values and blocks of growth on which development is achieved. Hence, entrepreneurship activities are various ways of recognizing the needs in an economy and supplying the factors of production to meet such needs with a purpose to generate earnings. That is, various legitimate activities undertaken by business owners to meet customers' needs and make profit in the long run.

Mboto, Offiong and Udoka (2018) view that the existence of entrepreneurship activities in any region of the country is critical since it encourages and contributes to economic growth. Entrepreneurship promote social change and boost innovation. According to Mboto and Mboto (2007), entrepreneurial activities do not just improve the standard of living of individuals but contribute to the growth of the economy, reduce movement from rural to urban areas, foreign dominance of the economy by increasing the participation of local entrepreneur in other business activities. This have resulted to the establishment of Small and Medium Scale Businesses (SMEs). SMEs remain an essential sub-sector in the economy. The contribution of SMEs has affected that sustenance of the economy because of their ability in improving the economy's output and human welfare (Akingunola, 2011). SME is one of the indices of measuring development, and as such, the establishment and environmental security has a vital role to play in harnessing its inherent benefits.

Beland (2005) opined that insecurity is the state of fear and anxiety emanating from lack of protection and uncertainty it is a situation of allege or imminent threat to peace, protection and increase in hazard. Achumba, Ighomereho and Akpor-Robaro (2013) defined insecurity in two parts; the authors stated that insecurity is the state of being open or subject to danger or threat of danger, where the danger is the condition of being susceptible to harm or injury. On the other hand, insecurity is the state of being exposed to risk or anxiety, where anxiety is a vague unpleasant emotion that is experienced in anticipation of some misfortune. Some researchers like Igbuzor (2011); Nwanegbo and Odigbo (2013) stated that security

placed emphasis on the absence of threats to peace, stability, national cohesion, political and socio-economic objectives of a country.

Nigeria as a country was once regarded as the pride and giant of Africa but since the presence of democracy in Nigeria, about how many years ago, Nigeria has experienced security challenges that shakes the country economic activities. Foreigners no longer feel safe to have their investment in the country. More so, section 14(2) (b) of the Nigeria 1999 constitution provides that the primary purpose of government is security and welfare of the people. In line with this therefore, that Adegami (2013) stated that the right to security and citizens welfare is the fundamental human right of every Nigeria. This notwithstanding, the unprecedented security challenges in Nigeria and even at the South East is becoming alarming, as people are no longer safe to go about doing their business, economic activities in the South East is reducing on a daily basis, lives are being threatened, shops are being close, citizens changing locations for safety reasons (Onime, 2018). Adebakin and Raimi (2012) stated that past and present government has failed on their part to provide the constitutional duty of securing lives, property of her citizen. Since 2007, the South East region experienced insecurity challenge exhibited by various action groups that assume a different shape to interrupt economic activities in the region. Action such as militancy, kidnapping, banditry, Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB), End Sars, Armed Robbery, Killings among others became a big challenge to entrepreneurial activities (Udeh & Okoroafor, 2013).

Nigeria is confronted with security lapses ranging from increase in crime rates, militancy in Niger Delta and of recent the incidence of Boko Haram. According to Okonkwo, Ndibuisi and Anagbogu (2011), the causes of security challenges in Nigeria are ethno-religious conflicts, weak security system, unemployment and poverty, porous border, systemic and political corruption. Nigeria being a multi-cultural country is constantly faced with religion, economic, political, ethnic crisis and terrorism. Nwagbosa (2012) stated that failure of different government to look into the issue of unemployment, poverty and incidence of inequitable distribution of resources are major causes of insecurity in Nigeria.

Security challenges in Nigeria have created more impact that is negative. Adejumo (2011) posited that the effect of security challenges in Nigeria have damaging result and gives the shows foreign business investors that Nigeria is a risky and uncertain place for

economic investment and activities. Insecurity is a threat to the growth and stability of any nation.

Achumba et. al. (2013) argued that impact of insecurity can be conceptualized from two major perspectives. Insecurity discourages potential investment opportunities in a nation and this has a negative impact on the economic growth and development of a country. Security challenges may result to low investment to some persons as it could increase the cost of investment through direct loss of properties and increases cost of insuring against business risks and uncertainty (Achumba et al, 2013). According to the Central Bank of Nigeria (2011), Foreign Direct Investment has been on the decrease in Nigeria as a result of security challenges by about 15% since 2011. This shows that Nigeria is not a safe place for investment and business activities. The lack of investment have grievous effect on the economy as it retards the expansion and growth of local industries and also lead to the relocation of businesses to other countries from Nigeria to Sub Sahara Africa countries. A study on investment climate by World Bank in some African countries showed that 29% of business enterprises in Africa and about 36% of Nigerian entrepreneurs perceived that security challenges are major constraints on investment (Ujah & Eboh, 2006).

All aspects of business activities such as production, marketing, finance, human resources, transportation, banking, health and communication have been affected by the surge of insecurity. Nwagbosa (2012) opined that businesses such as manufacturing and human resources have relocated from the northern part of Nigeria to the other geographical zones because of insecurity in Nigeria while Suleiman (2012) argued that non-indigenes especially the Igbos and Yoruba's have relocated to their hometown because of incidence of Boko Haram in Nigeria. Resources that would have been used in improving on social and infrastructural amenities are diverted to curb insecurity, which is a major challenge in Nigeria thereby leaving other sectors requiring attention to suffer.

Entrepreneurship activities as a key to economic growth is being threatened because of this social menace of insecurity in the region. The level of insecurity in the South East is unbearable, featuring in various surface of our lives, resulting to daily loss of investment opportunities, creating unemployment, chasing foreign investors away and forcing Nigerians to be on the run (Onime, 2018). Stewatt (2004) affirmed that the economic cost of insecurity

are outrageous. People are no longer interested in doing any business, productivity keep reducing investors not willing to invest thereby making the region loss its economic activities, as no one wants to invest in a land that is not safe; hitherto, full of destruction of human lives. The consequence of this is that there will be a breakdown of commercial activities which is the key to every region's growth. Therefore, the paper examined the threat of insecurity on entrepreneurship activities in South East region of Nigeria.

Purpose of the study

The study ascertained the causes of insecurity and its effect on entrepreneurship activities in South East, Nigeria. Specifically, the study sought to:

- 1 Determine the causes of insecurity on entrepreneurship activities in South East, Nigeria.
- 2 Find out the influence of insecurity on entrepreneurship activities in South East, Nigeria.

Research hypotheses

The following hypotheses were formulated and were statistically tested in the study:

1. The causes of insecurity on entrepreneurship activities in South East, Nigeria is not significantly high.
2. Insecurity does not significantly influence entrepreneurship activities in South East, Nigeria

Methodology

The researcher adopted a survey research design. The study was carried out in South East region of Nigeria. 5,073,672 Micro, Small and Medium Scale Business Owners in South East, Nigeria (Records from the Office of Small and Medium Enterprises Development Agency of Nigeria (SMEDAN), 2021) is the study population. The breakdown of the population distribution is presented in Table 1. Taro Yamane's Formula was used to determine the sample size and a multi stage sampling of proportionate and accidental techniques was used in the study to select 400 business owners in the study area, as sample. A validated questionnaire titled "Insecurity and Entrepreneurship Activities Questionnaire" (IEAQ) was the instrument used for data

collection. The questionnaire was validated by three experts; two in Management Sciences and one in Measurement and Evaluation. The instrument generated an overall reliability index of 82. 400 copies of the IEAQ were administered and 371 copies were correctly filled and returned giving rise to 93% return rate. After the data was collected, research questions were answered using means and standard deviation and hypotheses were tested at 0 .05 significance level using population t-test and simple linear regression statistics. All the hypotheses were tested at 0.05 level of significance with relative degree of freedom.

TABLE 1
Population distribution by state and business size

S/No	State	Micro	Small	Medium	Total
1	Abia	904,721	1,769	40	906,530
2	Anambra	1,223,395	1,160	117	1,225,132
3	Ebonyi	577,216	1,206	4	578,426
4	Enugu	1,064,893	812	99	1,065,804
5	Imo	1,296,386	1,259	41	1,297,780
	Total	5,066,611	6,206	301	5,073,672

Source: Records from Business Education Head of Department or Unit Office (2021) from the various institutions under study

Results

Research question one

What are the causes of insecurity on entrepreneurship activities in South East, Nigeria?

To provide answers to research question one, mean and standard deviation were used. The result is presented in Table 2.

TABLE 2
Mean and standard deviation of responses on the causes of insecurity on entrepreneurship activities n=371

S/N	Causes of insecurity on entrepreneurship activities	X	SD	Remark
1.	Ethno- religious conflicts	2.83	.462	Agree
2.	Weak security system	2.34	.668	Agree
3.	Unemployment	3.20	.703	Agree
4.	Poverty	2.42	.789	Agree
5.	Porous border	3.28	.621	Agree
6.	Political corruption	2.25	.957	Agree
7.	Inequitable distribution of resources	2.83	.462	Agree
8.	Militancy	2.34	.668	Agree
9.	Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB) activities	2.67	.585	Agree

10. Incidence of Boko Haram 2.69 .952 Agree

The results of the study showed that all the items in the Table were accepted as the causes of insecurity on entrepreneurship activities in South East, Nigeria. All items scored a mean point above 2.5. This indicates that all the ten items are the causes of insecurity on entrepreneurship activities in South East, Nigeria.

Research question two

How does insecurity influence entrepreneurship activities in South East, Nigeria?

To provide answers to research question two, mean and standard deviation were used.

The result is presented in Table 3.

TABLE 3

Mean and standard deviation of responses on the influence of insecurity on entrepreneurship activities n=371

S/No	Influence of insecurity on entrepreneurship activities	X	SD	Remark
1.	Business owners are no longer safe to go about doing their business	3.48	.585	Agree
2.	Economic activities in the South East is reducing on a daily basis due to insecurity	3.14	.443	Agree
3.	Citizens are moving from one place to another in search of safety	3.31	.553	Agree
4.	Shops are being closed on time	3.18	.681	Agree
5.	Foreigners no longer feel safe to have their investment in the country	3.34	.610	Agree
6.	Insecurity discourages potential investment opportunities	3.39	.561	Agree
7.	Insecurity increases the cost of investment through direct loss of properties	3.15	.488	Agree
8.	Insecurity increases cost of insuring against business risks and uncertainty	2.90	.539	Agree
9.	Insecurity has led to the relocation of businesses from South East to other states	3.01	.533	Agree
10.	Resources that would have been used in improving on social and infrastructural amenities are diverted to curb insecurity	3.05	.557	Agree

The results of the study showed that all the items in the Table were accepted as the how insecurity influences entrepreneurship activities in South East, Nigeria. All items scored a mean point above 2.5. This indicates that all the ten items are how insecurity influences entrepreneurship activities in South East, Nigeria.

Hypothesis one

The causes of insecurity on entrepreneurship activities in South East, Nigeria is not significantly high.

Population t-test was used to test this hypothesis and the result was presented on Table 4

Population t-test analysis of causes of insecurity on entrepreneurship activities

Variable	N	X	SD	t-cal	df	Test val.
Causes of insecurity on entrepreneurship activities	371	25.85	2.49	6.359	370	25
				2.5		.000

From Table 4, the mean of causes of insecurity on entrepreneurship activities of 25.85, was greater than the test value of 25. The calculated t-value of 6.359 and its associated p-value of .000 was found to be less than 0.05 level of significance with 370 degree of freedom. With this result, the null hypothesis was rejected. This implies alternately that causes of insecurity on entrepreneurship activities in South East, Nigeria is significantly high

Hypothesis two

Insecurity does not significantly influence entrepreneurship activities in South East, Nigeria. The independent variable is insecurity while the dependent variable is entrepreneurship activities. Simple linear regression was used as statistical tool to test this hypothesis and the result is presented in Table 5.

TABLE 5
Simple regression analysis on the influence of insecurity on entrepreneurship activities n=371

Variable	R	R ²	Adj R ²	Std. Error	
Insecurity on entrepreneurship activities	.731	.617	.615	1.889	
Source of variation	SS	df	MS	F	Sig.
Regression	23.124	1	23.124	6.478	.000 ^b
Residual	1317.26	369	3.570		

	9	
	1340.39	
Total	4	370

* $p < .05$; $df = 1, 369$

From Table 5, the R, which is the correlation coefficient of the independent and the dependent variable, was -0.73 indicating significant negative relationship between the independent and the dependent variable. This showed that, as insecurity increases, there is likelihood decrease in entrepreneurship activities. The coefficient of determination (Adj. R^2) which explains the power of the independent variable in predicting the dependent variable is 0.615. This showed that up to 61.5 percent of variance in entrepreneurship activities in South East is explained by insecurity. It suggested that insecurity to large extent genitively influence entrepreneurship activities in South East, Nigeria. The Table also showed that the p-value of .000 associated with the computed F-ratio of 6.478 is less than 0.05 level of significance at 1 and 369 degrees of freedom.

With these results, the null hypothesis, which stated that insecurity does not significantly influence entrepreneurship activities in South East, Nigeria, was rejected. It was accepted alternately that insecurity significantly influence entrepreneurship activities in South East, Nigeria.

Discussion of findings

Causes of insecurity on entrepreneurship activities

The finding of the study in this regard showed that all the items listed as the causes of insecurity on entrepreneurship activities in South East, Nigeria were accepted. The test of hypothesis showed that causes of insecurity on entrepreneurship activities in South East, Nigeria is significantly high. The result is so because Nigeria has been faced with ample of security challenges ranging from increase in crime rates, militancy in Niger Delta and of recent the incidence of Boko Haram. The finding is supported by Okonkwo, Ndibuisi and Anagbogu (2011) who stated that the causes of security challenges in Nigeria are ethno-religious conflicts, weak security system, unemployment and poverty, porous border, systemic and political corruption. Nigeria being a multi-cultural country is constantly faced with religion, economic, political, ethnic crisis and terrorism. Nwagbosa (2012) also agrees with the findings, as the author posited that failure of different government to look into the

issue of unemployment, poverty and incidence of inequitable distribution of resources are major causes of insecurity in Nigeria.

Insecurity and entrepreneurship activities

The finding of the study in this regard showed that all the items listed on how insecurity influences entrepreneurship activities in South East, Nigeria were accepted. The test of hypothesis showed that insecurity significantly influence entrepreneurship activities in South East, Nigeria. The nature of the influence is negative, as increase insecurity would decrease entrepreneurship activities in South East, Nigeria. The result is so because security challenges in Nigeria have created more impact that is negative. The finding is supported by Adejumo (2011) who posited that the effect of security challenges in Nigeria have damaging result and gives the signal to the international business community that Nigeria is a risky and uncertain place for economic investment and activities. Insecurity is a threat to the growth and stability of any nation. In line with the finding, Achumba et. al. (2013) argued that impact of insecurity can be conceptualized from two major perspectives. Insecurity discourages potential investment opportunities in a nation. Security challenges may result to low investment to some persons as it could increases the cost of investment through direct loss of properties and increases cost of insuring against business risks and uncertainty

Conclusion

The rate of insecurity in the country seems to threaten the harmony of our great country and this is at the expense of developmental strides especially in entrepreneurial activities. Hence, the various causes of insecurity as discussed in this study should be addressed to enhance entrepreneurial activities, not just in the South East but in our Country, Nigeria.

Recommendations

Based on the findings of the study, it was recommended that:

1. Government should ensure that the high level of poverty, unemployment and inequitable distribution of income are addressed, as these are prominent causes of insecurity, so as to increase entrepreneurial activities in Nigeria, as a whole
2. Government should ensure that all hands are on deck to ensure the safety of lives and property of citizens, business owners and potential investors, as this would go a long

way in ensuring that businesses are open as at when due and foreign investors feel safe to have their investment in the country.

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Self-Defence and the Perennial Insecurity Challenges in North-Western Nigeria: The Islamic Panacea

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Abstract

This paper examines the effect of the persistent insecurity challenges bedevilling Nigeria as a whole, and the North-Western region in particular. Thus, the level of insecurity in the area under study affects the social, economic, political and religious aspects of the lives of the people. This threatens the basics of what life means. People are being killed, properties destroyed and villages abandoned due to theft, cattle rustling, kidnapping and banditry. However, the paper employs a quantitative approach and uses an analytical method. It critically surveys the concept of self-defence, its principles and legal grounds in Islam. It looks at how the principle can be effectively applied in providing protection, security and determination to individuals and a community. Finally, the paper suggests that the components of necessity, proportionality and contrasting approach are not only the best options to be taken to meet the security challenges in the region, but also shows how distinct these Islamic principles are meant to preserve life and protect the socio-economic systems of mankind whether in peace or at war.

Keywords: *Defensive-Jihad, Self-defence, Doctrine of Necessity, Rules of proportionality Insecurity, Peace.*

Introduction

Islam generally means peace. It signifies total and unwavering submission to the wills and commands of Allah (SWT). It is meant to guide humankind to what is best for him in this world and guarantees his salvation in the hereafter. Glorious Qur'an contains the basic injunctions to that which is right and wrong related to human actions or inactions. The

Sunnah of the Prophet (SAW) compliments the Qur'an by exemplifying the perfect and ideal way of human life on this earth. It is these two sources that formed the basis upon which Islamic law (*Shari'ah*) took its shape and defined its essence and objectives. Thus, protection of life, property and one's progeny are the fundamentals of those objectives. Hence, the emergence of war, social unrest, kidnapping and banditry are factors leading to loss of lives and properties which contravened the purpose for which Islamic law subsists to provide for human beings.

Northwestern Nigeria is one of the regions where life is threatened by an incessant social insecurity more often occasioned by mass killings, kidnapping and banditry. Muslims, who are in the majority in the area, are more affected by the menace, and as such Islam, is not frivolous with their plight and the adversity they found themselves. The government, both the federal and the states, are doing their best, but lives and properties are still being lost and destroyed on daily basis. This necessitates the need for an evaluation with the view of finding a lasting solution. This paper, therefore, examines the concept and legal grounds of self-defence from an Islamic perspective. It studies its principles and how its application can help in protecting lives and properties. The paper finds out that self-defence is not only a principle that in Islam has attached importance to, but also an effective military strategy used in necessity for preserving lives and properties. It also discovers that self-defence and its principles are feasible panacea to the existing insecurity challenges affecting people in North-Western Nigeria.

Conceptualization

- a. **Insecurity:** Advanced Learner's Dictionary defined the term insecurity as a state of not being confident about yourself or your relationships with others; or the feeling of not being safe and protected.¹ In other words, insecurity is the state of being subjected to dangers or injury, or the anxiety that is experienced when one falls vulnerable and insecure.² In Arabic, the word that can go with this human state of experience is *Irbah*, which means terror, anxiety and fear.³ From these definitions, two probable meanings of insecurity can be discerned. First, being anxious or afraid, that is, not being confident, and second, not adequately protected. This paper would, therefore, take into consideration the

¹ Diana Lea & Jennifer Bradley (eds.) *English Advanced Learner's Dictionary*, Oxford University Press, Oxford, 2019, p. 87.

² Merriam-Webster, *Collins English Dictionary*, Collins, New York, 2018, 69.

³ Rohi, Baalbaki, *Al-Mawrid: A Modern Arabic-English Dictionary*, Dar al-Ilm Li al-Malayin, Beirut, 1995, p. 77.

above two definitions of insecurity to have a holistic look at the insecurity challenges in North-Western Nigeria.

- b. Self-defence:** It is defined as the right to prevent oneself from suffering a force or violence through the use of counter acting force or violence. *Collins English Dictionary* defines self-defence as the use of force to protect yourself against someone who is attacking you. This can be physical, unarmed and armed. In Islam, the Arabic literal term for self-defence is *Al-difa 'an al-Nafs*, which connotes the right to protect oneself from violence or threats by any force or means necessary.⁴ Technically, Muslim scholars have extensively defined the concept of self-defence under the term *Jihad*, which means fighting one's enemies with whatever means possible in word or deed. *Imam Al-Asqalani* defines *Jihad* as exerting one's effort to protect oneself from fatigue, danger or hardship. While this definition may look simple, yet it can be a basis to justify the application of self-defence to the insecurity situations in North-Western Nigeria.

Self-Defence as a Form of *Jihad* and its Legal Grounds in Islam

The Arabic term *Jihad* simply means a 'struggle' or 'striving'. It also means exerting effort or expansiveness of one's energy. In Qur'an and *Hadith*, the term *Jihad* comes with a more general and comprehensive meaning that includes the whole religion. Sometimes, it expands to include all aspects of life.⁵ By these, *Jihad* is a general term that includes the life of the individual and society as a whole with its intellectual, social, political and economic aspects, and a struggle in uplifting the soul and protecting it from enemies. Nonetheless, *Jihad* can be comprehensively defined as an effort to make personal and social life conform with Allah's guidance, and struggle against one's evil inclinations, proselytizing, or efforts toward the moral and physical betterment of the Muslim community (*Ummah*).⁶ The Qur'an has, in several places, supported this meaning. One vers, in particular, is where Allah says:

Jihad (holy fighting in Allah's Cause) is ordained for you (Muslims) though you dislike it, and it may be that you dislike a thing which is good for you and that you like a thing which is bad for you, Allah knows but you do not know.⁷

Similarly, in another verse, He says:

⁴ Aliyu Muhammad, Al-Jurjani, *Mu'jam al-Ta'rifāt*, Dar al-Faḍīlah, Cairo, 2004, p. 91.

⁵ Ramlan, Nurul-Hakim, "The Concept of Jihad in Islam", *Journal of Humanities and General Science*, vol. 21, Issue 9, 2016, pp. 35 – 38.

⁶ Asma, Afsaruddin, *Struggling in the Path of God: Jihad and Martyrdom in Islamic Thought*, Oxford University press, oxford, 2013, pp. 34 - 63.

⁷ Qura'an 2:216.

And fight in the way of Allah those who fight you, but transgress not the limits. Truly, Allah likes not the transgressors.⁸

However, the *Jihad* prescribed by the above verses is a call to advance the cause of justice. For that, *Jihad* is a precept that impacts inter-human relationships. This can be carried out in four forms as *Jihad* by the tongue, by heart, hands and the sword.⁹ Shah condemns those who portrayed *Jihad* as armed struggle against the enemies of Islam to be far from its real connotation. He, therefore, asserts that there are two aspects of the concept of *Jihad*; a) a lesser (outward) *Jihad*, and b) greater (inner) *Jihad*.¹⁰ The latter refers to self-purification that concerns internal challenges. The former, however, is the material and physical activities directed towards a Godly cause. External battles, whether military or otherwise, fall under this category of *Jihad*. The urging for this type of *Jihad* is mostly informed by religio-political reasons driven its authority from the *Shari'ah*, which traditionally is the domain of jurisprudence (*fiqh*). For clarity of its position in Islam, Muslim Jurists have clarified that lesser *Jihad* can either be lesser non-violent *Jihad* or lesser violent *Jihad*. The non-violent includes sermons or words spoken for advancing the cause of peaceful coexistence. While the violent, otherwise known as military *Jihad* is called for only when Muslims are under attack and have to defend themselves or their borders in form of a *ribat*. The applicability of this can either be for the purpose of initiating a) a peace treaty b) state of truce c) collecting *Jizyah*, or d) defensive *Jihad*.¹¹ This depends on the kind of social insecurity challenges the Muslims are facing.

Consequently, defensive *Jihad*, from which the concept of self-defence takes its principles, is seen as a situation that imposed the duty for a legitimate defence of a nation, society, religion, homeland or individuals from an imminent attack of the enemies. Thus, a clear command for that is given in the verse where the Almighty Allah says:

And fight in the cause of God those who fight you, and do not transgress, for God does not like aggressors.¹²

⁸ Qur'an 2: 190.

⁹ Reuven, Firestone, *Jihad: The Origin of Holy War in Islam*, Oxford University press, Oxford, 1999, p. 68.

¹⁰ Niaz A. Shah, *Self-Defense in Islamic and International Law: Assessing Al-Qaeda and the Invasion of Iraq*, Palgrave Macmillan, New York, 2008, pp. 13 – 14.

¹¹ S. M. Farid Mirbaghri, *War and Peace in Islam: A Critique of Islamic/ist Political Discourse*, Palgrave Macmillan, England, 2012, pp. 150 -151.

¹² Qur'an 2: 190.

Hence, the above verse serves as a legal authority that supports the validity for resorting to self-defence in Islam whenever a Muslim deemed its necessity to protect himself or his properties.

Effects of Insecurity Challenges in North-Western Nigeria

In Nigeria, before the return of civilian rule in 1999, North-Western was relatively one of the most peaceful regions of the country. This was due to many advantages that the region had had in its historical antecedents. Firstly; the region that had been at one time the capital of the Islamic Sokoto Caliphate, and secondly, most of its inhabitants share the same religion, that is Islam, and thirdly, the majority of the inhabitants of the study area are Hausa and Fulani. These would be said to have helped the region to sustained its social cohesion and enjoyed peace and security for a long period of its existence.¹³ This shows that the security challenges affecting the region were quite recent. According to a study, the genesis of the social mayhem started with local disputes between herders and farmers over access to land, and suddenly metamorphosed into an intractable crisis posing a major threat to national and regional security.¹⁴ There are competing narratives on the genesis of the crises. Some view the conflict as one of the effects of climate change, particularly decreasing amounts of rainfall leading to scarcity of arable land, pastures and water, the rapid population growth rate that places pressure on land, and intense conflicts between pastoralists and farmers whose livelihoods and survival are based on access to land. Others are on the view that the growing insecurity challenges in the region are dependent on the failure of the system due to corruption, de-industrialization, growing poverty, and a culture of impunity that pervades all levels of governance in the country.¹⁵ However, some argue that Nigeria's porous borders led to the proliferation of small arms and light weapons, through the Sahel countries following uprisings in North Africa countries and the fall of the Gaddafi regime.¹⁶ From these, one would conclude that improper measures and mishandling these issues by the concerned authorities are the main factors proffelling the insecurity challenges facing the North-Western region today. The challenges are multifarious to include the following:

Theft and Cattle Rustling

¹³ African Reports N° 168, "Northern Nigeria: Background to Conflict" *International Crisis Group: Working to Prevent Conflict Worldwide*, Brussel, 2010, pp. 6 – 8.

¹⁴ African Reports N° 288, "Violence in Nigeria's North West: Rolling Back the Mayhem" *International Crisis Group*, Brussel, 2020, pp. 5 – 6.

¹⁵ Emmanuel Willians, Udoh, "Insecurity in Nigeria: Political, Religious and Cultural Implications", *Journal of Philosophy, Culture and Religion*, vol. 5, 2015, pp. 3 – 4.

¹⁶ Onyedika, Agbedo, "Insecurity: How Nigeria can Curb Inflows of Illicit Arms" *The Guradian*, 08 August, 2021.

Before now, there were sporadic cases of armed robberies on highways and small roads across the North-Western region, as in other parts of the country. Coming from 2009 onward, there were reports of incidents of cattle rustling which was generally caused by the absence of enough grazing areas and lack of successive government intervention to properly address the problem. Presently, the reports of theft of cows, deaths of people and destruction of property have become daily reports and are being exacerbated by the nonchalant attitude of the government.¹⁷ Thus, cattle rustlings have significantly contributed to the increasing security challenges facing the North-Western region. It has also culminated with other vices, such as kidnappings and banditry, in the worse deterioration of security of the region.¹⁸ However, despite the growing level of cattle rustling and its consequences for society, the situation has yet to be adequately contained due to the lack of proper and effective measures.

Banditry

The region is also plagued by banditry. Bandits have been operating in most of the North-west states for almost a decade but the situation has gotten worse in the past few years. Banditry is the code name in the region for organised crimes like kidnapping, cattle rustling, mass abduction, arson and even armed robbery. It started as conflicts between farmers and cattle herders but has snowballed into terrorism.¹⁹ Moreover, a large number of people have fled their communities in some states of the region, particularly in recent years. Hundreds of thousands of them crossing the border in search of safer abodes outside the country.²⁰ This heightened the fear among the inhabitants of the area due to anxiety of that which may come to them incessant attacks of bandits.

Kidnapping

Kidnapping is another security challenge in the region that exists between herder-farmers clashes and banditry. There are several reports of an attack by bandits seizing people in their homes in several communities within the area under study. Recently, there were attacks in schools in some states of the region, particularly Zamfara and Katsina, that led hundreds of

¹⁷ S. S. Abdullah, E. Victor & Binta M. "The Menace of Cattle Rustling and Banditry in North- West Nigeria: A case Study of Katsina State", *Journal of Research & Method in Education*, vol. 7, Issue 6, 2017, p. 44.

¹⁸ Azeez Olaniyan and Aliyu Yahaya, "Cows, Bandits and Conflicts: Understanding Cattle Rustling in Northern Nigeria", *African Spectrum*, vol. 3, pp. 97 -98.

¹⁹ Oluwole, Ojewale, "Rising Insecurity in North West Nigeria: Terrorism Thinly Disguised as Banditry", *Africa in Focus*, February, 2021.

²⁰ Abdulyakeen, Abdulrasheed, "Armed Banditry and Human Security in North-Western Nigeria: The Impacts and the Way forward", *Journal of Humanities, Social and Management Sciences*, vol. 1, No. 1, 2012, pp. 86 – 89.

students to be kidnapped and the demand for payment of huge ransom for their release. Unfortunately, there are just a few of the places where bandits are inflicting pain and fear with the threat of blood of the captives in the hands of their relatives if they failed to pay ransom. The existence of this security breach in North West Nigeria marks it as one of the most unsafe spaces of the globe.²¹ For the region to be absolved from this dangers and be a safe place for habitation a well-thought measure must be provided - self-defence in retrospect.

Mass-Murder

Northwest Nigeria has been terrorized for years by criminal gangs who raid and loot villages, steal cattles and carry out mass abductions of residents for ransom. There is a frightening report that more than three hundred gunmen on motorcycles stormed eight villages in the Anka local area in Zamfara stae, shoot sporadically and killed at least thirty people. There was also a report of attackers who rampaged ten villages in the Anka between Bukkuyum districts of Zamfara state firing at residents and looting and burning homes. These criminal gangs are continually subjecting people series reigns of terror, through the imposition of taxes on communities under siege or threat of extinction among others.²² Unless something is urgently done, lives and properties would continue to be lost. Consequently, due to the pervasive nature of the insecurity in the region, maiming of people in mass, population displacement, loss of cattle and disruption of socio-economic activities are some of the obvious effects of these insecurity challenges. This portends a great threat not only to the region but to the country at large.

However, an in-depth study to the situation could necessitate the evaluation of the Islamic principles of Self-defence as an effort in looking for a robust solution that can effectively help in curbing these security challenges. Nonetheless, the justification and viability of self-defence depend on the proper applications of its principles that could guarantee the safety of livesand properties of people in Noth West Nigeria.

Islamic Principles of Self-Defence and Insecurity Challenges in North-Western Nigeria: The Panacea

²¹ Bello Ibrahim and Jamilu Ibrahim Mukhtar, "An Analysis of the causes and Consequences of Kidnapping in Nigeria", *An International Multi-Disciplinary Journal*, vol. 11, Issue 4, 2017, p. 139.

²² Spotlight, "Criminal Gangs Destablizing Nigeria's North West", *African Centre for Strategic Studies*, December 14, 2021.

Generally, Islam permits those under siege to defend themselves from anything eminent against their lives and properties. Thus, Allah (SWT) says:

To those against whom war is made, permission is given (to fight) for they have been oppressed, and verily Allah is well able to assist them.

From this, it is clear that those who are oppressed are allowed to fight against their enemies. Based on this, therefore, the effects of insecurity challenges affecting the Muslims in North-Western states can warrant the application of self-defence as a form of *Jihad* permitted by the above verse. This is because, Allah (SWT) says:

(They are) those who have been expelled from their homes without right, except that they say: 'Our Lord is Allah'. And had Allah not repelled some people by others, certainly, there would have been pulled down cloisters and churches and synagogues and the mosques in which Allah's name is much mentioned; and verily Allah will help him who helps Him (His cause); for verily Allah is Strong, Mighty.²³

The explanation given for the reasons for self-defence in the above verse are not far-fetched in the lives of the oppressed people of North-Western Nigeria. Consequently, Muslim jurists have given detailed clarifications on the principles of self-defence and modalities that could help the Muslims to effectively apply the principles to achieve the needed protection and safety for their lives and properties. Common among these principles, we believe they can help in bringing an end to the insecurity challenges affecting Muslims in Northwest Nigerian and its effects, are:

a. Theory of Necessity

The concept of necessity in *Shari'ah* is called *darurah*. *Darurah* in Arabic is related to fear of death, bloody injury on human life or loss of wealth and property. Muslim Jurists have defined the concept in conjunction with duress and emergency. The use of *darurah* as a legal basis for actions in *Shari'ah* is justified by many texts (*Nusus*). The Qur'an, for instance, prohibits eating meat of dead animals but allows it in a necessary situation to prevent a person from dying. Based on this, they argued that Islam allows the use of force when there is an imminent attack on the Muslims. The Qur'an on several occasions urges Muslims to fight back their attackers to subdue them until they are defeated, restrained them from their mischief (*fitnah*), or choose war instead of war. In a particular verse, the Almighty Allah says:

²³ Qur'an 22:40.

Fight them until there is no *fitnah* anymore, and obedience remains for Allah. But if they desist, then aggression is not allowed except the transgressors.²⁴

Owaydhah and Yunnis,²⁵ in their study, highlighted that this Qur'anic verse and many others are showing that self-defence is the right of the oppressed individuals and people to fight against unjustly acts of aggression or violation of their rights. Though, its application could depend on the nature of the aggression in existence. Thus, they maintain that the rules concept of self-defence is a special right as necessary remedy of aggression. Al-Qarwadi expounds that the rule of necessity provides that force should not be used against another person unless, and only to the extent, that it is necessary. He went further to add that situations that may requires the application of self-defence is only limited to an imminent threat. Hence, the permission for one to defend himself, he/she may not use deadly force to combat an imminent deadly assault if there are other non-deadly responses available to him. Nonetheless, a person may not use deadly force against aggression if he/she has a safer avenue of retreats.

The practical application of the above rules to the insecurity challenges in North-Western Nigeria can be justified for many reasons. Firstly, the situation in the region, particularly in some areas of Zamfara, Sokoto, Katsina and Niger states, is too imminent that the rule of self-defence is feasibly the only means available for the people in those areas. Secondly, the sophisticated weapons used by the attackers can only be duelled by a similar force, if at all, such attacks are to put to an end. Thus, deadly force could also be invoked, if the need arises. Thirdly, those who might have the chance to retreat can do so as self-defence to avoid the use of deadly force and spitting blood. These, therefore, suggest that the failure of the conventional means of fighting insurgency to curtail the incessant security challenges in the region under study, the Islamic principle of self-defence can and will effectively restrain the threat and protect lives and properties from destruction.

b. Theory of Proportionality

The rule of proportionality is a Qur'anic principle that guides human actions on taking arms against one's enemy. In a particular verse, the Almighty Allah says:

And if you punish (your enemy, O you believers in the Oneness of Allah), then punish them with the like of that with which you were afflicted. But if you endure patiently, verily, it is better for *As-Sabirun* (the patient).²⁶

²⁴ Qur'an 2:193.

²⁵ Khalid, A. Owaydhah & Muhamed, Yunnis, "The Concept of Self-Defence in Islamic Jurisprudence", *International Journal of Arts and Sciences*, vol. 9, No. 4, 2017, pp. 213 – 214.

²⁶ Qur'an 16:126.

Farooq explicates that the rule of proportionality requires that punishment should be the same in kind and degree as that of a crime committed. For instance, a murder must be replied with proportional punishment of death penalty, whereas an injury in a body must be recompensed with the same injury to that of the offender.²⁷ Meanwhile, Sarikhani and Habiba clarify that proportionality rule is one of the conditions of retributive punishments in Islamic law. The condition for it to be fair, there has to be a proportion between crime and punishment. But, where it is impossible to observe equality in that, then, the penalty should not be enforced. This is for that fact that the severity of the effects of the punishment will be more than that of the crime or *vice versa*.²⁸ Ibn Taymiyyah explains that the proportionality rule provides that a person is not allowed to use force that is excessive in retaliation to the harm inflicted on him. By this, a Muslim may use non-deadly force to repel a non-deadly threat and *vice versa*. He/she may choose to use non-deadly force against a deadly threat. He, however, maintains that the theory requires that a Muslim is never permitted to use deadly force to repel non-deadly threat even if deadly force is the only way to prevent the battery.²⁹

Taking the above juristic arguments, we can establish that there is a legal justification to resorting to self-defence in form of inflicting the same harm to those who are perpetually attacking Muslims as a means of ending the insecurity challenges in Northwest Nigeria. The idea from that is born on the belief that if the perpetrators of this social menace, that included the bandits, kidnappers, or cattle rustlers, are made to suffer from the same harm they inflicted on people, as the above principles suggest, they would be forced to desist from their evil acts. Certainly, where one is forced to pay a huge sum of his wealth as ransom for his/her child, wife or relative abducted, or forced to see his wife or female daughter raped or killed among other atrocities of the evildoers can justify the resort to means that would save people from the pain and anxiety of these predicaments. Thus, taking arms may sound heavy in this regard, but when we take consideration of the sternness of the attacks, it is the available option that can match, both in force and degree the action of these miscreants, and possibly to stop it. Hence, the use of the principle of proportionality, if it can fully and effectively be

²⁷ Salman, Farooq, "The Retributive Proportionality and Islamic Punishment of *Diyyah*", *Al-Idah Journal*, vol. 38, No. 2, 2020, p. 40.

²⁸ Adel Sarikhani & Sayedah Zahra Habiba, "Proportion of Crime and Punishment of Retaliation for Head-Injury in Islamic Jurisprudence", *Revista Publicando*, vol. 5, No. 15, 2018, p. 575.

²⁹ Zuhayr Al-Bakki (ed.), *Fiqh al-Jihad Li Shaykh al-Islam al-Imam Ibn Taymiyyah*, Dar al-Fikr al-Arabiyyah, Beirut, 1992, pp. 63 -65.

implemented, can go in a long way to removing people from this excruciating condition, and their social life returns to normal.

c. Contrasting Approach

Islam generally forbids fleeing a battlefield or running away from a place plagued by a disaster such as war or disease. Thus, the Almighty Allah says:

O you who have believed, when you meet those who disbelieve advancing [for battle], do not turn to them your backs [in flight]. And whoever turns his back to them on such a day, unless swerving [as a strategy] for war or joining [another] company, has certainly returned with anger [upon him] from Allah, and his refuge is Hell - and wretched is the destination.³⁰

The meaning of the above verses is that should the believers face their enemies who may in essence possess a great show of power, they must not, under any circumstances, turn away, except for tactical reasons. These may include choosing a better position, carrying out a more effective plan, joining another group of believers, or moving to another Muslim stronghold to resume the fighting. Deserters and people who turn away in the fight deserve the most terrible punishment of incurring Allah's anger and being thrown into hell. Hence, the 'contrasting approach' could be an option for self-defence, which could be seen as a necessary measure to avoid killing the aggressors or the use of deadly force. Thus, the rule that a person is not required to retreat is justified based on the following grounds:

- a. The law does not condemn conduct as criminal where it accord with reasonable texts.
- b. The right should never give way to wrong.
- c. The non-treat rule sends a positive utilization message to criminals that threaten innocent person is at their own risk.

Based on the above, Muslim jurist agree that Muslims should always be willing and ready to negotiate peace with the other party without any hesitation. According to Maududi, Islam does not permit Muslims to reject peace and continue bloodshed.³¹ Abu Sahlieh, in his study on the position of *Dar al-Islam* and *Dar al-Harb*, has extensively looked at instances where reconciliation could be the best option to return to avoid the use of deadly force or split of blood. In what is connected to Self-defence, he drawn conclusion that while it is not permitted to an *Imam* to enter into a treaty of peace if he has superiority over the enemies, but if his purpose was to lead them by the mildness of Islam or to become tributaries, it is

³⁰ Qur'an 8: 15 – 1.

³¹ Sayyid Abu al-Ala, Maududi, *The Meaning of thr Qur'an*, vol. 2, Islamic Publication, Lahore, 1963, p. 154.

permitted.³² By a cursory look at this, we can argue that there are situations in a conflict that Islamic rules that allow the use of peaceful resolution as means of ending conflicts. In self-defence, this could be a situation where a Muslim is not under the necessity of taking arms or using deadly force to apprehend a threat but could be a situation where he or she may or not accept to negotiate for a particular reason acceptable in the sight of the *Shari'ah*.

Going by these postulations, certain situations in Northwest Nigeria would support the use of a contrasting approach as self-defence to bring an end to the security challenges bedeviling the region. This can be in a form of entering into peace negotiations with the bandits and cattle rustlers. Though, a similar approach is already considered by some governors in the region without or less impact on the result. This could be said to be due to haphazard consideration to rules guiding to drawing a treaty for peace. Thus, this paper emphasizes that to use a contrasting approach to the current challenges, Muslims must ensure that the treaty should holistically look at the genesis of their grievances that initially pushed the miscreants to unleash terror on the people of the region if there is any. The pact should optimise the use of both religious and convention principles in finding lasting solutions to the current civil unrest. Finally, there is no better treatment to the socio-economic and political factors leading to the emergence of such security challenges in any given society than holding on to the proper teachings of Islam and establishing its laws in totality.

Conclusion

North-Western Nigeria was once the most peaceful region in the country. That was possible due to its social, political, economic and religious historical advantages. Like other parts of the Muslim world, the region is now faced with challenges of insecurity ranging from theft, cattle rustling, banditry and kidnapping among others. Several factors that include tribal conflicts, collapsed system, de-industrialization, and above all corruption were seen as some of the genesis that led the region to this disturbing state of insecurity. However, as the effects of this insecurity are so devastating in all aspects of the life of the people, the government, both at the federal and state levels, claimed taking measures to contain that, yet, lives and properties are being destroyed and people are forced to leave their homes and villages. The situation, now more than ever, calls for more robust options that could effectively deal with these insecurity challenges in the region.

It is on this note that this paper believes that Self-defence, as one of the Islamic military strategies, is a viable solution to the insecurity challenges affecting the area under study. In

³² Sami A. Aldeeb, Abu Sahlieh, "The Islamic Concept of Migration", *International Migration Review*, vol. 30, No. 1, 1996, pp. 39 - 42.

Islam, the concept of ‘*defensive Jihad*’ signifies an act of protection given as a legal right to individual Muslims or a state to remove the threat or run away from it. The concept is meant to empower the Muslims the sense to judge their cause of action in any special case of threat as a defensive tool. Hence, the concept of ‘Self-defence’, which stems from the general rules of *Jihad*, is used by Muslim jurists to justify the applicability of an act of protection by people and the state based on the legal consequences involved. For these reasons, they give more emphasis in underscoring details about its principles and their implications as regards its necessity or otherwise.

Borrowing the leaf of these juristic discussions, this paper believes that some Islamic principles of self-defence, and in particular the theory of necessity, theory of proportionality and contrasting approach could solve the problems, if properly and judiciously applied. This conclusion was reached based on the nature of the insecurity challenges in the region and the dimensions of its effects on the lives of the people. Nonetheless, it recommends that critical considerations must be given to the factors that led to the initial emergence of the problems by finding solutions from the Islamic religious rules meant for human guidance on this earth.

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The Role of Scholars and Researchers in Advancing Solutions to Africa's Development and Security Problems

By

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Abstract

Researchers and scholars are critical in advancing development in Africa by providing the required data to guide policy decisions across a range of policy sectors, including health, economics, social, and political challenges. They are continually identifying, analyzing, and proposing solutions to growing public challenges in Africa, thereby laying the groundwork for the continent's growth. Today, this critical function has been disturbed by pockets of conflict, including violent extremism and a slew of other insecurity concerns throughout the continent, complicating the work of researchers and academics owing to an unstable environment and fragmented data. Available evidence reveals linkages between security, research and development and that the condition of insecurity drives scholars to more stable environments leading to the developing of those locations and paucity of knowledge and counter-development in the origin countries. This paper investigates this relationship between scholarship and development in Africa, and how the continent's many decades of violence and instability have hampered the expansion of scholarship, and thus the continent's overall development. Additionally, the article examines existing policy tools for protecting scholars and researchers in Africa, as well as why such policies, if any, have failed to adequately safeguard scholars in carrying out their tasks effectively. Finally, the paper advocates for the priority of a policy-driven solution to the African region's insecurity challenge in order to facilitate steady research and development on the continent.

Keywords: Africa's development, security problems, scholarship; researchers, solutions to Africa's development, solutions to Africa's problems.

INTRODUCTION

It is safe to state that security is at the heart of every human existence. Our basic existence will be jeopardized if we do not have it. The significance of this cannot be overstated, from safeguarding one's own house to protecting the neighborhood, the state, and the entire globe at large. Like other sections of the world, Sub-Saharan Africa suffers from a certain level of insecurity. From terrorism to violent extremism, inter-communal and tribal clashes, and coups d'état, these challenges continue to obstruct the development of the continent and make it difficult for scholars and researchers to collect data and gather appropriate evidence from communities that have been ravaged by insecurity and conflict.

In the following paragraphs, we will take a detailed look at the idea of security problems confronting Africa, as well as the implications of this concept for the role of researchers and scholars in policy creation.

THE IMPORTANCE OF RESEARCH IN POLICY DEVELOPMENT

Every scientific, developmental, and world-changing choice that has ever been made throughout human history has relied on the labor of scholars and researchers to some degree. It is impossible to document significant change in any sphere without doing a variety of research projects. Essentially, it can be characterized as activities that are done out in order to answer questions about specific situations, broaden knowledge, or contribute to an already existing body of information.

Policies are developed in order to assist civil servants in ministries and other state administration bodies in developing high-quality proposals or strategies based on relevant information and analysis obtained through research, which are then submitted to the government for review and approval, among other things. When presenting items for government decisions, it is critical to employ the methodologies and talents of a variety of professionals, including researchers, policy analysts, and legal draftsmen. The need for evidence-based policy and practice is becoming increasingly common.... We see it everywhere, including in educational settings, child welfare and security programs, mental health services, juvenile justice, youth programs, and health care.

Every year, billions of dollars are spent in many affluent countries throughout the world on efforts to develop greater research evidence, with larger stakes and incentives connected to the work of scholars in order to stimulate higher productivity. On the other hand, in Africa, there are still significant gaps between research, policy, and actual practice. A lack of proper

support, incentives, and, most importantly, an insecurity concern inside the continent are all contributing to the exodus of scholars and researchers to more industrialized countries.

Africa is dealing with a number of new and persistent dangers that have the potential to undermine the continent's basic existence, sovereignty, territorial integrity, political unity, progress in all fields, and long-term survival. Without a shadow of a doubt, the following are the clearly acknowledged primary dangers to peace, security, and stability in Africa:

Challenges to Peace, Security and Stability in Africa

1. Terrorism, Violent extremism and radicalization

Terrorism is defined as the use of unlawful violence or the threat of unlawful violence to instill fear in the minds of people. It is the deliberate use of unlawful violence or threat of unlawful violence to coerce or intimidate governments or societies in the pursuit of goals that are generally political, religious, or ideological in nature. Violent extremism, according to the United States Agency for International Development, is defined as "advocating, engaging in, preparing, or otherwise supporting ideologically motivated or justified violence to advance social, economic, or political objectives" (Schmid, 2014). The most insecure regions in the world are the uttermost reaches of the Sahel, the southern Libyan border areas, the tumbums of the Lake Chad Basin, and the Cabo Delgado province in Northern Mozambique, among other places. In truth, the Horn of Africa has long been a region that has struggled with the repercussions of terrorism, particularly those of Al-Shabaab in Somalia (Claire 2021). This threat has infected every aspect of the African community. It has resulted in the deaths, disabilities, displacement, widowing, and orphaning of people in a variety of communities. The vast majority of the time, after these vices wreak havoc on communities, there are no statistics available since the harm has been done and the community is much too hazardous for the researcher to enter and complete his or her work.

The Nigerian experience with Boko Haram in the North-East and Fulani herdsmen in other parts of the country has resulted in a complete breakdown of any accurate policy development mechanism that might have existed in the country due to disruptions in the capacity to carry research (Encyclopedia Britannica 2021). In order to acquire first-hand knowledge about the events taking place in the area, researchers, intellectuals, and statisticians are unable to travel to these zones. As a result of reaching this stage of growth as a country, policymakers find it difficult to carry out their tasks without encountering any gaps as a result of a lack of appropriate evidence-based information. As a result of statistics or data

collecting, information is placed in the proper context and is ready to be used for decision-making and policy formulation in African countries. Consequently, the importance of statistical information collecting by researchers and scholars in higher education institutions for the implementation of new government policy and the evaluation of its efficacy cannot be overstated in the context of socioeconomic development. Nonetheless, the problem of insecurity in Africa as a result of terrorism, violent extremism, armed robbery, kidnapping, and the destruction of valuable property such as research materials, technology, and equipment presents a significant barrier in the path of researchers who are employed either by the government or by private individuals in order to collect such information. With their lives in danger and the threat of unlawful violence, they are unable to carry out their responsibilities effectively. Furthermore, in many situations where a large number of statistical methods are required to identify lurking variables and confounding factors, little or none will be made available due to insecurity, resulting in a stifling of overall development in Africa.

(2) An increase in the number of unconstitutional changes of government:

A disruption in the peace, security, and stability difficulties that many Sub-Saharan African countries face as a result of the repetition of unlawful changes in power has a negative influence on socio-economic growth in those countries. It is, without a doubt, a multidimensional reality for African countries. Coups d'état have typically served as a breeding environment for unconstitutional government changes, as demonstrated by the most recent attempted coup d'état in Guinea Bissau. On the 1st of February, 2022, an attempted military coup against the President, Umaro Sissoco Embaló, was foiled by the military. Despite the failure of the endeavor, the state has remained hazardous, and there are no clear numbers on the number of people who have been affected or who have not been affected in the most afflicted locations (Lobban et al, 2022). Even a single television company was unable to provide a definite number of casualties or displaced individuals from the count due to technical difficulties. Providing sufficient relief materials and other remedies to the state's displaced people would be made more difficult as a result of this. Power should be obtained by the people through the ballot box, not through the use of firearms. It is important to note that the recent coup d'état in Guinea Bissau serves as an example of how security issues in Africa have the potential to slow down development in a country by putting the lives of many people, including academics and scholars, in jeopardy. In such cases, the Constitution, which

is the grundnorm, is suspended, and it is the Constitution that secures the fundamental human rights of people by providing provisions such as the welfare and security of citizens, and the right to hold and disseminate information, just as researchers and scholars do. This is seen in the 1999 Constitution of the federal republic of Nigeria, which provides provisions such as the welfare and security of citizens, and the right to hold and disseminate information, just as researchers and scholars do (as amended). The complexity of political transition, along with the possibility of repression, has an impact on the roles and impacts of academics in furthering African development, as well as in the policy-making process, and this has a negative impact on socioeconomic development. The Congo basin is a dangerous site for scholars to conduct research because of all the fighting and political conflict that occurs within the region (Tampa, 2013).

(3) **Internal conflicts and separatist groups:** Since independence, the vast majority of military conflicts in West Africa have been intrastate conflicts, with at least three large-scale civil wars as a result. During the Nigerian Civil War, a conflict erupted between the Nigerian government and the Igbo people who lived in the country's south-eastern region. The first Liberian civil war, which lasted from 1989 to 1996, was fought between President Samuel Doe, a member of the Krahn ethnic group, and the Gio and Mano people, who were angry that Doe was treating their kin preferentially. Tensions between the two groups reached a boiling point in 1989 (Human Rights Watch 1993). Additionally, the ethnic violence between the Tutsi and Hutu peoples of Rwanda, which has spilled over into the Democratic Republic of the Congo through migration. Separatist organizations in countries such as Cameroon, which is a bilingual and multicultural society, have sunk into a lengthy human rights crisis in the country's predominantly Anglophone north-west and south-west regions (Human Rights Watch, 2021), according to the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. Because of their persistent protests against what they believe to be marginalization by the Francophone majority, the Anglophone population has called for political autonomy or secession. As a result, large outbreaks of violence have erupted throughout the state, making the area hazardous. In the absence of any other considerations, adequate provisions for displaced persons in that area should be made, and this can only be accomplished through adequate research, proper planning, and policy formulation on the part of the government.

These wars have wreaked havoc on communities in a variety of ways, making it difficult for individuals to live there, let alone academics who are attempting to gather reliable

information about them. One thing that is constant in all war situations is the government's unwillingness to assist in the restoration of peace and stability to the impacted areas.

EFFECT OF INSECURITY ON RESEARCH AND POLICY DEVELOPMENT IN AFRICA

1. Brain Drain – This is one of the greatest effects of insecurity on research and scholarship in Africa. As a result of insecurity, the best of African brains are moving over to the Western Countries of America and Europe in droves on a daily basis. The people who are best suited to develop and drive our research and development are being poached by the west through all kinds of programmes. This tends to leave Africa poorer in terms of human resources that conduct the necessary researches and scholarship for development.
2. Low Research Output – Coupled with the problem of brain drain is of course low research output. A situation made bad by brain drain is worsened by the insecurity across the continent. The consequences are naturally low productivity in terms of research output and scholarship.
3. Ineffective and Inadequate Data Gathering – Security or insecurity affects everything. Data gathering is therefore no exception. In an area riddled with insecurity concerns, it becomes difficult to access several terrains for the purpose of gathering data. Sometimes, people are even reluctant to assist with or respond to research questions for fear of the security of their persons. The result is ineffective and inadequate gathering which prejudicially affects research.
4. Low Motivation for Researchers – Insecurity also affects the morale of scholars and researchers. The news of the death of a colleague engaged in a research work anywhere arising not from natural causes but sudden and untimely demise from violence associated with insecurity in a particular region can be devastating. It leads to low motivation for researchers. Once security is not assured, motivation to embark on certain critical researches is low.

PROVIDING PROTECTION FOR THE RESEARCHER/SCHOLAR

Security is essential for the continued existence of human beings and nations, as well as for the preservation of national unity and economic prosperity, as well as for the maintenance of stability. Insecurity reduces life expectancy and depletes natural resources. It has an impact

on the work of scholars and researchers equally, highlighting the importance of safeguarding researchers and scholars. Scholars and researchers alike have made enormous and significant contributions to the improvement and development of Africa through the implementation of public policies and programs. A magna carta of researchers' rights, proposed by Terence Karran in 2009, would define academic freedom in a general agreement that would be binding on all parties involved in the definition.

Researchers and scholars are appointed as evaluators, and they apply self-defined quality standards in order to overcome the limitations of standardized measures. When serving as government-appointed research evaluators, scholars require adequate protection from the government to ensure that they can carry out their responsibilities properly and efficiently without fear of being harmed or violently attacked. The government must therefore put in place machineries in the country to protect researchers and scholars from the effects of insecurity. This can be accomplished by implementing strict security measures, training and funding for law enforcement personnel and agencies responsible for the protection of citizens, and swift punishment of criminals such as kidnappers, armed robbers, and terrorists, among others.

For example, in the United Kingdom, the government developed the RCAT project (research collaboration advice team) to protect researchers and scholars on security-related matters such as cyber security, intellectual property protection, and export control in order to protect them. Among other things, this program aims to assist researchers both worldwide and nationally in taking appropriate safeguards while interacting with or collaborating with colleagues from other countries. By responding to requests from British universities that have detected possible risk within current proposals or projects with the aforementioned criteria, the effort aims to provide a secure environment for pioneering research. In addition, the team works to protect its scholars and researchers (BEIS 2021). Africa as a continent might take a leaf out of the United Kingdom's book when it comes to putting in place safeguards for academics and scholars who are working to enhance the region's economic development.

SOLUTION TO SECURITY PROBLEMS HAMPERING DEVELOPMENT IN AFRICA

The safety of students and scholars is critical in sustaining the long-term viability of higher education institutions. Situations of insecurity and armed conflict pose serious threats to the lives and well-being of scholars generally. It is possible that scholars and researchers will be prevented from exercising their roles effectively if their lives or well-being are directly or

indirectly threatened. Each of the three legal regimes contains provisions that are designed to protect the lives and well-being of scholars and education personnel. For example, the International Human Rights Law (IHRL), which applies in times of insecurity and armed conflict establishes the right to life as well as the right to be free of torture and cruel or degrading treatment. These rights protect the lives and well-being of scholars and researchers at all times and in all situations. When there is instability or armed conflict, protecting the physical well-being of scholars and education professionals is a prerequisite for ensuring the continuation of education. In addition to providing the protection of students and education professionals during times of insecurity and armed conflict, it is also necessary to ensure the fulfillment of other rights. Human rights violations, among other things, have a negative impact on academics and scholarship. These violations include violations of the right to life, the right to be protected from attack, the right to an adequate standard of living, including the right to food and water. Because of the overlap between the three regimes, students and education staff are afforded strong legal protection against deliberate or indiscriminate attacks on their lives and well-being in all situations of insecurity and armed conflict.

Following policies must be implemented throughout the African continent in order to adequately protect the security of scholars and researchers.

- A significant amount of money should be spent on basic and technical education in order to increase both the size of the skilled labor force and the standard of living for young people. Increased local research capacity will allow non-locals to avoid having to travel long distances to raided areas when local researchers can easily obtain accurate and in-house information for proper policy formulation and development.
- Development aid needs to be directed in disadvantaged regions and on resolving perceptions of injustice in access to opportunity. Concentrating investments in areas with higher fragility will also be helpful in curbing potential conflicts and insecurity.
- Due to a surge in extractive discoveries, more attention must be paid to conflict risks, the management of community and regional grievances, and the prevention of corruption.
- It is imperative that improvements in the management of migrants be made as soon as possible across Africa including effective management of challenges associated with illegal migration

- Significant expenditures in basic and technical education are required to raise the size of the skilled work force and enhance incomes for youngsters.
- Emerging security risks heighten the urgency for criminal justice reform, together with development of justice and the rule of law across the continent.
- A stronger local governance system is required, requiring greater citizen participation, improved social accountability, transparency, and the provision of higher-quality services. One way is to advocate for decentralization and support it.

- Interventions to minimize conflict and violence by improving the educational system and focusing on programs that engage children or empower teenagers by giving key life skills that can reduce violence and prevent engagement with extremist organizations. It has been demonstrated that the use of cognitive-behavioral therapy is effective in both reducing violence and enhancing retention in educational settings. It is possible to design school curricula that challenge cultural norms that encourage violence. Youth recruitment by extremist organizations can be reduced in part by increasing access to secondary, tertiary, and vocational education and training, as well as providing job opportunities for them. Additionally, building programs in conflict studies in higher education can become a significant instrument in better understanding the processes of violence and conflict.

- Interventions to ensure that service delivery continues in fragile and violent environments. The strategy emphasizes the importance of maintaining the safety of scholars and researchers in and around schools by building early warning systems and complete security measures that go beyond traditional perimeter fence. Solid data collection systems, which can identify schools at risk, are also essential components of the strategy. It is also possible to use alternative education service delivery methods in situations where formal education cannot be continued in schools. Expanding remote learning to promote resilience against disruptions generated by violence can give a substitute to lessen the effects of school closures.

- Finally, the rising security challenges should enhance the necessity for security sector reforms across Africa. Regulations and reforms in the security sector are required in a

reasonable amount of time. It is impossible to continue doing something in the same manner and expect different results. Already, instability has significantly slowed the development of Africa; the continent has suffered enough and should be on the road to complete emancipation in order to address other critical sectors such as health care, education, employment and so on.

CONCLUSION

Research and scholarship is critical to national development, growth and security. Researchers and scholars are major drivers of national growth and development. Their security is therefore important. Researchers and scholars should be protected in all ways possible for effective development within the continent. Following the recent killings and kidnappings of researchers and broadcasters, it is becoming increasingly difficult for African member states to carry out proper policymaking. There can never be enough emphasis placed on the need for strategic policies directed toward empowering individuals and the States as a whole in Africa. It has truly become a source of national embarrassment to see African countries consistently ranked as the world's most dangerous places to live in every ranking in this category over the years. The people of Africa have been afflicted by the insecurity virus for far too long, and they should be free themselves from its constraints to meet up with the global development demands. Research and scholarship holds the key to Africa's development agenda.

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Conflict and Historical Studies in Nigeria: 1999-2019

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ABSTRACT

Pursuing research in a conflict zone can be a precarious task. Not only is there serious threat to life and property, it is extremely difficult to gather information, facts and data without it looking like propaganda to one of the conflicting parties. Studies have shown that there is a need for neutrality, adherence to strict ethics and unbiased judgment on the part of the historian for his work to be accepted and for information to be given willingly. Historical objectivity is a noble dream. Though it is a dream it must be pursued rigorously. This dream was rigorously pursued by historians like Kenneth Dike, E.J. Alagoa, Ade Ajayi, Okon Edet Uya, Obaro Ikime, Emmanuel Ayandele, Erim Odey Erim and others. History is an evidence based discipline. This evidence is divided into primary sources and secondary sources and most times the historian has to be at the location where an event took place either to gather documents, artifacts or to conduct interviews. Conflict in a region can however be an impediment to a historians work primarily because self-preservation is the strongest human instinct. Conflict hence impedes the work of a historian limiting the general populace to rumours and hearsay. This research undertaking will rely on primary and secondary sources and in its attempt to evaluate the impact of conflict on Historical studies and will profile three conflicts namely the Civil War, the Conflict in the Niger Delta and the Boko Haram. Insurgency.

Keywords: History, Research, Conflict, Peace, Evidence

INTRODUCTION

History is the study of important events about man's past in society. History is essentially about the past and it is not story telling. Oral History is accepted in historical reconstruction after due scrutiny and analysis. It is hence erroneous to suggest that Africans have no history as averred to by Professor Hugh Trevor-Roper of Oxford University. The fact that most of black Africa did not keep written records does not mean that Africans have no history. History is a study of the past and not exclusively of written records. Nigeria gained independence in 1960 and from that time till date there have been three notable conflicts that have deserved historical review but have been hampered by conflicts in the regions under question. The three conflicts that will be reviewed in this paper are the Nigerian Civil War, the conflict in the Niger Delta and the Boko Haram Insurgency. The conflict in the Niger

Delta and the Boko Haram insurgency during the heat of the conflict was covered by the major news stations like the Cable News Network (CNN), the British Broadcast Corporation (BBC) Fox News and Aljazeera. These news stations had the technical expertise, know-how, personnel and resources to cover the Niger Delta and the Nigerian North East during the heat of the conflict. Their ability and capacity to capture newsworthy items during the heat of conflict hence provides a challenge for the historian seeking evidence from conflict ridden territories. These international journalists prove one thing and that is that reportage is possible in almost any scenario and circumstance.

The Cable News Network (CNN) for one conducted interviews with the renegade Laurent Nkunda and Asari Dokubo during heated conflicts in the regions of the militia leaders. Their actions indicate that anything is possible with adequate training, compromise and financial support. The trained historian hence has no excuse in his bid to gather data, evidence and pieces of information for historical reconstruction. During the Nigerian Civil war, the conflict in the Niger Delta and the Boko Haram insurgency, accurate reporting of the happenings in these regions tended to come from the International News Agencies while news from local news outlets within Nigeria was laced with propaganda and sentiments. Rumours hence spread like wild fire and there were many unsubstantiated reports that were only confirmed to be false many years after these conflicts.

THE VALUE OF THE STUDY OF HISTORY IN NIGERIA

Outside the shores of Nigeria, History is a highly valued discipline that attracts highly intelligent students and significant amounts of funding. There is adequate funding for undergraduate research, masters research, Doctoral research and Post Doctoral research in the field of history. There are also a plethora of research grants, awards, scholarships, fellowships and Professorial chairs to ensure that the study of history is pursued with rigour and diligence. Resources are committed to the study of history outside the country because of the realization that a nation's history is part of its national heritage. Though history is not taught and studied with the intention of teaching lessons there are many valuable lessons that can be gleaned when historical facts are analyzed with diligence. A nation that does not value its history can be likened to a man without a memory; such a man is bound to continually repeat the mistakes of the past.

According to Ademoyega, A (1981) in his narrative titled "Why We Struck" certain peculiar circumstances bordering on National Security and the continued existence of Nigeria

as a nation state made it imperative to intervene in Nigerian political life and provide vibrant leadership. Top on the list of reasons why the military struck in 1966 was corruption in public life and general insecurity in the country. For a season and perhaps due to expedience, Military rule was fashionable and acceptable on the African Continent. However with the tearing down of the Berlin wall in 1989 and the tearing of the Iron curtain, democracy became accepted and espoused a globally accepted, just and equitable way to run a nation state. From that period till present, efforts to correct anomalies in a nation state through dictatorships and totalitarian regimes have been firmly resisted. Muamar Ghadaffi of Libya and Sadam Hussein of Iraq are good cases in point. Indeed, Fukayama, F (1992) in his ground breaking work, the End of History and the Last Man stated that with the tearing of the Iron Curtain and the fall of the Soviet Union history had come to an end and democracy would remain as the last and most noble ideal of man. Knowing the dynamic nature of man and the amazing twists and turns that have occurred in World History, his assertions are however subject to debate.

The value for the study of History in Europe, the United States and Asia is in stark contrast to a ridiculous disregard for the study of history in Nigeria. The 70's, 80's and 90's were marked by military regimes in Nigeria. While there were benefits that accrued to the Nigerian nation like State creation and a number of sizeable projects, at some point it was realized that in line with the rest of the world, military rule was no longer fashionable. There was hence a peaceful transition to Civilian rule under General Abdusalami Abubakar in 1999. It has however been observed that issues like insecurity and endemic corruption that made the military rear their head in the first place have resurfaced. Around the Continent a number of civilian regimes have been toppled suggesting that a return to military rule is not impossibility in Nigeria. These ominous signs are being ignored and it is a clear indication that Nigeria's leaders have not profited from the mistakes of the past.

RESEARCH ON THE NIGERIAN CIVIL WAR (1967-1970)

Though the Nigerian civil war was fought entirely on the shores of Nigeria, the entire hostilities between the Federal troops and the Biafran secessionists came under keen scrutiny by the international community. A number of factors are responsible for this and top on the list was the fact the war included a fierce struggle by both parties for the Oil rich Niger Delta and also had the potential of degenerating into a humanitarian crisis of global proportions. Hence the eye of the International media community was firmly fixed on the conflict with different parties reporting different perspectives and view points as it concerned them. Within

Nigeria, it was a propaganda war between both parties with the Biafrans proving more adept for long periods during the War, at managing their propaganda machine. Indeed one of the reasons the war lasted for the thirty long months that it did was the Biafran proficiency in managing their propaganda machinery.

According to Aluko, O (1971) the Nigerian government drew five main lessons from the War. The first lesson was that the control of the Armed forces must remain with the Federal government. Odumegwu secession declaration was possible because he was the Governor General of the Eastern region and in a decentralized arrangement had control over the military divisions and troops in his region. Ojukwu was also able to whip up ethnic sentiments reminding his kinsmen of the Pogrom in Northern Nigeria and the assassination of the Igbo leaders of the January 15, 1966 coup. It was also realized that perhaps due to Premier Tafewa Balewa's idealistic nature, the Nigerian Military had not considered the possibility of a major internal conflict or a serious external threat. It has been noted that largely because of the small size of the Nigerian Army at the start of the Civil War in July 1967, the British Government advised General Gowon against prosecuting the war on the grounds that it might be unwinnable and might lead to the Country's disintegration.

The second major lesson from the Nigerian Civil war was the need for the Nigerian policy makers to be non-aligned in principle and practice. With the outbreak of the war, Nigeria had turned to her traditional ally Britain for help in prosecuting the war. She was promptly turned down. Stranded and despondent, she hence turned to the Eastern bloc for help with equipment and logistics support to prosecute the war. She was granted assistance and this consequently led to an opening up of the nation to the ideals boldly espoused by the Eastern Bloc.

The third major lesson from the Nigerian Civil War was the need for good neighbourly relations. Nigeria during the Civil War enjoyed support from her immediate neighbours, Cameroun, Benin Republic, Niger and Chad. These nations refused to allow their territory be used as a launching pad for countries and organizations sympathetic to the Biafran cause. Their actions were critical to the Federal Military Government led by General Yakubu Gowon winning the war. After the war, General Gowon made reconciliatory visits across Africa, enforced Nigeria's Africa centered foreign policy and emphasized the place of good neighbourliness particularly in Nigeria's dealings on the African Continent.

The fourth major lesson of the war according to Aluko, O (1971) was the role of propaganda in turning the tide of a conflict. The efficiency of the Biafran propaganda machinery has been widely reported and the Biafrans succeeded through the skillful use of

Propaganda in convincing large sections of the International Community that the Federal Military Government was bent on genocide and this consequently raised support for the Biafran cause as it was presupposed that they were fighting a just war. The federal government however in all its releases insisted that the Biafrans were secessionists and that they were fighting a war of national unity.

Most of the historical reconstruction during the War was carried out by journalists doubling as relief agents. The federal government continually tried to mount a blockade to pummel the Biafrans to submission but this was sternly resisted by the International Community who insisted that relief must continue to flow into the region through the Uli Airstrip and other such legitimate channel. The old South Eastern state was the theatre of the War. These states comprise the current South Eastern states of Enugu, Anambra Imo, Ebonyi, Abia and the South South States of Akwa Ibom and Cross River. This region was the area under contest and the centre of hostilities. The Federal Military Government was largely on the offensive while the Biafrans were holding out on the defensive with the hope that the international community would intervene and partition the area out to them. This was the primary motivation for the rigorous propaganda war that the Biafrans launched.

The fifth major lesson from the war was that the existence of white dominated supremacist regimes was a threat to Nigeria's existence. Though unconfirmed, it was widely reported that the first bomb dropped in Lagos during the Civil war was manufactured in Rhodesia. These white led supremacist regimes openly supported the Biafran cause and this set them on a collision course with the Federal Government. After the Civil war and with the attendant Oil boom that followed Nigeria rigorously supported the anti apartheid and liberation movements in Southern Africa. Such was Nigeria's support that she gained the appellation of a frontline state. In 1994 with the Namibia, this goal was achieved.

The early historians like Emmanuel Ayandele, Ade Ajayi, Obaro Okime, Okon Edet Uya, Erim Odey Erim, E.J. Alagoa and Kenneth Dike pursued most of their research undertakings in peace time at the expiration of these conflicts. For those that chose to report on these conflicts, they had to rely to a reasonable extent on the reporting and documentation of International journalists. Anietie Usen in his work *Audacious Journalism* (2018), reports on the risk and the hazards he encountered in his reporting of the War in Liberia and Sierra Leone. Anietie reports that in one instance in these West African nations he abandoned a breaking story and fled for his life as a result of Security reports that he received. Anietie adds that his colleagues who remained to cover the story were sadly killed.

International Cable Television was not available during the period of the Civil War. Much of the reportage during that period was through the print media. Newspapers and Magazines particularly those in the United Kingdom and the United States reported keenly on these events. These Newspapers include The Sun, The Daily Independent, The Mirror, Time Magazine, The Guardian and many others.

RESEARCH ON THE CONFLICT IN THE NIGER DELTA

Nigeria today is ranked as the fifth largest producer of Oil. Much of this crude oil comes from the Oil rich Niger Delta Region that comprises of Akwa Ibom, Cross River, Delta, Edo, Rivers, Bayelsa and Abia. Sadly, for a region that can be regarded as the goose that lays the golden egg, the Niger Delta has suffered great neglect and deprivation down the years. In stark contrast, regions of Nigeria that have a much smaller contribution to the nation's Gross National Product (GNP) and Gross Domestic Product (GDP) seemed to have much greater indices of development. It is rumored that the immediate cause of the conflict was the use of Ijaw youths for a political march in Abuja tagged "Youths Earnestly Ask for Abacha" at the instance of the late General Sani Abacha during his self perpetuation attempt. It is reported that when the Youths from Ijaw saw the extent of development in Abuja, they were enraged and came to a vivid realization of the gross inequity in the Nigerian polity. When they returned to the creeks and enclaves of the Niger Delta they mobilized for a protracted conflict with the Federal Government.

Remote causes like the killing of Ken Saro Wiwa and the other activists fuelled the Niger Delta Militants to resort to violence to ensure that their demands were met. Groups like the Ijaw Youths Council and the Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta (MEND) emerged and the proceeded to vandalize pipelines, kidnap and abduct expatriates and threaten the Federal Government with insurrection. Militants like Mujahedeen Asari Dokubo and Ateke Tom emerged armed with devastating and very sophisticated arms and proceeded to lead a violent onslaught against the Federal Government's Oil installations. Naturally, Oil production plummeted, leading to decreased income for the federal government. This drew the attention of the federal government to the conflict and it was realized that the government troops could not match the Militant's weapons and guerilla tactics the Olusegun Obasanjo led government to opt for diplomacy and settlement.

Several reasons were responsible for the government's decision to opt for diplomacy and settlement. First was because the injustice, inequity and unfair treatment meted out to the

Niger Delta were clear for all to see. The Federal Government hence realized that she would lose woefully in the Court of public opinion. Secondly, the lives of foreign nationals were at risk with the massive kidnappings and abductions going at Oil installations leading to a diplomatic impasse for the Federal Government. This was at a time the Federal Government needed the full cooperation and goodwill of the International Community to resolve its precarious debt problem and other pressing issues. It must be noted that the conflict in the Niger Delta was at its peak in a period when, Nigeria had just returned to civilian rule after protracted military leadership.

The conflict in the Niger Delta was extensively reported by the International News Media because of its security and economic implications. Disruptions in Oil production were bound to affect the global economy and alter oil prices. It is important to note that most of the Oil exploration in Nigeria is done by foreign International Oil Companies like Mobil, Agip, Total, Shell and Chevron and these multinationals repatriate significant amounts of their income to their home country. These home countries thus made significant amounts of money available for international journalists to penetrate the Niger Delta and give a blow by blow account of the conflict. At the forefront of the media investigation into the region were the Cable News Network (CNN) owned by Ted Turner, the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) and a plethora of British Newspapers and the Fox News. The militants realized that these international journalists were waging a Public opinion war so special arrangements were made for interviews and documentaries indicating why they were taking the hard stance that they were taking.

The subsequent actions and inactions of the executive of the Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC), who are all of Niger Delta extraction, and the actions and inactions of some executive governors in the region has shown that the people of the Niger Delta are also complicit in their underdevelopment. Not only was money for the NDDC recklessly embezzled, grants and subventions to some State Governors like the excess crude were not properly utilized. The subsequent NDDC probe initiated by the Buhari administration left many startling discoveries in its wake. It was discovered that a Commission meant for critical intervention had been turned into a drain pipe for graft and fraud.

According to Goodhand J (2000) Conflict Zone researchers have moral responsibilities for their interventions and may inadvertently do harm by infringing the security, privacy and well-being of the subjects of their research. It is hence important for the researcher to be aware of the ethical challenges he or she is likely to encounter in the pursuit of his research.

The researcher must realize that the communities will have expectations, the researcher must be sensitive to implicit messages they are sending out and not give the impression that they are legitimizing warring groups and the researcher must also be wary of opening old wounds.

Goodhand notes further that during the research the researcher needs to blend in with their surroundings, keep a low profile, predict likely ethical issues, constantly monitor the security situation and analyze risk particularly by listening to local informants, obtain informed consent, honestly examine the power relationships between researcher and the research subjects and explain clearly the objectives of the research. Goodhand adds that if researchers and analysts are not prepared to engage until the guns fall silent, knowledge and understanding tend to be stuck at the pre-war level. Responses based solely on an understanding of pre-war society which fail to account for the fact that society on are likely inappropriate.

RESEARCH DURING THE BOKO HARAM CONFLICT

The Boko Haram insurgency has raged on for close to 12 years and incidentally seemed to pick up in intensity not long after the significant disarmament and demobilization of the Niger Delta militants. However, unlike the Niger Delta militants who agitated over injustice in the geographical spread of indices of development especially when the massive contribution to the national coffers and devastating environmental degradation of the region are considered, the Boko Haram Insurgency is fundamentally rooted in religion. The insurgents and their disciples advocate a strict adherence to the tenets of Sharia Law. What is disturbing and discomfiting however is the resort to violence in a bid to enshrine their religious beliefs. A lot of the attacks, kidnaps and raids have been unreasonable but this has drawn the attention of the Nigerian government to the plight of the people readily available to be used as Boko Haram Insurgents. Due to the intensity of the attacks, the Federal Government's efforts to establish rural grazing areas for the violent herdsmen and in a bid to quell the spate of attacks and clashes between herdsmen and farmers was fiercely resisted and dubbed by many on social media platforms as an Islamization agenda. The federal government in a bid to mitigate the devastation in the Nigerian North East proposed a Ministry of the North East and has embarked on developmental programmes in the region. The thinking behind this is a realization that violence and civil unrest is often an indication of discontent.

More often than not when the root issues have been properly addressed the tide of violence is usually stemmed. In the case of Boko Haram, some scholars have argued that

deep poverty and illiteracy are fundamental reasons why people would readily resort to violence as a way of expressing their religious grievances. There are also others who have argued that the insurgency was a political tool when the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria was not of Northern extraction. Whatever the case the case, gathering historical data particularly from the North East has been greatly impeded by the Boko Haram crisis.

According to Newson, C (2011) the North East region of Nigeria has become known for insurgency, kidnappings, raids and violent attacks on civilians and the Military. The insurgency has left a lot of deaths in its wake and turned the region into an international danger zone. Not only has the conflict hindered and frustrated development efforts by the Nigerian Federal Government, it has frightened off potential foreign investors who would have cited their businesses in the North East. This is because there is no guarantee of the safety of lives and properties which is essential for any business to thrive. The incident of the kidnap of 276 school girls from a school in Chibok on the night of 14-15 April 2014 drew the ire of the International Community. The girls were of teenage age and mostly Christians hence drawing serious condemnation from the Christian community within and outside and Nigeria and the International Community at large.

There was hence need for accurate study and research into these happenings in the Nigerian North East. This was however hindered by the spate of violence in the region. The Nigerian Federal Government to its credit made sincere and honest efforts at resolving the crisis in the Nigerian North East. It first responded with a military offensive which was countered with stern guerilla tactics by the Insurgents. Sadly, the Nigerian government lost many gallant troops during its offensive against the Niger Delta Militants. The government then attempted negotiations and peace settlement with the insurgents, a strategy that was partly successful in the Niger Delta. A proposal for a Ministry of the North East was touted and the Federal Government attempted to establish Rural Grazing Areas (RUGA) all across the country.

Some of the challenges faced by individuals researching into the Nigerian North East include insecurity, inadequate funding, lack of proper research ethics, ineffective research methodology and a low accessibility of data and information. According to Goodhead, J (2000) war zone researchers should be aware of the dangers of “Conflict Fetish”, the automatic assumption that violence is the problem, and the only lens through which look at people’s lives. Those affected by conflict frequently remind researchers and aid workers that there are other aspects to their lives and that War is not the only point of reference. Part of

improper research ethics would include using access to the region as an opportunity for biased reporting or as an opportunity to take sides during the conflict. This has often proven to be fatal and costly as the research is not likely to be viewed by local actors as neutral or altruistic. The motive of the researcher or the reporter must be to present in a balanced way the result of his or her historical undertaking and not to use the research as a tool for propaganda.

The personal challenges to Historical research in conflict zones in Nigeria would include the fear of the loss of life, harsh economic conditions, poor funding, poor time management, suspicion and lack of cooperation from the local community, fear of failure and taking risks, lack of relevant experience and nostalgia. According to Sigrun, M.M, Yasemin, G.A and Ozden, M.U (2018) the issues that are likely to be raised while conducting research in a conflict zone are either practical or ethical. Practical concerns would include actual and perceived safety of researchers, the complexities of getting research permits, identities of the researcher, social and cultural script and language barriers between researchers and participants. Ethical concerns necessary to take into account in conflict contexts include, getting informed consent, recording interviews, avoiding psychological harm to respondents, the psychological demands of research for the research team and giving back to the respondents.

ACTUAL AND PERCEIVED SAFETY OF RESEARCHERS AND PARTICIPANTS

Self preservation is the strongest human instinct. The implication of this statement is that research, no matter how cutting edge cannot be more important than human life. Ensuring the safety of the researcher is hence paramount in the prosecution of any research undertaking. This paper has profiled historical research during three major Nigerian conflicts, namely the Nigerian Civil War, the conflict in the Niger Delta and the Boko Haram Insurgency. According to Sigrun, M.M, Yasemin, G.A and Ozden, M.U (2018) safety concerns are defined as issues of actual and perceived safety for the respondents, the researcher, and the research staff, related to the research being conducted. Many factors influence security, including the content of the research, the general conflict situation in the field, and the characteristics of the researcher (including nationality, ethnicity and gender).

Security concerns are usually heightened when there are two contesting parties struggling for preeminence in the court of public opinion. Where this is the case, any misguided action by the researcher can be misinterpreted and hence incur the wrath of any of the conflicting parties. Authoritarian regimes often complicate research, reflected in “political repression, a

sense of continuous presence of internal security forces, and various political sensitivities. Such political climates are often a deterrence to conducting research.

THE IDENTITY OF THE RESEARCHER

According to Marshall & Rossman (1999) The researcher is a gendered, aged, culturally and socially placed human being, which affects data collection and the focus and analysis of the material. A range of different factors influences the researcher, the interaction between researchers and participants, and the way in which the researcher is perceived. These, as most other issues discussed here, are common challenges in research in general and in qualitative work in particular. However, as research in conflict settings is often of a more sensitive nature than non-conflict settings, the interaction with participants depends on an even more personal relationship with the researcher. The identity of the researcher might influence the research process. The researcher has to reflect on what happens when a researcher enters a context where he or she is an ingroup member, an outgroup member (or closely aligned with either group), or even seen as the enemy.

In the three conflicts profiled in this paper, it was easier for foreign journalists to access the conflict zones and extract much needed information. This was because the combatants saw them as neutrals that were sympathetic to their cause. The combatants realized what was at stake in the international court of public opinion and realized that accurately reporting their side of the conflict, or better put their perspective could swing the tide of the conflict in their favour. During the Civil war for instance, a historian of Northern extraction might not have been well received in the conflict zone in view of the pogrom that had taken place before the war. That Northern journalist would rather have been seen as an enemy. The identity of the researcher is hence a critical factor in the success of any research undertaking in a conflict zone.

CONCLUSION

It can hence be stated that a multiplicity of factors can militate against the historian conducting research in a conflict region. These would include the security and safety of the researcher, ethical issues, expectations, old wounds, perspectives, competence of the researcher and research funding. If the historian or researcher insists on conducting research when the guns are silent then knowledge and understanding will tend to be stuck at a pre-war level. There is hence the need, as a matter of necessity for the historian to be trained in the fine art of conducting research in conflict zones. Such a historian must be properly trained in

the conduct of balanced research as unbalanced research undertaking or unbalanced reporting only tends to escalate violence and tensions in a conflict zone. If the historian, researcher or journalist leaves a sour taste in the mouth after his or her first expedition to the conflict zone, such an individual would most probably be denied access on a future date.

It can also be deduced from this paper that most of the cutting edge research work conducted in conflict zones in Nigeria were prosecuted by International journalists especially those in the employ of big media houses like the Cable News Network CNN, the British Broadcasting Corporation BBC, Aljazeera, Fox and many others. It was noted that in some of these conflicts, a primary reason for significant foreign attention was the economic interests of these foreign nations. Such was the competence of these international journalists, that even in the heat of conflict, they successfully carried out interviews, reported on hostilities and gave the whole world a clearer picture of what was going on in these regions. A great responsibility is hence laid at the feet of those responsible for training the new generation of historians, of equipping and training the scholars and preparing them to meet modern realities. Conflict and war, as undesirable as it is a part of human existence. The historian therefore cannot get into a blame game or tender flimsy excuses as to why he or she cannot conduct research in a conflict zone.

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