



ABSTRACT

Economic, social and political factors played a crucial role on the state of insecurity in Nigeria.

The paper investigated the impact of these political factors that created insecurity in Nigeria. Relying on both primary and secondary sources of information, the paper found that insecurity in Nigeria is largely caused by economic, social and political factors. The paper also revealed that poverty, neglect, corruption, lawlessness, and uneven pace of development around the country

INFLUENCE OF ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND POLITICAL FACTORS ON THE STATE OF INSECURITY IN NIGERIA

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Introduction

Insecurity apart from being the fear of every Nigerian has become the word on the lips of every Nigerian and a discussion topic where two or three Nigerians gather. This phenomenon is a state of being subject to danger or injury. It is the anxiety one experience when one feels vulnerable and insecure. Several armed groups, ethnic militia groups, religious fundamentalist and fanatics, are evidence of insecurity in Nigeria. These have given birth to series of bombings, murder, arson, armed robbery, corruption, and injustices. It is clear that these happenings are negatively affecting Nigeria politically, religiously and culturally. Religious organizations and other humanitarian agencies are losing confidence on the law enforcement agencies (Udoh, 2015).

There is no doubt that Nigeria has great potential for greatness, particularly with its large population consisting of a dynamic workforce, a growing economy, abundant natural resources, diverse raw materials, huge oil reserves, and intellectual reservoirs. Despite these aspects of greatness, Nigeria continues to be a developing country struggling the most frantically to find its feet among the nations' committees



are responsible for insecurity in Nigeria. The paper recommended that Nigeria should accelerate the pace of development by creating an economy with relevant social, economic and physical infrastructure for business operations and industrial growth, to provide gainful employment, high level education facilities and medical care for the people. Issue of corrupt practices among office holders which is viewed as the main cause of inequality and inequitable distribution of the nation's wealth among its citizens should be addressed.

KEYWORDS: Economic Factors, Social Factors, Political Factors, Internal Insecurity, Nigeria

due, among other factors, to the prevalent insurgency and insecurity that have continued to present a challenge to its development and growth.

The objective of the study is to investigate the economic, social and political factors that created insecurity in Nigeria;

Hypotheses: Economic, social and political factors have no significant influence on the rising insecurity in Nigeria.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Factors responsible for Internal Insecurity in Nigeria

Nweze (2004) cited in (Zubairu, 2020) pointed out some factors responsible for insecurity in Nigeria as follows:

The Menace of Unemployment and Poverty.

It is a fact that unemployment causes poverty and extreme poverty leads to a crime that gives rise to insecurity. Aliyu (1998) characterized poverty as a situation in which people live below a defined standard of living income so that individuals and nations are classified and identified as poor. While unemployment is defined as when people are not engaged in meaningful work and are lacking the basic needs of life. Every year, tertiary institutions graduated many students who have been unfortunately thrown into the labor market with no hope for job opportunities in sight. Many become frustrated in an effort to keep soul and body together and engage in violent and criminal acts such as lucrative kidnapping, militancy, and armed robbery. Others have become terrorists' victims and are quickly radicalized. Nwagbosa (2012) believed that past governments have failed to put in place actions that will reduce unemployment and poverty rates, which have been the major causes of insecurity in Nigeria.

Elite exploitation of Ethnicity and Religious Differences

It is worth bearing in mind that the country's diverse ethnic make-up is not itself a cause of insecurity in Nigeria; however, political and religious leaders across the nation



sometimes use ethnic sentiments to achieve their selfish ambitions. Throughout this way, the elites exploit people's minds to stir up mistrust and resentment among different ethnic groups and among the country's major religions that cause Nigeria's insecurity. In a multi-ethnic country like Nigeria, the relationship should be cordial, without reciprocal distrust, fear, and a propensity to a violent confrontation between members of one ethnic or religious group and another of that ethnicity or religious group. Adagba, et al, (2012); Achumba, et al, (2013), similarly asserted that control of scarce resources, fuel, land, economies, traditional and political offices resulted in mass killings and property destruction communities in various parts of the country. Nigeria's various ethnic groups also draw attention to neglect, racism, dominance, abuse, victimization, injustice, marginalization, nepotism, and intolerance. This often results in ethnic violence and religious conflicts.

Corruption

Nonetheless, corruption was largely responsible for government failure and systemic infrastructure collapse, resulting in large-scale insecurity in Nigeria. The state of insecurity in Nigeria is unquestionably a result of government failure, traceable to widespread corruption. Corruption is not because money and profits change hands in an unequal way, and not because of participants' motives, but because it privatizes facets of public life, bypassing representation, discussion and choice processes. Corruption is responsible for Nigeria's massive unemployment. It is the reason Nigerian youth and businessmen lack electricity to run their businesses. It is the reason many businesses fail. Unemployment and deprivation are the two main causes of Nigeria's insecurity. By creating unemployment and poverty, corruption leads to instability in Nigeria.

According to Charas, (2014) Past governments, both Military and Democratic, had attempted to focus attention on good governance, prudence, transparency, and accountability through a variety of means, including the creation of the Murtala Mohammed Administration Code of Conduct in 1975, the Ethical Revolution of Shehu Shagari Civil Administration in 1979, the War Against Indiscipline and the Corruption of General Muhammadu in 1984, General Ibrahim Babangida's mass mobilization for self-reliance, social justice and economic recovery in 1985, General Sani Abacha's Failed Banks Tribunal in 1994, and Olusegun Obasanjo's Anti-Corruption Act in 2000.

Weak security apparatus

Nigeria's security system is seen as very poor in both personnel and equipment. Security officers are poorly trained and poorly remunerated. As a result, the requisite expertise is not available to meet modern security challenges. The contribution of the security personnel to the Nigerian project of ensuring general safety is equally of serious concern. This weak security system can be due to a number of factors including corruption, funding, lack of modern equipment, poor safety personnel health, and inadequate staff. Nigeria is largely under policed and this partially explains the Nigerian Police Force's failure to effectively tackle the country's crimes, corruption, and insecurity. Olorisakin



(2008) asserted that the police population ratio in Nigeria is 1:450 which falls below the United Nations standard. This implies that as a country, Nigeria is grossly under-policed and this perhaps explains the police inability to effectively tackle crimes and security challenges.

Many of the soldiers fighting the insurgency in the northeast of the country have been ambushed on some occasions and many have been killed by the rebels as a result of information leaked to them by those who were supposed to fight them. Again huge sums of money made available for the acquisition of weapons were embezzled and misappropriated or outdated equipment purchased and the offenders were not punished appropriately. The lack of cooperation between the Security Agencies is also noted. The case of some soldiers who killed three police officers in Taraba State and injured others, who had an official duty to apprehend a kidnapping kingpin not long ago, and also a soldier who shot a Mopol in Maiduguri demonstrated the weak security framework in Nigeria further.

Porous border

The country's unstable frontiers, where human movements are essentially untracked, have led to Nigeria's level of insecurity. There is an unregulated inflow of Small Arms and Light Weapons into the country as a result of the porous borders which has enabled militancy and crime in Nigeria. Edeko (2011) reported that Nigeria hosts over 70% of about 8 million illegal weapons that have been used to create a security crisis. In addition, the porous condition of both the Nigerian borders has contributed to the uncontrollable influx of migrants, predominantly young people, from nearby countries such as the Republic of Niger, Chad and Benin are accountable for some of the insecurity promoting criminal activities in Nigeria, (Adeola and Olayemi, 2012).

Marginalization and Inequalities in the Country

Nigeria's current government has been strongly charged with ethnic disparity, and the marginalization of some sections of the country in the provision of basic infrastructure, and these have significantly compounded Nigeria's security (Nwadiakor, 2011). Currently, key political positions were given to people from Northern extraction while the South-East was left in the cold. That may explain the agitation for the Biafra Republic and Shi'a strongly known as the Islamic Movement of Nigeria (IMN) and several breaches of security that followed the agitation. Besides, it is quite clear that Nigeria's life chances are extremely disparate. Vast majorities of the public have a sense of deprivation, oppression, marginalization, and this has resulted in dissatisfaction and loss of hope, particularly among the youth. Such young people are now voicing their disillusionment with the state of affairs by any means possible, whether legal or illegal. The consequence of this is growing uncertainty (Onuoha, 2011).

Bad governance and poor Leadership

Poor governance and poor leadership remain the Nigeria's fundamental cause of insecurity from the past till now. Any government anywhere has the primary function of



providing basic services such as water, electricity, good road network, quality education, and general infrastructure. Ironically, these basic things are not there in Nigeria and the people, in general, are frustrated and demoralized. Demoralization and anger logically provide a strong fertile ground for aggression and general insecurity. The scarcity of these basic amenities in Nigeria is embarrassingly not due to a shortage of funds but rather to corruption at the highest level of leadership structure. A reality articulated by Hazen and Horner (2007), of a wealthy nation with poor people in the majority. It is therefore an enormous task to take responsibility for giving leadership direction in such communities or societies in a multi-ethnic and religious society like Nigeria, given the current scenario of the democratic politics in which the nation has been located. To this end, believing that weak leadership, has added more challenges to the uncertainty and causes of insecurity not just in the north but also in Nigeria in general, might not be an unfounded statement. According to Charas, Mbaya, and Liberty (2014), a number of violent cultures such as thuggery, indiscipline, corruption, abduction, and bombing, have come in since the arrival of third and fourth republics in 1999 and 2009 respectively, which was just a decade ago after the previous military invasion.

Disconnect between the People and Government

Over the years, there has been a growing disconnect between the people and government. Governments, whether military or civilian, have not tried to bridge this chasm, thus creating misunderstanding, mistrust and resentment. Consequently, because the people do not understand government or have a perception that government does not care about their welfare, they become easy prey to centrifugal forces who co-opt/incite them to vent their anger on perceived enemies of the people and sometimes go to the extent of destroying national totems. Frequently, on any given incident, public and government reactions diverge. In such situations, the media has never helped matters. Media practices have always focused on the dramatic and the spectacular view of the given situations. Such reports have always been capitalized on in sophisticated ways by various groups, some of which are violent to incite public clamour for a change and immediate reaction through strategically provocative violence. The point here is that the approach of media report over the years has contributed to exacerbate insecurity or perception of insecurity in Nigeria. President Jonathan alluded to this situation when he made reference to the popular axiom that the pen is mightier than the sword. In his statement, “the sword is used to kill and destroy but what we use the pen to do is also very critical. When you have a society with these unending political conflicts, it is there on the media whether print, electronic or social media and this brings a lot of insecurity to the system” (Bello and Oyedele, 2012).

Loss of Socio-cultural and communal value system

The traditional value system of the Nigerian society, like most African societies, is characterized by such endearing features as collectivism, loyalty to authority and



community, truthfulness, honesty, hard work, tolerance, love for others, mutual harmony and coexistence, and identification of individual with one another (Clifford, 2009). Other distinctive features of Nigerian traditional society are abhorrence for theft and high value for life. Stealing was considered extremely disgraceful and lives were also highly valued. All of these values which made society secured and safe have all gradually been thrown away and lost. New values have taken over their place over the years, with the so called 'modernity and civilization'. All our endearing values and morals have been traded off for western values. The importance of a people's value system to their survival was espoused by Obama, when he challenged all societies to go back to their traditional values (Clifford (2009).

Rural /Urban Drift

The migration of jobless youths from rural areas to urban centres is also one of the causes of insecurity in Nigeria (Onuoha, 2011). Nigeria is one of the countries in the world with very high rural/urban drift. Most urban areas in Nigeria have grown beyond their environmental carrying capacities and existing infrastructure, and this has resulted to increased poor quality of the living conditions in urban areas in Nigeria (Adedeji and Eziyi, 2010). Out of frustration, these youths are drawn into crime.

High rate illiteracy among Nigerians

The rate of illiteracy is very high in the country Figures from various education departments showed that education in some part of Nigeria has sustained a progressive decline over the years. The implication is that social, political and economic mobilization policies of the government do not trickle down to the majority of the youths and other agents of peace (Alli 2006, Alphousus 2009, and Suleiman 2008).

METHODOLOGY

Research Design

Survey Research Design was used in this study and adopted mixed method using both quantitative and qualitative research strategies.

Population

The target population of the study was the Nigeria Police Force with total staff strength of population of about 57,305 across Plateau, Benue, Borno, Yobe, Lagos and Ogun State commands. The geographical area of the study was Plateau and Benue states representing the North Central Geo-Political zones, Lagos and Ogun States representing the South-West Geo-Political zones while Borno and Yobe states represent the North-East area of Nigeria.



The total number of the respondents was fifty-seven thousand three hundred and five (57,305) staff of the Nigeria Police force in Plateau, Benue, Lagos, Ogun, Borno and Yobe State Commands representing three geo-political zones in Nigeria.

Sample size

In this study the sample size are the members of the Nigeria Police Force from each of the selected states that formed the population of study. Specifically, Taro Yamane (1970) formula $n = N / 1 + (e)^2$ was used to obtain the sample size of 398.

Sample Selection and Technique

Sampling involves a process of selecting a sub-section of a population that represents the entire population in order to obtain information regarding the phenomenon of interest. Multistage sampling procedure was used in selecting respondents that participated in the study. The first stage was the purposive selection of two (2) states from each of the selected Geo-political Zones in Nigeria.

The second stage was the stratification of the Nigeria Police into three (3) groups/cadres:

1. Senior Officers
2. Inspectors
3. Rank/Files

Third Stage: Equal proportion of respondents was randomly selected from each of the cadres of the Nigeria Police Force (proportionated to the selected sample for each state).

Method of Data Collection

A total of 399 copies of questionnaire were administered to respondents, however, only 388 representing 97.2% were retrieved and analyzed. The respondents were contacted at their offices during working hours. The participants were briefed on the main objective of the study and acquainted with the response pattern. The completed questionnaires were retrieved immediately after completion or at the agreed time by both parties.

In pursuit of the research objectives and to facilitate recording of empirical information, in-depth interviews were conducted among forty (40) senior police officers, lecturers, politicians, and civil societies of the selected states to validate the responses supplied in the questionnaire

Data Analysis

The study linked presentation of data systematically to the format of the survey instrument. It also summarized and presented all the research results, statistical analysis and interpretation. In order to facilitate the data presentation, the values of the responses were summed up; each agreed responses represents the sum total of both strongly agreed and agree responses. Also, disagreed responses were made up of the sum total of the values of both disagree, strongly disagree and partially disagree.



Analysis of Demographic Data

Table 1: Analysis of Respondents' Demographic Characteristics

Parameters	Classification	Frequency	Percentage
Gender	Male	208	53.6
	Female	180	46.4
	Total	388	100.0
Age in years	<20	14	3.6
	21-30	69	17.8
	31-40	127	32.7
	41-50	124	32.0
	51-60	53	13.7
	60 and Above	1	0.3
	Total	388	100.0
Nationality	Nigerian	388	100.0
	Total	388	100.0
Academic Qualification	SSCE	69	17.8
	First Degree	237	61.1
	Post Graduate	47	12.1
	Professional	35	9.0
	Total	388	100.0
Rank/Designation	CSP	30	7.7
	SP	35	9.0
	DSP	32	8.2
	ASP I	40	10.3
	ASP II	84	21.6
	Inspector	54	13.9
	Sergeant	47	12.1
	Corporal	37	9.5
	Constable	29	7.5
	Total	388	100.0
	Working Experience	1 - 10 years	169
11 - 20 years		136	35.1
21 - 30 years		47	12.1
31 - 35 years		28	7.2
Retired		8	2.1
Total		388	100.0

Source: Researcher's Field Survey (2022)



Table 1 reveals that majority 53.6% of the respondents were male while 46.4% were females. This implied that more males participated in the study than females. Highest percentage 127 respondents representing 32.7% were in the ages of 31-40 years, closely followed by 124 respondents representing 32.0%, 69 respondents representing 17.8% were in the ages of 21-30%, 53 respondents representing 13.7% were in the ages of 51-60 years while 1 respondent representing 0.3% were in the ages of 60 years and above. It reveals that 388 respondents representing 100.0% were Nigerians, which indicated that all the respondents that participated in this study were Nigerians. The table further revealed that 237 respondents representing 61.1% were First Degree holders, 69 respondents representing 17.8% were SSCE holders as their academic qualification, 47 respondents representing 12.1% were Post Graduate holders, while 9.0% of the respondents were professionals. The highest percentage 169 respondents representing 43.6% had 1-10 years working experience, 136 respondents representing 35.1% had 11-20 years working experience, 47 respondents representing 12.1% had 21-30 years working experience, and 28 respondents representing 7.2% had 31-35 years of working experience while 8 respondents representing 2.1% were retirees.

The implication of these results is that the spread of the respondents for the study was quite encouraging because the opinions of the respondents in different cadres would not only enrich the study outcome but would also contribute to theory and practice.

Analysis of Field Data

Table 2: Respondents Reaction to the question on the Economic, social and political factors that created insecurity in Nigeria

Survey items	SA F (%)	A F (%)	D F (%)	PD F (%)	SD F (%)	Mean	RII	Ranking
The recent economic recession that resulted to economic melt-down is a factor in the current insecurity in Nigeria.	247(63.7)	114(29.4)	5(1.3)	2(0.5)	20(5.2)	4.46	0.89	1st
The high level of Illiteracy makes the youths to be	133(34.3)	165(42.5)	39(10.1)			3.89	0.78	



indoctrinated in religious extremism thereby increasing the rate of insecurity in Nigeria.				18(4.6)	33(8.5)			2nd
Uneven pace of development in different parts of the country endangers security in Nigeria	123(31.7)	168(43.3)	39(10.1)	17(4.4)	41(10.6)	3.81	0.76	3rd
The high rate of population in Nigeria against the low staff strength of security agencies is responsible for the high rate of criminalities in Nigeria	136(35.1)	150(38.7)	40(10.3)	11(2.8)	51(13.1)	3.80	0.76	4th
Politicians fuel ethnic conflicts that result to Internal Insecurity in Nigeria	130(33.5)	163(42.0)	33(8.5)	17(4.4)	45(11.6)	3.81	0.76	5th
Violent competition for resources between nomadic and	115(29.6)	175(45.1)	45(11.6)	9(2.3)	44(11.3)	3.79	0.76	



settled farming communities cause insecurity in Nigeria								6th
Wrong use of security operatives to suppress, intimidate and subvert popular will brew distaste and animosity between the people and security personnel.	105(27.1)	169(43.6)	44(11.3)	11(2.8)	59(15.2)	3.64	0.73	7th
Protests in the Igbo dominated South-East over perceived marginalization by the government undermines internal security in Nigeria	95(24.5)	152(39.2)	58(14.9)	27(7.0)	56(14.4)	3.52	0.70	8th

Source: Researcher's field of Survey (2022)

Table 2 shows the data collected on the economic, social and political factors that cause internal insecurity in Nigeria. On the economic, social and economic factors that caused internal security in Nigeria, 361 respondents representing 93.1% of the respondents agreed that economic, social and political factors caused insecurity in Nigeria. On the other hand 27 respondents representing 7% disagreed. The implication was that economic, social and political factors were responsible for the rising spate of internal insecurity in Nigeria. The Table revealed that RII of all the items clearly surpass the threshold of 0.5 on



a scale of 5 points. It further reveals that lack of relevant and adequate equipment necessary for the assignment of the assigned duties of the security agents is a factor in the spate of insecurity in Nigeria RII = 0.89 , closely followed by an attack on oil installations is a threat to stability and peace in Nigeria RII = 0.78, uneven pace of development in different parts of the country endangers security in Nigeria RII= 0.76, the high rate of population in Nigeria against the low staff strength of security agencies is responsible for their inability to deal with security situation in Nigeria RII = 0.76, politicians fuel ethnic conflicts that result to Internal Insecurity in Nigeria RII = 0.76, violent competition for resources between nomadic and settled farming communities cause insecurity in Nigeria RII = 0.76, wrong use of security operatives to suppress, intimidate and subvert popular will brew distaste and animosity between the people and security personnel RII = 0.73, and lastly, protests in the Igbo dominated South-East over perceived marginalization by the government undermines internal security in Nigeria was the least ranked with RII of 0.70.

Test of Hypotheses

The hypotheses were tested using linear regression analysis.

Decision Rule of the Test of hypotheses

A pre-set level of significance for this study was 0.05. The null hypothesis assumes that no relationship or effect exists between the variables under consideration. On the other hand, the alternative hypothesis assumes significant effects exist between the variables of the study. Therefore, if the p-value (that is the significance or probability value) exceeds the pre-set level of significance (which is 0.05), the null hypothesis was accepted and the alternative hypothesis rejected but if the p-value was less than or equal to 0.05, the null hypothesis was rejected and the alternative hypothesis accepted.

Ho_i: Economic, social, and political factors have no significant impact on the rising insecurity in Nigeria. This was tested using linear regression analysis and results presented below.

Table 3: A summary of linear Regression Analysis showing the influence of economic, social, and political factors on the rising insecurity in Nigeria

Predictor	β	T	R	Adj R ²	F	Sig	Remark
Impact of economic, social and political factors on the rising insecurity in Nigeria	0.468	11.307	0.481	0.231	116.234	0.05	Significant

(Adj.R² = 0.231; F(1, 387) = 16.234; β = 0.468; p<0.05



As shown in Table 3, the result indicated that an additional increase in economic, social and political factors ($F = 116.234, p < 0.05$) was significantly a predictor of rising insecurity in Nigeria. This implied that economic, social and political factors did significantly predict rising insecurity in Nigeria. The value of $Adj R^2$ (0.231) for the model produced by regression analysis indicated a positive relationship. R squared (0.231) was the proportion of variation in the dependent variable explained by the regression model revealing that economic, social and political factors contributed 23.1% to the variation in rising insecurity in Nigeria (**$Adj R^2=0.231, P<0.05$**). Therefore, the hypothesis that the economic, social and political factors had no significant effect on rising insecurity in Nigeria was rejected. With all these in place, the condition for rejecting the null hypothesis in favour of the alternative hypothesis is satisfied in line with the stated decision rules. Therefore, it was accepted that areas of economic, social and political issues had a direct effect on the security of Nigeria. The validation of the foregoing hypothesis agreed with one of the interviews conducted by the researcher. The respondent agreed that the economic, social and political factors had implications on the security in Nigeria. Similarly, the response as shown on item 5 of Table 2 revealed that majority of the respondents representing (84%) indicating that a larger percentage of the respondents agreed that the security of Nigeria will deteriorate further if politicians continue to fuel ethnic conflicts in Nigeria.

Discussion of Findings

The results from the field in respect of table 2 revealed that insecurity in Nigeria is largely caused by economic, social and political factors. This study further showed that top among these factors was lack of relevant and adequate equipment to fight crime, attack on oil installations and uneven pace of development around the country. Nonetheless, authors in many earlier studies such as Igbuzor (2011); Oche, (2001); Nwanegbo and Odigbo (2013) have proven that internal security place emphasis on the absence of threats to peace, stability, national cohesion, political and socio-economic objectives of a country. In a related study, Ejogba (2006) asserted that explaining security in modern times is a question that has never been answered satisfactorily by scholars.

Mesjasz (2004) and Brauch (2008) posited that security is the absence of threats to acquired values. Besides, just as it is shown in this study, the traditional notion of national security places emphasis on the protection of state's sovereignty and territorial integrity against domestic and external threats. However, in the last decade of the twentieth century the Bretton Woods institutions upheld that the state-centric notion of security must change from an exclusive stress on national security to a much greater stress on human security. That is, from security through armaments to security through human development, from territorial security to food, employment and environmental security (Watson, 2011; Human Development Report, 1993).

Security according to people-centred conception means safety from the constant threats of hunger, disease, crime and repression. It also means protection from sudden and hurtful disruption in the pattern of daily lives - whether in homes, in jobs, in communities or in environment (Kumssa and Jones, 2010). Thus there is a general consensus in the



contemporary literature that security is vital for national cohesion, peace and sustainable development. However, it cannot be overemphasized that there is a need to pay attention to the economic, social and political factors associated with internal security in Nigeria. Just as it is espoused in the intelligence community, there is a consensus that security is not the absence of threats or security issues, but the existence of a robust mechanism to respond proactively to the challenges posed by these threats with expediency, expertise, and in real time (Oladeji & Folorunso, 2007).

In an interview conducted with one of the key informants, an Assistant Commissioner of Police in Benue state Police Command, ACP Mahmud Watioh, on the 10th January, 2022, traced insecurity in Nigeria to political and economic factors. In area of economic factors, he mentioned economic recession that was witnessed by Nigeria in recent years that raised the rate of crime in the country. He stressed that the recession has affected most companies that led to total closure of the majority of them. Those that were still in business were forced to cut down production and more than half of their workers were laid off forcing them into criminalities. In addition, an officer in the same state traced this to corruption. He stated that corruption hinders government efforts in the fight against terrorism especially in the North-East.

In an interview conducted with a retired senior lecturer in Ogun State, Dr. Abimbola David, on the 10th March, 2022, he traced the spate of insecurity in Nigeria to bad governance. He emphasized that the government is not delivering as expected especially at the Federal level. He cited example of the indiscriminate herdsmen attacks in the North-Central and South-West. He added that there is lack of commitments on the part of the government to deal with issues that often resulted to frustration on the part of the youth, the result of which is violent crime. Added to this is illiteracy where those who supposed to be in school are drop-outs. He cited example of the Almajiris that are domiciled in the North that are often recruited and indoctrinated into religious crisis and armed banditry.

Another social factor indicated to have created insecurity in Nigeria was poverty. Forty percent of Nigerians live below poverty line. More than 82 million Nigerians live on less than \$1 a day (NBS, 2020). Poverty is promoted by the government where food items are stored in warehouses and not distributed to the teeming population that needed them. This was confirmed and attested to in the telephone interview with Dr. Abba Audu in the Benue State University on 15th April, 2022, when he linked poverty with the recent ENDSARS Protest in Nigeria. He added that looting that was experienced during this protest has poverty connotation.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

The study concluded that in view of the need for a collective agenda to propel economic growth in Nigeria, the factors responsible for undermining the national integrity of Nigeria are hereby identified in order to deal with it.

Nigeria should develop visionary leadership, a leadership that is detribalized such that it has leadership positions only people who are able to inculcate in their people or followers,



the ideal of common citizenship as the transcendent factor among all Nigerians, no matter the tribe, gender, religion, economic and social status. Nigeria should cultivate the culture of good governance where the government is responsible and accountable to the people. Nigeria should accelerate the pace of development by creating an economy with relevant social, economic and physical infrastructure for business operations and industrial growth, to provide gainful employment, high level education facilities and medical care for the people. Issue of corrupt practices among office holders which is viewed as the main cause of inequality and inequitable distribution of the nation's wealth among its citizens should be addressed. This will bring about egalitarian society, where fairness, social justice and equal right for all will reign supreme, where rights will not be privileges for some people, and for others privileges are their rights. There should be a paradigm shift of values from the current order considering the role of values in governance system, leadership developmental goals, and behaviour towards corruption.

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