

Poverty-Insecurity Nexus: An Albatross to National Development in Nigeria

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Abstract

The twin problem of poverty and insecurity in Nigeria has become so pervasive that both government and citizens are overwhelmed. This situation has contributed to the deepening conditions of the people in the midst of plenty, with the attendant effects on national development. Thus, this paper examines the nexus between poverty and insecurity and the effects on sustainable national development in Nigeria, hinging on the frustration-aggression and relative deprivation theories as frameworks of analysis. In doing this, the paper employs the qualitative content analysis approach and relies mainly on secondary sources of data such as textbooks, journal articles, periodicals, conferences papers and the internet, etc. However, the paper reveals that a plethora of factors such as corruption, bad governance and policy inconsistencies have led to majority of the citizenry wallowing in abject poverty culminating to the blazing level of insecurity characterizing the Nigerian state in recent years. Notwithstanding, the paper recommends some far-reaching strategies or measures of addressing poverty and insecurity challenges, including good governance, sectorial and institutional reforms, effective policy and programme formulation and implementation relating to poverty and security in Nigeria.

Keywords: Poverty, insecurity, nexus, national development, Nigeria

Introduction

Globally, poverty has been recognized as a major threat plaguing most counties“ development objectives, especially in developing nations. The United Nations Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) summit (2015), described poverty as a universal social problem, which humiliates and dehumanizes its victims, including individuals, families, groups, nations and the society in general (Ukwayi, Angioha & Nwagboso, 2018). Similarly, Danaan (2018) posited that poverty has remained a threat and challenge to humanity in all its ramifications; it is complex, multidimensional and multifaceted with manifestations in economic, social, political, environmental and every realm of human existence. Perhaps, it is evident that the prevalence and incidence of poverty invariably culminates into tremendous security challenges, with far reaching implications for sustainable national development of a nation (Ajodo-Adebanjoke & Ugwuoke, 2014; Osah, Atere, Eti & Amakihe, 2015; Abah, Nwogbaga & Nwuzor, 2017).

Indeed, Nigeria as a developing country has

over the years been plagued by the twin problem of poverty and insecurity in her quest to achieve overall national development (Osunyinkanmi, 2014; Abah, Nwogbaga & Nwuzor, 2017). Moreover, Kanayo (2014) aver that Nigeria as a country is richly endowed with abundant human and natural resources but is still trapped in the poverty net. Evidently, poverty in the country has assumed a worrisome dimension, with Nigeria being ranked in the Human Development Index (HDI) as the 152nd poorest nation among 188 UN member nations in the world (Olawoyin 2017). A World Bank (2010) report released at a United Nations summit rated her as second poorest and insecure country in the world with most Nigerians living below poverty line (Ajodo-Adebanjoke & Ugwuoke, 2014, Abah, Nwogbaga & Nwuzor, 2017). In fact, Nigeria is today regarded as the global capital of extreme poverty (Ukwayi, Angioha & Nwagboso, 2018).

The level of insecurity in the country has remained a source of concern to all and sundry. Nigeria has consistently ranked low in the Global Peace Index (GPI), signifying a worsened state of insecurity in the country.

Several lives and property worth billions of Naira have been lost as a result of persistent and several security challenges at various times in the history of Nigeria (Abah, Nwogbaga & Nwuzor, 2017). In this sense, Obarisiagbon and Akintoye (2019) alluded that insecurity in Nigeria has recently assumed an alarming rate affecting every facet of Nigerian life, with no end in sight. According to them, security problem cuts across all the six geopolitical zones of the country, but the prevalence is more evident in the North-East (Boko Haram insurgency and suicide bombings); North-Central (farmer-herders conflict, ethno-religious and communal conflicts); North-West (kidnapping for ransom and armed banditry); South-East (kidnapping and armed robbery); South-South (militancy, youth restiveness and kidnapping of oil expatriates); and South-West (cybercrime, political assassinations and armed robbery) (Epron, 2019, Obarisiagbon & Akinloye, 2019).

Against the backdrop of the persistent rise in the level of poverty and insecurity in the country despite several individual and government efforts over the years, the paper examines the effects of the twin problem of poverty and insecurity on national development in Nigeria over the years. The gap that this research seeks to address is predicated on the fact that previous literature have only discussed poverty and insecurity in isolation, this paper however brings the duo together and argues that one led to the other.

Literature Review

Conceptual Exposition

Concepts central to this discourse are poverty, insecurity and national development.

Poverty

There is no universally acceptable definition of poverty. The specific meaning attached to it depends on the underlying concept of poverty in mind. Therefore, poverty means different things to different people in different circumstances (Yambe, 2016). In ordinary usage, poverty refers to an economic condition in which people lack sufficient income to obtain certain minimal level of health services, food, housing, clothing and education generally recognized as necessary to ensure an accepted standard of

living (Jimada, 2008 cited in Yambe, 2016). The United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) encapsulates poverty as a multidimensional phenomenon, in which people lack basic resources such as power, capabilities, choice and security that are fundamental for a good standard of living (UNHCR, 2004). Thus, poverty can be seen as the scarcity of basic human needs for daily living (Awojobi, 2014).

On the whole, poverty can be classified as 'absolute' or 'relative' poverty. Absolute poverty is the number of people whose earnings fall below the \$1.25 per day that is internationally established poverty line (World Bank, 2005; 2011). Anybody living less than \$1 per day is assumed to be poor. This is said to be consistent among countries over time. Conversely, relative poverty refers to the situation where people cannot meet basic minimum income required for guaranteed maintenance of the average standard of living recognized by the community where they live. Relative poverty differs across countries and the set standard changes over time (cited in Omoniyi & Babalola, 2018).

Insecurity

To understand insecurity, it is better to conceptualize 'security' as one of the fundamental needs of human society. According to Ibidapo-Obe (2008), security is the situation that exists as a result of the establishment of measures for the protection of persons, information and property against hostile persons, influences and actions. It is a situation where people go about their normal business without any threat to their lives and properties (Ogunleye, Adewale, Alese & Ogunde, 2011 cited in Awojobi, 2014). Therefore, insecurity means the state of being exposed to attacks. It is a state of anxiety and palpable fear (Awojobi, 2014).

Put more concretely, insecurity refers to the absence of freedom from or the presence of those tendencies which could undermine internal cohesion and the corporate existence of a nation and the inability of a state or society to maintain vital institutions for promotion of its core values as well as danger to life and property (Abah, Nwogbaga and Nwuzor, 2017). In this sense, the paper posits that insecurity as an antithesis of security refers to a condition that

exists due to lack of effective measures put in place to protect individuals, information and property against hostile persons, influences and actions. Generally speaking, insecurity refers to a state of being subjected to fear, threat, danger, molestation, intimidation, harassment etc. of all aspects (Tella, 2015).

National Development

It is pertinent to explore what development entails before properly conceptualizing the term 'national development'. Development according to Umebali (2006), involves a gradual advancement through progress changes. These changes are multi-dimensional involving changes in structures, attitudes and institutions as well as the acceleration of economic growth, the reduction of inequality and the eradication of absolute poverty. Further, development in this context involves economic growth component, equality or social justice component, and socioeconomic transformation component which are all on a life sustaining basis (cited in Laah, Abba, Ishaya & Gana, 2013).

Flowing from the above, Gilbert (2015) stressed that the issue of national development cannot be overemphasized. It is a recurring decimal in understanding the history of development strategies and growth models as it concerns an individual country's history. Therefore, national development is seen as the overall development or a collective socio-economic, political and technological advancement of a country or nation. This is best achieved through development planning which can be described as the country's collection of strategies, policies, plans, programmes and projects and others mapped out by the government (Lawal & Oluwatoyin, 2011).

Poverty and Insecurity Nexus

In a study by the Brookings Institute (2005), it was discovered that only 10% of the global poor live in stable low income countries as against 40% who live in fragile and conflict affected countries. Poverty aptly described as a state of lack; want and deprivation is a phenomenon without bias for race, ethnicity, and religion with extensive global reach. The intensity of poverty is often times reinforced by such factors as resource deficiency, faulty development

plans, political, religious and ethnic strives which more often than not negatively impact on national security and wellbeing of the citizenry (Awojobi, 2014; Osunyikanmi, 2014). As a phenomenon, poverty has a penetrating destabilizing effect on social cohesion within, between and amongst nations. The ultimate consequences of poverty are the hopelessness it engenders in any polity with dire consequences for growth and development. It is within this breadth that poverty provides veritable accommodation for insecurity. It is clear that majority of the Nigerian citizens live in abject poverty. Those who are subjectively poor and cannot afford the basic needs of life are more than the few who live in affluence (Osunyikanmi, 2014). It is therefore pertinent to explain the concept of insecurity before espousing the link between it and poverty.

Most theories on poverty show that there is a connecting trend between poverty and insecurity. The progressive social theory readily addresses this issue. This theory looks not to the individual poverty but to the economic, political and social system which cause people to have limited opportunities and resources with which to achieve income and well-being. Karl Marx demonstrated how social and economic systems combined to initiate, promote and sustain poverty situations across cultures. For examples, Marx showed how capitalism created what he called the 'reserved army of the unemployed' as a conscientious strategy to keep wages low. Studies by Jencks (1996, p.72) for example suggested that the extant economic system is structured in such a way that poor people fall behind regardless of how competent they may be. Those who do not have the link to government officials hardly get job in the formal sector while the private sector jobs equally demand connections from people who are influential in the society (Osunyikanmi, 2014).

Insecurity accords a process or condition of exposure to danger, indeed a pervasive unsafe condition of existence. Given the understanding of the meaning and impact of poverty, it is safe to build a nexus between poverty and insecurity as a 'cause and effect' syndrome. In other words, both are desirable as different sides of the same coin such that it is practically impossible to find one without the other accompanying it. And just

as poverty impact on socioeconomic and political circumstances of a people, so does insecurity manifests in the different segments of any society where poverty 'predominates'. In the case of Nigeria, insecurity manifests in diverse ways and these cannot be dissociated from the ravaging poverty in the country (Awojobi, 2014).

Considering the case of Nigeria, insecurity manifests in different forms and this cannot be separated from the activities of the large army of unemployed and underemployed people in the country. Those who do not have means of livelihood readily take to criminal activities to survive or turn their angers against the society. The case of the *Almajiris* in the Northern part of Nigeria is worthy of mentioning here. These Children have no means of livelihood except through begging. Thus they are easily recruited as foot soldiers by the Boko-Haram Sect to unleash terror on the innocent citizens of the country (Awojobi, 2014; Osunikanmi, 2014).

Theoretical Framework

The frustration-aggression theory and relative deprivation theories suggest that individuals become aggressive when there are obstacles (perceived and real) to their success in life. The frustration-aggression theory argues that the occurrence of aggressive behavior always presupposes the existence of frustration and that the existence of frustration always leads to some form of aggression. Frustration is understood to mean preventing the fulfillment of a goal. The frustration-aggression theory otherwise known as frustration-aggression displacement theory is a theory of aggression proposed by Dollard, Miller, Mowrer, and Sears (1939) (cited in Uzoh, 2016).

The theory says that aggression is the result of blocking, or frustrating a person's effort to attain a goal. Frustration causes aggression, but when the source of the frustration cannot be challenged, the aggression gets displaced onto an innocent target. This theory can also be used to explain riots and revolutions which are both caused by poorer and more deprived sections of society who may express their bottled up frustration and anger through violence (Uzoh, 2016).

Closely associated with the frustration-aggression theory is the relative deprivation

theory first proposed by Ted Robert Gurr (1970). The theory stresses that sometimes people perceive themselves to be deprived relative to others. It is the perception that creates the inter-group hostility, rather than the actual relative status of the two groups. This often happens when conditions improve more slowly for one group than for another. The theory argues that collective actions have their foundations among people who feel deprived of some goods and services. According to this approach, individuals and groups who lack some goods, services and comfort are more likely to organize collectively to improve or defend their conditions. Gurr's theory is that the potential for collective violence varies strongly with the intensity and scope of relative deprivation among members of a collectivity. Just as frustration produces aggressive behavior on the part of an individual, so does relative deprivation predict collective violence by social groups (Gurr, 1970 cited in Uzoh, 2016). This situation is evident and prevalent in Nigeria over the years.

Frustration-aggression and relative deprivation theories relates this research to poverty and insecurity nexus in the sense that limited resources that cannot go round to everyone tends to cause relative deprivation, especially to the poor masses who think that in order to survive and to make ends meet, engage in all forms of crime and criminalities e.g. banditry, kidnapping, robbery, prostitution, drug abuse, farmer-herder clashes etc. These crimes led to societal insecurity thereby dislodging people from their means of livelihood and ancestral homes thereby causing poverty in the society.

According to Draman (2003), there are a number of theoretical and empirical studies that have established the link between poverty and insecurity. These studies show that poverty, inequality, scarcity of resources and external economic forces all combine to have a destabilizing impact on political stability. These studies can be classified into psychological and economic arguments.

Methodology

In examining poverty-insecurity nexus as an albatross to national development in Nigeria, the paper adopts the qualitative content analysis

approach which relies mainly on relevant secondary sources of data/information. These sources among others are text books, journals articles, newspapers, magazines, conference papers, unpublished materials and the internet etc. These sources were consulted, reviewed and analyzed based on the objective of the paper. In other words, documented materials were sourced and analyzed to find out the nexus between poverty and insecurity and the implications for sustainable national development in Nigeria.

Evidences, Results and Discussions

Nigeria's Poverty Profile

Recognition of poverty and its damaging consequences on the socio-economic lives of Nigerians is not new. At independence in 1960, the then Federal Office of Statistics (FOS, 1996) had indicated that 15 per cent of Nigerians were poor. By 1980 poverty incidence had grown to

28 per cent of the population, and reached 46 per cent by 1985. Its marginal decline to 43 per cent in 1992 did not last, as the 1996 estimate revealed that 66 per cent of Nigerians were poor (World Bank, 2002). Contemporary record still shows no remarkable progress among Nigerians living in poverty today. The 2010 Nigerian poverty profile illustrated much of this information. Poverty incidence had increased from 65.6 per cent in 1996 to 69.0 per cent in 2010. A further classification of the population has examined the moderately and extremely poor shows that the extremely poor had increased from 29.3 per cent in 1996 to 38.6 per cent in 2010. Hidden from the data are the national income inequalities which worsen from 0.43 to 0.45 between 2004 and 2010, thus widening the gap between the rich and the poor; with rural and urban figure standing at 2.2 per cent and 4.2 per cent respectively (cited in Ukoh & Ukpong, 2017).

Table 1: Poverty Rates Per Capita from GHS Panel Data (% of Population)

	Poverty Head Count		Diff.	Poverty Gap		Poverty Severity		Poverty Headcount
	GHS 2012	GHS 2013		GHS 2010 - 2011	GHS 2012 - 2013	GHS 2010 - 2011	GHS 2012 - 2013	
National	35.2	33.1	-2.1	9.2	9.6	3.7	3.9	92.6
Rural	46.3	44.9	-1.4	12.9	13.1	5.2	5.3	69.1
Urban	15.8	12.6	-3.2	2.8	3.6	1.0	1.3	51.2
North Central	33.4	31.1	-2.3	8.9	8.9	4.0	3.5	65.8
North East	47.1	50.2	3.1	15.9	13.0	6.9	5.2	75.4
North West	46.9	45.9	-1.0	12.4	12.4	4.6	4.8	74.2
South East	31.7	28.8	-2.9	8.1	10.3	3.2	4.7	54.9
South South	27.7	24.4	-3.3	6.7	7.7	2.7	3.2	53.3
South West	21.2	16.0	-5.2	3.6	5.4	1.3	2.0	47.9

Source: World Bank (2014 culled from Ukoh & Ukpong, 2017).

The 2014 statistics provided by the World Bank has not shown any improvement in recent poverty measure and analysis. New barriers to poverty reduction are evolving to complement existing ones. The number of poor is conservatively put at 70 per cent, with the majority living in the rural areas, and with a population of about 189, 964,528 growing at 3 per cent, the number of poor is indeed large.

Poverty is found in all the 36 States of the federation as well as Abuja, the Federal Capital Territory. The World Bank (2014) report on the General Household Survey (GHS) and Harmonized Nigeria Living Standards Survey (HNLSS) provided an insight into the poverty level and living standard of Nigerians, the report suggests proliferation of poverty in both the Northern and Southern part of the country, but

while the incidence is less in the South, it tended to be severe in the North, especially in the North East and North West. The three Southern geo-political zones together with the North-Central region experienced declines in estimated poverty rates between 2010 and 2013, whereas poverty increased in the North- East and remained largely unchanged in the North West.

The contrast in absolute levels of poverty in the different region is also striking; with the South-West experiencing the lowest poverty rate (16%) in 2012-2013, while an estimated 50.2 per cent of the population lives below the poverty line in the North-East. The North-West (45.9%) and North-East (52%) account for the majority of poor Nigerians. When the North-Central is considered, it would appear that about 66 per cent of the poor reside in the Northern part of the country. In recent time militancy and cattle herders-farmer crises in the South and North-Central geo-political zone as well as Boko Haram insurgency in the North East, which have resulted in human displacement, may likely exacerbate the incidence of poverty in Nigeria (Ukoh & Ukpong, 2017).

In Table 1 below, a remarkable contrast between urban and rural areas in poverty estimates is shown. The urban area in Nigeria on aggregate experienced both a significantly lower poverty rate and measurable progress in poverty reduction, when compared to the rural area. In this context the results seem to suggest that urbanization and urban growth can be a primary driver of poverty reduction in Nigeria. If this is so, the report is also suggestive that the impact of poverty policy as shown in the reduction of poverty among urban dwellers is yet to trickle down to the rural dwellers. The concern, however, remains on food security. If poverty is so wide and severe in the rural area, it is suggestive that the agriculture which is the mainstay of rural economy is seriously affected. In all, a large number of Nigerians still cluster around the poverty line, which implies a high degree of vulnerability for a large part of the population (Ukoh & Ukpong, 2017).

Poverty and the Manifestations of Insecurity in Nigeria: A Trend Analysis

The presence of poverty is highly felt by all Nigerians directly or indirectly. In view of this, Onah (2012) wrote that no additional

instrument either electronically or otherwise is needed to identify the presence of poverty and its negative impact in Nigeria, due to its large, conspicuous and destructive impacts. This entails that there is high incidence of poverty in the nation. Firstly, there is acute hunger and food crisis in Nigeria. Food production in Nigeria is unstable, particularly on her basic foods such as cassava, yam, rice, maize tans etc. due to poor storage facility, losses in post-harvest food losses, poor processing, inadequate market system, poor incentive to farmers, poor budgetary allocation and implementation to the agricultural sector and mental poverty. In his view, the ever-increasing population of Nigeria has prompted her into importation of her basic foods, which in 1999 for instance amounted to 14.38% of her total imports. As such, there has been abrupt increase in food prices to a level that is difficult for the majority of Nigerians to afford. Secondly, there is lack of safe or portable water culminating to Nigerians suffering from lack of safe water for consumption (Yakubu & Aderunmu, 2014).

The general indicators or indices of poverty according to previous studies (Onah, 2012; Nkwede, 2014; Yakubu & Aderunmu, 2014) include: hunger and food crises, lack of or inadequate access to safe and portable water, poor health services, unemployment and underemployment, insecurity and political instability, prostitution and sexual promiscuity and income inequality.

In their views, Agboti (2005) and Igbuzor (2011) revealed that both the rural and urban towns witness shortage of portable water all over the nation as either the available water is polluted as the case in the Niger Delta region by the activities of Oil Company, who have as well refused to provide alternative water sources or there is none at all; people walk kilometers in search of safe water; and some come to the office with jerry cans, with the hope of fetching safe water back home. For Nkwede (2014), the absence of portable water is accountable for the regular epidemic such as guinea worm, cholera, typhoid fever, skin rashes etc., in Nigeria. Thirdly, poor health services speak volume of Poverty in Nigeria especially in the area of child-health care where there are an estimated 60 million children in Nigeria who have the least progress record in child welfare among the

international community's (Hodges, 2017).

According to Onah (2012), Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) and Under-5 Maternal Mortality Rate (U5MR) are the two measures of a state's position in terms of its child-survival rates and quality of childcare provision. He posited further that the IM measures the probability of a child dying before his or her fifth year. U5MR measures human progress calculation on nutritional status, maternal health and the availability of safe water and sanitation. In Nigeria, it is noted that IMR is about 54.740 deaths per 1000 live births (<https://www.macrotrends.net>, 2023), while the U5MR is about 178 per 1000 live births in Nigeria (Onah, 2012). The high rate of IMR and U5MR is attributable to the high rate of infant mortality diseases namely, malaria, diarrhea, Acute Respiration Infections (ARI), measles, polio, malnutrition etc., which are evidences of poverty in Nigeria (Orji, 2004 cited in Abah, Nwogbaga & Nwuzor, 2017).

More so, the incidence of poverty in Nigeria is evidenced in the high rate of unemployment and underemployment despite regular jingle, advertisements and window displays on the trend of poverty eradication and job creation in Nigeria. Hence, Onah (2012) citing Azazi (2011) confirms that the poor (unemployed and underemployed) lack income sufficient to cover their minimum standard of living. That is why many Nigerians lack income for survival. Furthermore, the rate of political instability and insecurity in Nigeria is on the increase (Olise and Emeh, 2019). The presence of poverty in every part of the country and its attendant effects on Nigerians is manifesting through the incessant crisis and violence in different parts of Nigeria, thereby causing political instability and insecurity in the country. Nigerians are poor and hungry and there is no possible means of survival. They resort to violent activities as the only option to fight for their survival. The poor always agitate for better condition of living, provision of basic need and resource control as a means of alleviating their poverty in the area (Ogunleye, 2006). Youth restiveness, arising from the struggle for resource control has severally put the country under tension (Abah, Nwogbaga & Nwuzor, 2017).

In the Northern region, the poor (Almajiri) have been an instrument of both political and

religious crises (Okonkwo, 2017). Finally, the rate at which young girls and women are involved in commercial sex in Nigeria is alarming and as a consequence of unemployment, Nigerian girls and women prefer joining the circle of commercial sex in Nigeria is alarming and as a consequence of unemployment, Nigerian girls and women prefer joining the circle of commercial sex workers locally and internationally than languishing in poverty (Ogunleye, 2006; Onah, 2012). The menace has the risk of exposing Nigerians to HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases. In summary, high unemployment rate, unaffordable basic education, inequality, insecurity, deprivations fundamental human rights and violence due to constant agitation resources control are practical incidence of poverty in Nigeria (Abah, Nwogbaga & Nwuzor, 2017).

Aiyedogbon and Ohwofasa (2012) noted that in the traditional Hausa/Fulani communities for instance, women are not given equal opportunities like their male counterparts when it comes to formal education. This deprivation is due to the ethics of their culture. More so, urban poverty is common and associated with the urban areas. Poverty exists due to the sheer absence of the required basic needs of life in the urban area. In this there could be shelter, portable water and good food, etc., but these are inadequate due to the level of demands (Igbuzor, 2011). Finally, endemic poverty is caused by low productivity and low income and poor nutrition health. The productivity and income of many individuals is low (Fasan, 2020). Since income is low, they lack sufficient resources to afford adequate food, health and shelter.

However, poverty in Nigeria is caused by numerous factors which Onah (2012) identified corruption as one of them. In his words, corruption has contributed immensely to poverty and misery of a large segment of the population. Corruptions exacerbate poverty and disproportionately affect those of lower income because it pulls resources from the national treasuries, placing the money into the account of few individuals, who are politically powerful. Secondly, civil, ethnic and religious wars and crises immensely contributed to poverty whereas poverty conversely causes crisis and

insecurity. During the Nigerian civil war for instance, innumerable lives and property were lost, which would have been used to develop the economy (Orji, 2004). In view of this, Ibrahim and Igbuzor (2002) articulated that conflicts have rendered millions of Nigerians homeless, frustrated and poor. He further mentioned instances such as the Urhobo-Itshiri crises, Igbakiri, Okika-Elleme, Kalagbari etc. crisis in the Niger Delta; the Jos, Kaduna, Tiv-Jukun crisis etc. in the North.

The devastating effect of Boko-Haram insurgency and armed banditry or farmer-herder clashes has significantly contributed to abject poverty in the North-East and nation in general to mention but a few. Thirdly, the influence of colonialism in impoverishing Nigerian state has been highlighted by all and sundry. The colonialists built and structured Nigeria economy to facilitate the exploitation of resources for British economic growth and development, thereby leaving Nigeria with poverty and dependency such that Nigerians are more comfortable with foreign made goods, thereby killing local industries (cited in Abah, Nwogbaga & Nwuzor, 2017).

Furthermore, Poor leadership has played no small role in engendering poverty. Ajodo-Adebanjo and Ugwuoke (2014) wrote that most civilian governments had at one time or the other been accused of misplacing priority due to political interest, expropriation of public funds for personal interest, etc. The civilian governments have been characterized by politics of ethnicity, nepotism, favouritism, brotherhood and god-fatherism in Nigerian. These activities discourage efficiency and hard work, but encourage laziness, idleness and several criminal activities, which in turn induces poverty. Indeed, poor leadership of the various civilian governments in Nigeria contributed to poverty in Nigeria. Interestingly, Onah (2012) argued that poverty itself is one of the causes of poverty in Nigeria. It may sound strange to say that poverty is responsible for the poverty in Nigeria. Realistically, the poor are unemployed, lack income, have no saving, lack investment, are deprived and lack power to fight for themselves, the true position is that since they are poor, they are unable to go into any capital investment that could yield income for them (Igbuzor, 2011; Yakubu & Aderunmu,

2012).

Poverty and Insecurity Challenges: Implications for National Development in Nigeria

While several factors could have contributed to insecurity and low level of national development in Nigeria today, there is no doubt that poverty is central in attempting to explain the problem. Conventional wisdom dictates that insecurity rises with poverty because; poverty impairs the people's ability to pay their bills and provide basic necessities for their house-holds and dependent relatives. Poverty constitutes a major threat to national security and development. This is because the poor people especially the youth could be manipulated to undermine national stability and cause violent disorder in the country at any point in time thereby making it difficult if not impossible for any meaningful development to take place. It is because of insecurity posed by poverty that advanced countries make social security payments to the unemployed to keep them off the streets until they get jobs. This has helped to make their nations safer (Kirby, 2011).

Though, successive and present governments have brought out some social safety nets and programmes as a core strategy to help end extreme poverty and to promote share prosperity. Programmes like NAPEP (National Poverty Eradication Programme), N-Power, Trader Moni Nigeria etc., but lacks of visionary implementation and corruption have been the bane of such programmes thereby defeating the sole aim of the programmes (Emejo, 2022).

Nigeria like many other underdeveloped countries has a large and growing population of poor and unemployed citizens, many of whom have few choices other than economic activities that endangered the environment thereby threatening the nation's national security. Within the last few years (especially 2012 to 2020) (Adeyeye, 2020), heightened social insecurity in Nigeria has arguably fueled the crime rate, leaving unpalatable consequences for the nation's economy and its growth. The socio-political and economic landscape in Nigeria has been blighted by the endemic twin evil of crime and violence. The abysmal failure of successive administration in Nigeria to address challenges of poverty, unemployment

and inadequate distribution of wealth among ethnic nationalities, ultimately resulted to anger, agitation and violent crimes against the Nigerian state by some individuals and groups. Such crimes as mentioned elsewhere include militancy, kidnapping, bombing, armed robbery, destruction of government properties, among others (Oladiran, 2014).

Insecurity as a result of criminal activities individually or corporately creates insecurity and breach of the peace that are likely to or indeed affect legitimate social and economic activities in the country (Akintokunbo, 2011). The problem of insecurity has the damaging consequence of giving the signal to the rest of the international community that Nigeria is not a safe and secure place and as such not suitable for economic investment and activities. Little wonder, investors particularly foreign, have in the last few years left the shores of Nigeria for other African countries with relative peace. A few remaining companies operate on skeletal bases. Workers, both local and expatriates have fled the violence inflicted areas. This development has multiplied the number of unemployed and poor youth roaming the streets and has become an easy tool for violence (Yambe, 2016)

Insecurity also leads to loss of human capital that would have been gainfully invested for national development. The rates of terrorist bombings, kidnapping, armed robbery attacks on banks as well as other violent crimes in recent times have led to a prevalent massive loss of the nation's human resources. This ugly trend poses a threat to the future of the nation's agricultural productivity level, private sector investment volume, petroleum sector growth rate, manpower and overall economic development. According to the Human Rights Watch about 2800 lives were lost to terror-related violence between 2009 and 2012 (Albinus, 2012). Within the first nine months of 2012, 815 people were killed in 275 suspected attacks by the Boko Haram group and this represents more than the total number of deaths recorded between 2010 and 2011 combined. In addition, 211 police officers were killed while over 60 police stations in at least 10 northern and central states were attacked by the terrorist group apart from the police headquarters that was bombed in Abuja (Adeyeye, 2020).

Yearly, unspecified millions of naira is being paid as ransom for the release of victims of kidnapping; not forgetting the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN)'s N100 million cash donation, the N200 million donations from combined effort of the opposition Governors, and the \$50,000 (US) donation from the Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN), America chapter to reduce the suffering of the victims of regional militia (cited in Yambe, 2016). Ordinarily, these are monies that are supposed to be channeled to human capital development now being deployed to the rehabilitation of families of the casualties and the renovation of properties destroyed. Since the inception of the Amnesty Programme by the Federal Government to quenching the Niger-Delta militia, billions of naira has been spent on it not in commensurate with the expected results, an indication of wastages occasioned by the menace of insurgency (Oladiran, 2014).

Furthermore, the effects of Poverty on national security and development can be explained in the fact that it tends to limit the capacity of the people to harness the resources that will improve their living conditions. Therefore, their economic activities have continued to dwindle. The impact is seriously felt in the agricultural sector as well as other sectors of the economy. Since farmers in Nigeria lack the appropriate technology, updated skills, modern technology, capacity building, innovative techniques, tools, lack of capital to invest in this sector (to improve the soils and multiply the yields), because of this poor state, the sector has seriously been affected. Considering the high level of population growth in Nigeria in relation to the shrinking food production and the economy, there is a serious threat to food production and security. The policies to guarantee food security and eliminate hunger in Nigeria have remained lip service without implementation and politicians preach it to masses to make political gains (Yambe, 2016).

Due to the poverty situation in Nigeria, the country has since 1966 witnessed successive political crises that culminated into a civil war in 1967, coup d'états, sit-tight military dictators, flawed elections etc. in attempt to cling on to power: believing that nectar is found only on the crown or around the crown. As noted by Yambe

(2016), most of the manpower has been trained to use arms, the little finances used to purchase arms and most of the time spent in fighting (civil war, curbing the activities of Niger-Delta Militants, kidnappers, Bandits and Boko Haram insurgents, etc.). By and large, if Nigeria remains in a perpetual state of poverty and insecurity, little or nothing can be expected in the quest for achieving national development.

Conclusion and Policy Recommendations

Poverty and insecurity are the most serious global problems which adversely affects development in most developing countries, including Nigeria. Abah, Nwogbaga and Nwuzor (2017) succinctly stressed that there is an unholy correlation between poverty and high level of insecurity in most African countries. The study thus reveals that the incidence of poverty in Nigeria has remained high in spite of growth and the existence of a number of poverty alleviation programmes. This situation has induced the youths into various forms of crimes and antisocial activities which have consequently heightened the level of insecurity in the country.

More so, the paper reveals that several efforts have been made over the years by the government, non-governmental organizations, and community-based organizations as well as other individuals towards reducing the incidence of poverty and insecurity in Nigeria. Unfortunately, those efforts have failed to curb the menaces and the implications are evidenced in the areas of poor socio-economic, political and overall national development of the country,

Nonetheless, the paper concludes that in order to achieve national development in Nigeria, the problems of poverty and insecurity must be effectively tackled via effective and sustainable measures or strategies such as employment generation, equitable distribution of national resources, good governance, fight against corruption, infrastructural provisions, institutional reforms and sectorial improvement / development as well as reduction of crime rate, criminality and terrorism, etc.

In the light of the foregoing, the following recommendations are made:

There is need for government and other stakeholders to intensify efforts towards the

reduction of poverty via the provision of infrastructures, such as schools, hospitals, roads, electricity, housing, agricultural facilities etc. as well as employment opportunities. This would indeed reduce the incidence of insecurity in Nigeria.

There is also the need for government and other stakeholders to develop appropriate security strategies such as recruitment and strengthening of security apparatuses / agencies as well as rural/community policing (civilian joint task force) promotion in order to reduce the incidences of the dynamisms of security threat in Nigeria. This effort will no doubt enhance the achievement of suitable national development in Nigeria.

Government should ensure timely collection and analysis of data such as survey of poverty and unemployment rates purposely to provide policy makers with an important tool for decision making on pro-poor policies. In the same vein, government should address the ever-increasing rate of socio-economic disparity which has a tendency to increase the number of poor people in the country.

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