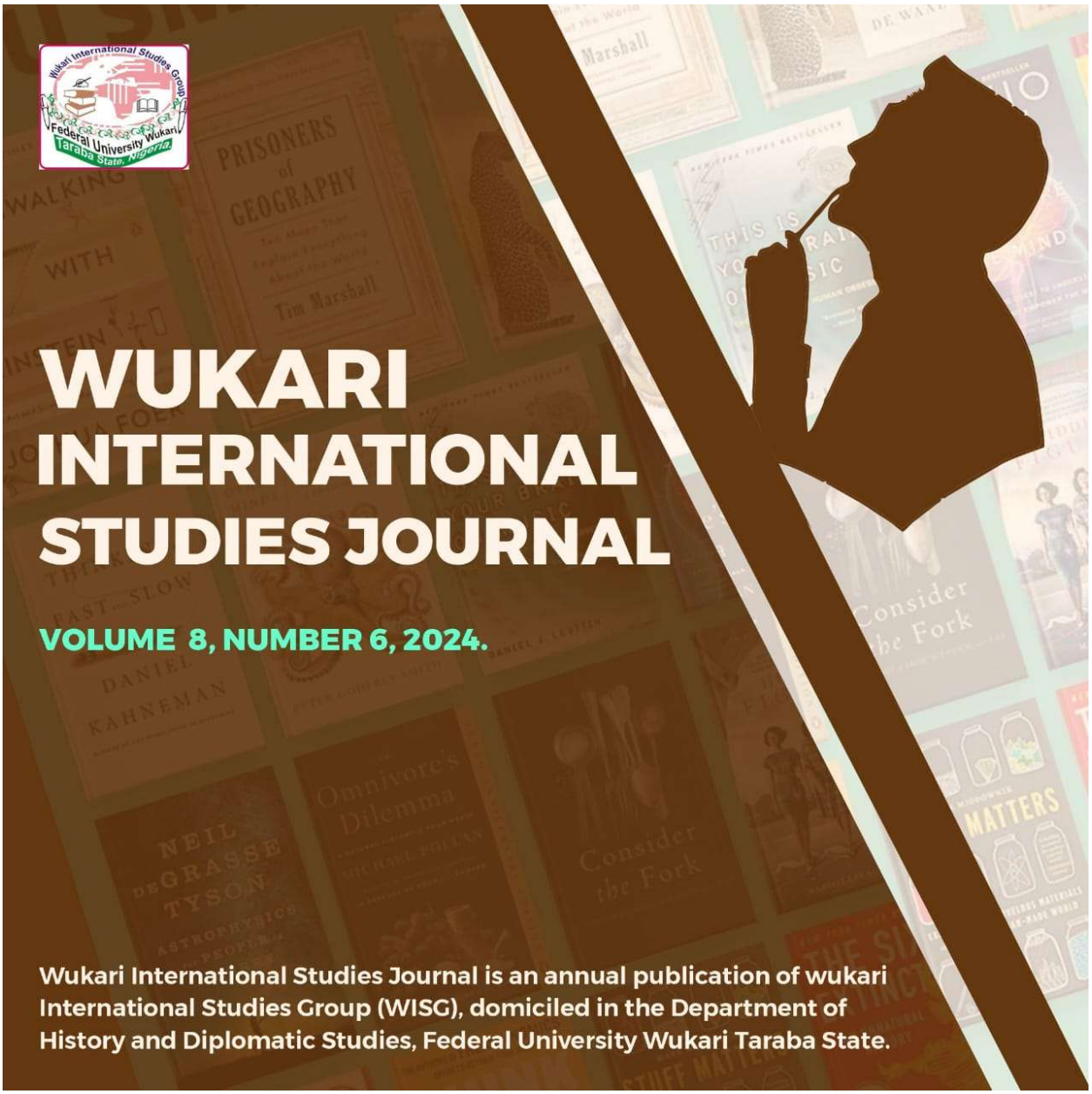
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TABLE OF CONTENT

INTERNATIONAL NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS AND HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE IN NORTH EAST NIGERIA: UNOCHA IN PERSPECTIVE (2016 - 2022)	1
THE POLITICS OF OIL EXPLORATION AND THE CHALLENGES OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN NIGERIA: THE ISSUE OF BAYELSA STATE	8
EFFECTS OF GLOBALISATION ON NIGERIAN CULTURAL HERITAGE, 2012-2022	17
INTEGRATION OF COLLABORATIVE LEARNING STRATEGIES INTO VOCATIONAL EDUCATION IN FEDERAL COLLEGE OF EDUCATION (TECHNICAL) GUSAU, NIGERIA	33
THE IMPACT OF INSECURITY ON THE HOSPITALITY INDUSTRY IN GUSAU METROPOLIS: A CASE STUDY OF HOTELS	43
GENDER INEQUALITY AND WOMEN REPRESENTATION IN EXECUTIVE AND LEGISLATIVE SEATS IN NIGERIA'S FOURTH REPUBLIC: A STUDY OF LAGOS STATE (2012-2023)	52
HISTORICISING PARTY INTERNAL DEMOCRACY AND THE CHALLENGE OF DEMOCRATIC CONSOLIDATION IN NIGERIA'S FOURTH REPUBLIC, 1999-2023	65
FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE GIRL CHILD IN AKPABUYO LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA OF CROSS RIVER STATE, NIGERIA	75
ADAPTING TO A CHANGING WORLD: STRATEGIES FOR MITIGATING THE GLOBAL CONSEQUENCES OF CLIMATE CHANGE	92
FACTORS MILITATING AGAINST THE STUDENT'S PARTICIPATION IN SPORTS, LEISURE AND RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES IN UNIVERSITY OF BENIN	100
THE NIGERIA MILITARY AND THE FIGHT AGAINST ISLAMIC STATE`S WEST AFRICA PROVINCE (ISWAP), 2016-2022	106
NIGERIAN AIRFORCE STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT AND CAPACITY IN THE FOURTH REPUBLIC, 2019-2023	117
APPRAISAL OF IMPACT AND UTILIZATION OF WOMAN EMPOWERMENT PROGRAMMES ON POVERTY ALLEVIATION IN THE CENTRAL SENATORIAL DISTRICT OF CROSS RIVER STATE, NIGERIA	127
GENDER DISCRIMINATION AND WOMEN EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES IN CALABAR, CROSS RIVER STATE	144
MIGRATION IN WEST AFRICA: AN ANALYSIS OF PULL AND PUSH FACTORS	160
INTERNALLY GENERATED REVENUE (IGR) AND CORRUPTION IN NIGERIA: A FOCUS ON TAXES AND RATES	168

GLOBALIZATION, SECURITY AND GOVERNANCE CHALLENGES IN NIGERIA 178

PUBLIC INFRASRUCTURE PROJECT FAILURES IN NIGERIA: CAUSES AND CONSEQUENTIAL EFFECTS ON ECONOMY AND WELFARE OF CITIZENRY 191

DOES HEALTH EXPENDITURE IMPACTS ON ECONOMIC GROWTH IN NIGERIA? 207

HUMAN RESOURCE ACCOUNTING AND FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE OF QUOTED DEPOSIT MONEY BANKS 220

WORKING CAPITAL MANAGEMENT AND THE FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE OF CONSUMER GOODS MANUFACTURING COMPANIES IN NIGERIA 226

MISSIONARY STRATEGIES AND INDIGENOUS RESPONSE: THE INTRODUCTION OF CHRISTIANITY TO THE BISENI CLAN 234

AN APPRAISAL OF NAIRA REDESIGN MONETARY POLICY: IMPLICATIONS ON THE 2023 GENERAL ELECTION IN NIGERIA 244

DESERTIFICATION IN NORTHERN NIGERIA: A STUDY ON THE EFFECT OF DESERTIFICATION ON YOBE STATE 254

INTERNATIONAL NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS AND HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE IN NORTH EAST NIGERIA: UNOCHA IN PERSPECTIVE (2016 - 2022)

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KEYWORDS
Boko Haram, Humanitarian Response, International Non-governmental Organizations

ABSTRACT
The Boko Haram insurgency in North-East(NE) Nigeria continues into its 12th year. The conflict and insecurity have displaced millions of people, devastated agricultural production and other livelihoods, cut off essential services, and caused a crisis of protection. Since 2016, humanitarian organizations have been working in support of the Government of Nigeria to robustly scale up the life-saving support response to population in crisis. International non-governmental organizations (INGOs) are increasingly playing vital role in humanitarian response around the world. This perspective emphasizes that enhanced efforts to address the root cause of conflicts are a priority to addressing humanitarian crises through coordinating activities of state and non-state actors. This study, therefore, assess the role of Office of the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) in humanitarian response across the North-east Nigeria from 2016 to 2022. The study relied on secondary source of data obtained from OCHA websites. The study adopts the human needs theory as its framework. This theory believes that conflict is a tragic expression of unmet human needs which implies that all actions undertaken by human beings are attempts to satisfy their needs and means of livelihood. The findings of the study highlight the key role of OCHA in humanitarian information management, coordination, advocacy, policy and financing has contributed tremendously to the life-saving programming effort to help the people affected by the Boko Haram conflict in NE Nigeria to recover and regain their dignity. The paper recommends that the humanitarian actors in NE Nigeria should establish robust information database for excellent impact assessment, evidence-based policy and better value for money programming.

Introduction

The humanitarian crisis in North-East Nigeria is one of the most serious in the world today. The conflict has generated a largescale humanitarian and protection crisis that shows no sign of abating in 2018, it was roughly computed that there is about 10.2 million people in need of humanitarian assistance across six affected states in Nigeria, which are: Adamawa, Borno, Bauchi, Yobe, Taraba, and Gombe. Out of this number, 52% are women and girls, while 48% are men and boys. Children constitute 63% of those in need of humanitarian support. Over 2 million people have been forced to flee their homes due to persistent violence and remain internally displaced. There are nearly 1.5 million returnees who lack essential services and livelihoods, and 4.8 million people in host communities or communities that have otherwise been affected by the conflict. Estimates for people residing in extremely hard-to-reach areas (with little or no access to people in need) range from 1 to 2.1 million (United Nation Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, 2022; UNOCHA, 2023). The role of the state as the principal actor in crisis response is widely recognised all over the world. This was also made clear by Resolution 46/182 of the UN General Assembly of 1991, that provided the newly established OCHA a pivotal role in international humanitarian affairs coordination (Adekola & Bamiloye, 2022).

There is increased recognition of the vital role of international non-governmental organizations (INGOs) in humanitarian settings. This perspective emphasizes that enhanced efforts to address the root cause of conflicts are a priority to addressing humanitarian crises through coordinating activities of state and non-state actors. Since the declaration of state of emergency in Borno, Yobe and Adamawa (BAY) states in May 2013 by the Federal Government of Nigeria, people affected by the insurgency have been receiving different kinds of life-saving support aid in form of humanitarian assistance from donor agencies through United Nation (UN) agencies, Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) both National and International as well as multinational companies and individual philanthropists(Ada & Abdullahi, 2022; Adekola & Bamiloye, 2022).It was against this background that development partners like the United Nations, United State Agency for International Development (USAID), local NGOs and other International Non-

Governmental Organizations began to show commitment in helping the Nigerian government

in addressing the challenges of insecurity in the North-eastern region of the country (Momoh, 2018).

There are several academic research studies conducted to examine the role of state and non-state actorsin delivery of humanitarian aids to affected population around the world. However, only few studies have paidattention to role of international non-governmental organizations in humanitarian response inNorth-east Nigeria. To bridge this gap, this study sets to examine the contributions of

OCHA to humanitarian assistance in North-East Nigeria.

Conceptual Clarification

Humanitarian response is defined as the impartial, independent, and neutral provision of relief to those in immediate danger of harm. It is also considered as efforts to save lives, alleviate suffering and maintain human dignity for the benefit of people in crisis who are at risk of becoming affected by armed conflicts, natural disasters or epidemic. There are four basic principles that govern humanitarian response which are: humanity, neutrality, impartiality and independence (UNOCHA, 2023).

Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) are viewed as non-profit and task-oriented voluntary groups that are organized on a local, national, and international level to achieve a common selfless interest. NGOs focus their attention on providing selfless services to the society, creating developmental initiatives, and providing humanitarian assistance to the needy, poor, and oppressed members of a given society. They function independently of the government to provide

development projects that contribute to the areas of education, training, healthcare services,

shelter, and cooperative project (Mohammed, 2023).

Theoretical Framework

This research paper adopts the Human Needs Theory (HNT) as proposed by scholars which include Abraham Maslow, John Burton, Marshall Rosenberg, and Manfred Max-Neef. But, for this paper emphasis will be given to John Burton's perspective of the Human Needs Theory. Human Needs Theory believes that humans need certain essentials to live and attain well-being. Human needs theorists argue that conflicts are caused by unmet human needs. Violence is a tragic expression of unmet human needs, implying that all actions undertaken by human beings are attempts to satisfy their needs.

Indeed, this theory justifies the conflict in NE Nigeria by Boko Haram and the humanitarian crisis is a product of unmet needs. This theory insists that violence is a tragic expression of unmet human needs, implying that all actions undertaken by human beings are attempts to satisfy their needs. Using this paradigm to explain the humanitarian crisis and the conflict in the NE Nigeria caused by Boko Haram insurgency.

Empirical Review

A research study by (Ada & Abdullahi, 2022) assessed the impact of humanitarian aids on development of Borno after the conflict with a view of identifying the opportunities in humanitarian aid that can foster development of the state. The study adopted a combination of disaster relief, missionary and Oxfam model of humanitarian and development assistance and uses the mixed method of research. The data collected for this study were drawn largely from primary source and secondary data which were analysed using quantitative analysis tool and qualitative content descriptive analysis. The study established that the impact of the protracted insurgency on the development of the state manifest across both human capital and infrastructural indicators. The study reveals that humanitarian aid being provided cut across all the developmental indices and is highly connected to the development. Hence, should consider as a foundation for post conflict development. Therefore, it was recommended that government should take the lead in coordination of humanitarian aid in line with its development agenda.

Research paper by (Adekola & Bamiloye, 2022) his paper seeks to investigate the challenges beyond collaboration and coordination between humanitarian actors in the INGOs' quest in managing the humanitarian crisis in North-East Nigeria. Keywords seeks to investigate the challenges beyond collaboration and coordination between humanitarian actors in the INGOs' quest in managing the humanitarian crisis in North-East Nigeria.

Another academic work by (Mohammed, 2023) assessed the restorative effort of Borno state Government and Non-governmental organizations in development of selected local government area. The results show that the extent to which healthcare facilities are provided in restoring development to the Internally Displaced People (IDPs) in selected local government is satisfactory, the extent to which educational facilities are provided is fairly satisfied whereas the provision of shelter for restoration of development in selected a Local Government was satisfactory. Therefore, the study concludes that the restorative efforts of Borno State Government and NGOs in the development of selected Local Government through the provision of healthcare facilities, educational facilities, and shelter is fairly satisfied. The study recommends that there should be an assessment and supervisory team to be established with full autonomy of operation that comprises Government representatives in collaborations with NGOs, community leaders and target beneficiaries' representatives to verify the list of beneficiaries and publicly display, the provided items for distribution to ensure transparency in an effort to restore development in Bama local government.

Research by authors in (Oluwafunke Adeola Adeleye & Oluwaseun Samuel Osadola, 2022) examined the interventions of United Nations in the management of internally displaced persons in Nigeria. It made use ofboth primary and secondary sources of data. The research found out that the United Nations, through its specialised agencies has been playing significant roles in all facets of protection, relief and development of internally displaced persons in Nigeria. The United Nations interventions were observed in the provision of basic healthcare, education, shelter, security, food and non-food items, orientation, durable solution and psychosocial support. The research concludes that, international aid, especially from the United Nations has been strategic to the

management of the humanitarian crisis in Nigeria. But despite the volume of the interventions, the high population of the IDPs continue to overshadow it.

In a research thesis by (Simon, 2021) that focused on the humanitarian response to women and children in IDP camps in North-Eastern Nigeria. In the thesis, the authors intended to explore the unique roles of different actors in curbing the challenges of women and children in IDP camps and analyzed why the needs of the women and children are not fully met. Furthermore, they examined the role of the stakeholders who contribute to the development and functioning of available IDP camps. These include the Nigerian government, the executors of the projects designed to provide aid to the women and children in the camps, the international community, NGOs, and grass root organizations. The study analysed the stakeholders' different perspectives on the limitations of addressing the issues of women and children in IDP camps.

Authors in (Kehinde Okunade & Ogunnubi, 2021) investigated the various efforts of local and international actors towards addressing the humanitarian crisis within the region and the impact of these actions on women and children. Accordingly, the qualitative research model was adopted using a phenomenological case study approach. The findings from the study reveal the neglect of the inhabitants of border communities and the poor state of IDPs in the various camps as a direct result of the uncoordinated stakeholders' responses and the Nigerian government's inability to fulfil its role as the main actor responsible for providing relief support and coordinating the needed humanitarian solutions to the crisis. To address this problem, the paper identified corruption as a major bane which needs to be tackled so that the government agencies responsible for coordinating humanitarian responses can effectively carry out their function. Secondly, the UN agencies and NGOs stakeholders have a responsibility of putting away their differences and evolving a common approach for sustainable response and solutions.

Reseachers in (Onyemaechi et al., 2020) examined the major challenges which have militated against effective management of IDPs by National Emergency Management Agencies (NEMA). The theoretical framework adopted in the article is Structural Functional theory. The survey (personal interview) and documentary methods of data collection were adopted in the study. Data were analysed using content analysis method. The study found that poor record keeping by NEMA on the progressive increase in the number of displaced persons in Northeast Nigeria accounted for acute accommodation deficits in the IDP camps in the area. The study also found that lack of proper coordination of the delivery and distribution of relief materials from different aid agencies by NEMA accounted for food scarcity and poor health conditions in IDP camps in northeast Nigeria. To this end, the study recommends that the Nigeria government through NEMA should enhance its data tracking mechanisms for IDPs in the Northeast Nigeria to ensure the availability of dependable statistics of IDPs in camps and host communities. NEMA and other aid agencies should also effectively profile all IDPs, and conduct needs assessment for them before procurement and distribution of relief materials. The government should enforce existing legal framework and policy of oversight to ensure effective coordination of all interventions that would make for equity in distribution of relief materials.

Authors in (Sambo & Sule, 2020) examined the role of international humanitarian aid in alleviating the human suffering in North-eastern Nigeria and the level of successes and challenges encountered in the process. The study used both the primary and secondary sources of data for the research. The primary data was the use of an in-depth interview where selected informants from the stakeholders in the area of study were identified and consulted for the interview. The secondary sources consist of books, journal articles, newspapers and internet sources. The data obtained were discussed, analysed and interpreted using content analysis in which themes were identified and discussed. The research discovered that humanitarian aid from international donors succeeded in averting many disasters in Northeastern states of Adamawa, Borno and Yobe despite the fact that there is still a large number that is in critical need of assistance but not accessible due to the security situation. The research recommends among others that all stakeholders must cooperate in harmonising the common cause for effective delivery of aid services to the affected victims.

Researcher in (Momoh, 2018) assessed the impact of lack of harmonization of humanitarian assistance by development partners on the reconstruction of North-Eastern Nigeria. This study is situated within the mixed method of research, drawing from both qualitative and

quantitative design supplemented by historical and descriptive analysis. The data for this study were drawn largely from secondary sources including books, journals, official publications, newspapers, magazines and other internet sources. The data were analysed using qualitative content analysis together with quantities tools such as tables, graphs and percentage analysis. This study is situated within the context of the Oxfam model of development assistance. We discovered that lack of harmonization of humanitarian assistance by development partners has led to fragmentation of development partners' support which in turn affect it success. Moreover, we suggest that a joint donor basket like the Joint Donor Basket (JDB) of the Democratic Governance for Development (DGD) Project should be established so as to allow for proper coordination of development partners support and enhance it effective implementation in order to achieve it desired impact.

Authors in (Chidume et al., 2018) examined the role of NEMA and UNICEF in supporting the victims of Boko Haram insurgency in Borno State, particularly in providing them with food items, non-food items and in the education sector. The methodology adopted in this paper is qualitative method which uses primary and secondary sources, which are critically analyzed. However, this paper reveals information regarding Boko Haram attacks on some communities in Borno State, when they received intervention from the humanitarian agencies under discussion and the nature of interventions within the period under review.

Location of the Study

The North-East geo-political zone in Nigeria consists of six states: Bauchi, Adamawa, Gombe, Borno, Yobe, and Taraba. In 2011, the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) projected the North-East zone population to be 23,558,674, which is 13.5% of Nigeria's total population which is 173,905,439. The major tribes in the zone are Hausa and Fulani and they are largely Muslim. The region covers 280,419 km^2 which is close to a third of the total land area of Nigeria that is 909, 890km^2. The Northeast shares international boundaries with three states: to the North – Niger Republic, to the Northeast- Republic of Chad, and to the East – Republic of Cameroon (Adekola & Bamiloye, 2022)

UNOCHA and Humanitarian Response in NE Nigeria

Coordination

OCHA coordinated humanitarian response to expand the reach of humanitarian action, improve prioritization and reduce duplication, ensuring that assistance and protection reach the people who need it most. Through critical situational and gender-responsive analysis, OCHA provided a comprehensive picture of overall needs and helped a diverse set of actors achieve a common understanding of the humanitarian context and a collective plan for the response. By doing so, OCHA influenced timely decision-making to support more effective humanitarian response and emergency preparedness. OCHA's key role in other functional areas, such as humanitarian financing, helped to enhance its coordination role. Humanitarian coordination seeks to improve the effectiveness of humanitarian response by ensuring greater predictability, accountability and partnership.

Advocacy

OCHA's public and private advocacy raised awareness of forgotten crises, promoted respect for international humanitarian law (IHL), brought the voices of crisis-affected people to the forefront, and helped people obtain access to humanitarian assistance.

OCHA did promote the principles of humanity, neutrality, independence and impartiality, and respect for international law. OCHA also did support field-based public advocacy, working with country teams to leverage and amplify their content so that it reaches broader audiences and inspires action. As OCHA is judged on its response to crises, its promotion of and adherence to the principles of neutrality and impartiality, and the value of impact of the public funds it manages.

Policy

through leadership in developing humanitarian policy, OCHA helped set the agenda for humanitarian sector reform and effectiveness in response to a shifting global landscape, new global frameworks, and increased capacities of national Governments

and local actors. OCHA also did promote and advance the normative framework for international humanitarian action while developing, strengthening and advancing this framework. Policy development aims to support effective and principled humanitarian action, saving lives and reducing suffering,

OCHA set an evidence-based and forward-looking humanitarian policy agenda to identify emerging trends and develop common or harmonized policy and advocacy positions among relief organizations. This is based on humanitarian principles, human rights and public international law. OCHA provided policy guidance and clarity on pressing issues to humanitarian practitioners and policymakers, to help strengthen effective and timely response OCHA identifies best practices and lessons learned through the evaluation of

humanitarian action to enhance effectiveness and the accountability of those involved.

Humanitarian Financing

OCHA did mobilize and engage the full range of financing instruments, mechanisms and partners to ensure that growing humanitarian needs are met, humanitarian leadership and coordination mechanisms are promoted at the country level, and the large array of global humanitarian financing mechanisms are complementary among themselves and coherent with development funding.

OCHA worked with humanitarian partners in NE Nigeria to identify the most critical humanitarian needs, plan responses and determine the budgets needed to address them. OCHA helped partners to build common strategies and implementation plans and to appeal for funds as a group. This ensures that resource mobilization and financing are handled collectively and are based on a thorough needs evaluation, making aid more effective, efficient and predictable.

Information Management

OCHA provided information management services to the humanitarian community to inform a rapid, effective, and principled response. It gathered, shared, and used data and information, underpinning coordination, decision-making, and advocacy. OCHA's information products include maps, graphics, situation reports, humanitarian bulletins and websites. OCHA is also the steward of several humanitarian tools and services that help our partners make better-informed decisions and ensure a more predictable approach to preparedness, early recovery and response. These include Relief Web—an award-winning website providing 24-hour coverage of disasters, conflicts and crises for the international aid community, as well as a humanitarianresponse.info an operational platform as well as a resource repository for humanitarians, and data sharing platform.

Conclusion

This study examined the role of OCHA in humanitarian response programming across NE Nigeria. In more than 13 years of conflict, people affected in north-east Nigeria have experienced violence, repeated displacement, loss of and/or separation from family members, destruction of property and livelihood assets and a deterioration in living conditions. As a result, non-profit, charitable organizations fan out to deliver humanitarian aid to the victims of insurgency via delivery of relief aid, building capacity, reducing poverty and ensuring that the voices of the most marginalized are heard. Indeed, this had tremendously succeeded in providing massive livelihood supports to the IDPs in the first phase of transitioning from heightened conflict to low intensity conflict or the so-called post-crisis early recovery and stabilization era. There is a long history of international efforts to help the victims of armed conflict and disasters areas. Also, there is increased recognition of the vital role of international non-governmental organizations (INGOs) in humanitarian settings.

From the analysis and summary of the findings of this study and, in line with the stated objective, it was concluded that in the first place, OCHA has contributed tremendously to the effort of humanitarian response in NE Nigeria by coordinating the activities of all humanitarian actors in the region to provide lifesaving interventions to people in crisis. The OCHA should provide robust response database of actors in the humanitarian sector in order to support evidence-based research and impact evaluations for better aid delivery and sustainable programming.

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THE POLITICS OF OIL EXPLORATION AND THE CHALLENGES OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN NIGERIA: THE ISSUE OF BAYELSA STATE

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KEYWORDS
Oil Exploration, Exploitation, Environment, Sustainable Development, Multinationals, Poverty

ABSTRACT
This paper focuses on politics of oil exploration with regards to the challenges of sustainable development in Nigeria, the Bayelsa State Experience. Oil exploration and production in Nigeria, Bayelsa State by the Petroleum sector has greatly improved the nation's economy over the years. Nigeria joined oil producing nations on 3rd august 1956 when oil was first discovered in commercial quantities in the Oloibiri of Bayelsa State and today Nigeria ranked as the leading oil and gas producer in Africa and the 6th largest exporter in the world. The area is generally referred to one of the most important wetland and marine system in the world. But the activities of oil exploration and exploitation have affected the area and the people are facing poverty. The research employed qualitative approach and made use of secondary sources of data collection. The data collected was analysed descriptively. Major findings showed that oil exploration by the oil sectors have problems of implementing sustainable development policies, it is also revealed that the existing statutory laws and regulations for environmental protection appears to be grossly inadequate. The study recommended that sustainable development strategies should be revisited and implemented in the area, Nigeria local Content Development and Monitoring Act of 2010 should adhere to its rules.

Introduction

The activities of oil exploration commenced in the Niger Delta region of Nigeria early 1900s by a Germany entity called "Nigerian Bitumen Corporation and British colonial petroleum and they left at the beginning of the World War 1, thereafter; license was issued to D'Arcy Exploration company which began operation in 1938 within Nigeria. Oil exploration and production in Nigeria by the oil and gas sector had played a very dominant role in the nation's economy and in relation to foreign aids to African countries over the years. The discovery of the first commercial production of oil by shell British petroleum (now Royal Dutch shell) in January 1956 at Oloibiri of Bayelsa State in

Nigeria, then production began in 1958 and this brought signaled to the true beginning of a profound transformation of Nigeria political and economic landscape and since 1970s,oil has actually accounted for over 80% of the Nigerian government revenue and 95% percent of the country export earnings, this had resulted also to the decline of the agricultural sector in the country's economy. The end of the Biafran war coincided with the rise in the world oil price, and Nigeria was able to reap instance riches from its oil production.

Nigeria joined the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) in 1971, the Nigerian National Petroleum Company (NNPC) was established in 1977 which oversees the upstream and downstream sectors. However, Nigeria ranked the leading oil and gas producer in Africa and 6th largest exporter in the world. The area where oil exploration and production is taking place consists of varieties of ecosystems of mangrove swamps, fresh water swamps, rain forest. The area is generally refers to one of the most important wetland and marine system in the world, but due to the activities of oil exploration and exploitation the area had been affected of sustainable development and the people in the area have been suffering from extreme poverty as a result of the destruction of their environment of which they depend for survival.

Bayelsa State which this paper is centered on was created on 1st October, 1996. The state is situated in the southern parts of Nigeria and the state capital is Yenagoa. The state population is 1.998,349. Bayelsa State has one of the longest coastlines and it is among the largest and gas oil producing states in Nigeria which the environment has been destroyed by oil companies, militants, oil thieves.

The ecosystem in Bayelsa State has been greatly damaged of six decades of oil exploration and production and despite the immense contribution to the growth and development of the country; the people in the areas are facing environmental devastation and suffering from sustainable development. That is, the Bayelsa State environment is not developed and a number of issues in the coastal and riverbank erosion, flooding, oil spillage, gas flaring, noise pollution, land degradation, soil fertility loss, and deforestations continuously occur through oil exploration activities.

As a result of these suffering in the area ,restive youth attacked pipelines on a daily basis and get crude oil which they sold for survival. According to Reuters (2016), Western allies and local officials have told the current president of Nigeria to address poverty and oil pollution in the area of Niger Delta to stop unrest .Osinbajo (2016), while addressing the issue of neglect of the region stated:

> "we are determined to put right the wrongs of the pasts,
> where the people of this land were treated unfairly and
> the environment unduly polluted and degraded".(p.8).

Theoretical Perspective

The study adopted the Marxist political economy approach to examine the oil exploration activities and the challenges of sustainable development. This approach scientifically studies the society in its totality and takes into consideration of social relation, class conflict and the organic relationship between the sub-structure (economy) and the super structure (politics). Marxist approach posits that the economic structure of the society and the base is responsible for creating and transforming its social economic, political, legal, religion and moral structures which represent the super structure.

Marx and Engels (1848, p. 56) observed that political power is merely the organized power of one class for oppressing another. Ake (1981, p. 3) asserts that the theory is a method which gives primacy to material conditions, particularly economic factors, in the explanation of social life. He further explains that economic need is man's most fundamental need, and unless man is able to meet this need, he cannot exist in the first place. He argued that man must eat before he can do anything else such as worship, pursue culture or become an economist. He contends that it is by man's productivity that he is able to obtain the economic means which he needs to sustain life.

In his words Ake stipulated:

> *"Once we understand what the material assets and constraints of a society are, how the society produces goods to meet its material needs, how the goods are distributed and what type of social relations arise from the*

> *organisation of production, we have come a long way to understanding the culture of that society, its laws, its religious system, its political system and even its mode of thought". (p.65).*

Iwarimie (1991, p. 50) the Marxist political economy approach showed that the holistic, historical orientation which is used for the analysis of social formations and their contradicting relationships, mainly focuses on the economic laws which governed the production and distribution of material benefits among individuals and groups at different stages of development of societies .In essence, the political economy approach unravel the oil production and lack of development paradigm in Nigeria, which is attributed to the obnoxious laws that govern the oil industry and despite the existence of Nigeria Local Content Development and Monitoring Act of 2010, the marginalization, neglect of the oil producing states still exist. Thus, the class analysis framework of the approach best explains the endemic class struggle between the exploiters (federal government, oil multinationals) and the exploited regions of Nigeria through environmental pollution. Importantly, this theory helps to explain the objective condition of the oil producing region in relation with the Nigerian state and global oil corporations.

The theory exposes the role of the government, oil and gas sectors of sharing produce or natural stock of wealth without contributing to it. More so, despite the level of contribution to the national wealth of Nigeria through oil exploration and production in the oil region, it clearly shows that the peoples environment which they depend on farming, fishing for livelihood are destroyed which causes major conflict between the government, oil companies and the host communities. Therefore, the theory will help to correct and improve on the exploitative tendency of the multinationals towards the area. More also, it will have revealed the importance of the Local Content Act in tackling the overall activities and programmes of the oil companies in doing the needful within the host communities.

Conceptual Review

Oil Exploration:

According to the Canada Justice Laws Website (2016:1), oil exploration includes surveying, mapping, test drilling and geological, geophysical and geochemical examinations carried out in pursuit of oil or gas. For Pokopo (2011), oil exploration is the process through which oil is drilled and processed. This also involves the process by which usable petroleum is extracted and removed from the earth, exploration of oil has resulted in environmental degradation and lack of good soil. Anikpe (1996) exploitation which is both on land and offshore has strong implications not only harmful to the ecosystem but also the health of the people who rely on untreated water for domestic use in these areas.

Zabbey (2004) oil exploration by seismic companies involves surveying, clearing of seismic lines and massive dynamiting for geological excavations. The explosion of dynamite in aquatic environments leads to narcotic effects and mortality of fish and other faunal organisms. George (as cited in Akuodu, 2011, p. 18) recognizes the methods of oil exploration, namely; Analysis of existing geological and other information: seismic surveys; and exploration drilling: He mentioned that of particular destructive impact of the earth's make up is the use of seismic survey. This method involves the gathering of information through sound waves into the earth's crust to measure the depth of the rock layers and the use of dynamites and other explosives. The explosives are either discharge in the bowels of the earth through water bodies or dry land. In addition to its direct impact on the aquatic stocks in the area, the after effects or shocks are known to sometimes cover as much a radius of 10 kilometers (Bassey, 2001). The implication of this is that, the more oil is explored in the region using this method, the more the regions natural environment witness shocks and rifts in its crust.

Sustainable Development

According to Brundtland (2015), sustainable development is defined as development that satisfies the necessities of the current without

compromising the ability of future generations to satisfy theirs. In other words, it is the rational management of human, natural and economic resources that aims to satisfy the essential needs of humanity in the very long term. The United Nations Conference on the Human Environment in Stockholm in 1972 gave birth to the first true notion of sustainable development, which was called 'eco development' in those days. The founding conference was held in an atmosphere of conflict between the ecology and the economy. For Skye (2015), sustainable development is an approach to development that takes the definite resources of the earth into consideration. This can mean a lot of different things to different people, but it must commonly refer to the use of renewable energy resources and sustainable mineral use along with many other things. The idea is to create a system that "sustainable" meaning one that can keep going indefinitely into the future. Anup (2014) posited that sustainable development is often an over-used word, but goes to the heart of tackling a number of inter-related global issues such as poverty, inequality, hunger and environmental degradation. The concept of sustainable development means the satisfaction of human needs and aspirations in the major objectives of development. The essential needs of vast numbers of people in developing countries for food, clothing, shelter, jobs are not being met, and beyond their basic needs. These people have legitimate aspirations for an improved quality of life. Sustainable development in essence requires meeting the basic needs of all and extending to all the opportunity to satisfy their aspirations for a better life.

The Disastrous Effects of Oil Exploration and the Problem of Sustainable Development in Bayelsa State

According to Oku (2012) the exploitation of the environment has immensely disrupted the fragile and dynamic equilibrium of the natural environmental complex of Bayelsa State of the Niger Delta respectively. He supported his view that the metastable parameters of the ecoweb are altered several damages were done to the Bayelsa atmosphere, edaphic and floral diversities of the landscape.Mr. Napoleon Ofuruma, a former chairman of Ogbia Local Government Area who spoke on behalf of committees of the nation's first oil well, lamented that oil exploration in the area has brought environmental devastation and suffering to the people, with the drying up of the oil in the area, Ofuruma noted that the people have not been able to return to farming and fishing because the land and creeks are now polluted.

Alowei (2000) stated that, the economic tragedies of these local oil bearing communities in Bayelsa State of Niger Delta are heightened by the non-diversification of the rural economy which was predominated by oil, subsistence farming been destroyed by oil exploitation then the local people are also excluded from the oil business or the benefits of the oil business such as contracts awareness, employment, inadequate or no compensation .Okaba (2005) equally stipulated some social resultant effects of the oil evils to include the emergency of war lords and myriad of armed youth groups, pirates and cult fraternity encouraged by the divide and rules tactics of the oil companies and sustained by the need to gain local control and privilege from the oil companies.

Gidado (as cited in Akuodu, 2011. p.78),stated that multinational oil companies while carrying out the oil exploitation activities undermined development and real economic growth and cause socio-cultural disarticulation. The MNOCs have exploited the cheap labour, unequal agreements on resources and cheap raw materials to realize huge profits from developing countries. The National Oil Spill Detection and Response Agency, NOSDPA (2014) has revealed that Bayelsa State, records about 40 spill cases in a month. The Director General, Dr. Peter Idabor, who disclosed this also said that findings indicate that the rate of oil spill in Bayelsa State is more devastating than that of the widely reported Ogoni land in Rivers state. Though Bayelsa is one of the most endowed states in the federation, it nonetheless faces one of the most environmental despoliation occasioned by oil exploration and exploitation activities. Travelling to the hinterland of the state through the maze of rivulets for a first time visitor not used to the disgusting stench from the polluted environment along the waterways, could make one to throw up. In some of the routes, yellowish or brownish oil slick could be seen floating.This painful reality forced the Bayelsa State governor, Seriake Dickson, to cry out loud about the ongoing despoliation of the environment. Sadly, the very existence of the people depends on the environment, which is being destroyed with impunity due to oil and gas

activities, crude oil thieves and illegal refinery operators.



Source : *Oil Spillage in Diebu Water Report*



Source : *Oil spillage in Kolo Creek*



Source*: Oil spillage Report in Azuzuama*

Dickson, called for stringent environment laws. This is for the protection and preservation of the environment against crude oil pollution and other activities occasioned by oil exploration and exploitation activities in the Niger Delta. He described Bayelsa State as the most fragile and highly compromised area, where environmental pollution has devastated the ecosystem for several decades since the discovery of crude oil in 1956. The environment is left to fend for itself, the livelihood and in fact the lives of the people and the ecosystem are not attended to. In addition, the former Attorney – General and Commissioner for Justice in Bayelsa State, Mr. Kemasuode Wodu, warned oil companies in Nigeria to open offices in Yenagoa, the state capital of Bayelsa State or prepared for the consequences. He said the state has contributed immensely to the development of the country by virtue of the mineral resources tapped from the state by the companies based on licenses granted by the federal government of Nigeria. The Bayelsa State has very large deposits of crude oil and natural gas, among others. It is worthy of note that crude oil was first produced in commercial quantities in Nigeria at Oloibiri in the present day Bayelsa State almost years ago.

The oil companies have their operational facilities dotted all over Bayelsa State from where they drill crude oil and gas. But quite regrettably none of these multinational offices is cited in Yenagoa, a Bayelsa State. Our environment is in a grave state of devastation and despoliation. The companies do not carry out appropriate remediation of the degraded environment and neither is adequate compensation paid for the damage occasioned by the frequent spillages. He also added that the state government is ever ready to provide land for these companies to erect their offices and residential premises and issue certificates of occupancy in respect thereof within record time and the governor of Bayelsa State will sign certificates of occupancy within three months of the application if the applicant complies with all the needed requirements.

Source: Parts of Bayelsa State Damage Assessment Reports from 2012-2020

Location	Environment	Affected areas	Nature of incidence
Biseni	Fresh water swamp forest	20	Oil spillage
Etiama/Nembe	Fresh water swamp forest	20	Oil spillage/fire outbreak
Etelebu	Fresh water swamp forest	30	Oil spillage
Peremabiri	Fresh water swamp forest	30	Oil spillage
Adebawa	Fresh water swamp forest	10	Oil spillage
Diebu	Fresh water swamp forest	20	Oil spillage
Tebidaba	And mangrove	30	Oil spillage
Nembe creek	Mangrove forest	10	Oil spillage
Azuzuama	Mangrove	50	Oil spillage
Eni pipeline	Forest	21	Attack
Ogada-Brass	Fresh water/mangrove swamp	10	Oil spillage
Jalingo	Waters/creeks	The entire Jalingo	Oil spillage
Kolo creek	Farmlands, vegetables	Kolo Creek	Oil spillage
Koluama	Waters/creeks	Koluama 1 & 2	Oil spillage

Source: Government Reports on oil spills

Government Efforts in Providing Sustainable Development to the People of Bayelsa State of Nigeria.

The alarming issue of oil exploration and exploitation which causes environmental pollution and poverty has drawn many national and international attentions. Kpun (2015) in support of Governor Dickson, said there should be an environment summit to discuss the mitigating effects of oil and gas exploration and exploitation in the region and express the commitment to collaborate with NOSDRA to speed up the passage of the amended Act of the Agency, which at present is under the national assembly.

However, with an attempt to solve the problem of sustainable development. The president of the Federal Republic of Nigeria has cautioned oil firms in the Niger Delta region to carry out their operations in line with international best practices by avoiding acts that would adversely affect the environment. Be that as it may, previous governments with the strong feeling of providing sustainable development established the Niger Delta Development Commission to tackle the developmental needs of the nine states that are producing oil. In view of this, another federal ministry of Niger Delta affairs was created in other to provide effective, efficient development to the people who are projecting the Nigeria nation's economy. Former president Goodluck Jonathan who came from Bayelsa State of Nigeria signed the Nigeria Local Content Development and Monitoring Act of 2010 and sited its headquarters in Bayelsa State, this board overseas every oil and gas sectors and provide even development to the oil producing states. The federal government efforts in providing sustainable development in the region offers 13% derivation to the oil producing states, which Bayelsa State is among. This process also

led to the appointment of the former Minister of Petroleum Resources Mrs.Diezani Alison-Madueke.

Methodology

The study adopted purely on qualitative approach since the research targeted the process of gathering a thorough thoughtful of the problem and the grounds that provided such investigation. The method engaged in the collection of the data for this study was purely on secondary sources, which include textbooks, journals, internets, and additional publications that were pertinent to the study.

On the other hand, the research design employed in this study was purely descriptive and the findings were on content analysis. While the purposive and survey technique was used to see the effectiveness of the data analyzed since the research involves the overall activities of oil exploration and exploitation which requires the gathering of information from a survey processes in order to ascertain it analysis and conclusion.

Findings and Conclusion

Major findings showed that oil exploration by the oil sectors have problem of implementation on its sustainable development policies, it was also revealed that the existing statutory laws and regulations for environmental protection appears to be grossly inadequate and some of the multinational oil companies like Shell Petroleum Development Company of Nigeria limited, Agip, Chevron and Texaco,Con Oil, etc. operating in Bayelsa State area of Nigeria had failed usefully to adopt sustainable practices and to prevent pollution from the area.

In support of the view, former Commissioner for Justice and Attorney General of Bayelsa State, Kemesoude - Wodu posited the people of Bayelsa State that are greatly suffering of environmental damages and despite the operation of the oil companies like shell, Agip, Con oil, chevron, etc that they do not have functional offices in Bayelsa State and all their administrative and managerial roles are done outside the state. Based on these, it is concluded that oil exploration in Bayelsa State of Nigeria had clearly and seriously damaged the environment and the livelihood of those living in the area. And these have seriously causes high level of poverty because the area had been seriously damaged by the multinationals.

Recommendations

Based on the research carried out, the following recommendations were made in other to solve the problem of sustainable development in Bayelsa State of Nigeria.

1) The study recommended that sustainable development strategic framework should be revisited and implemented in the whole area.
2) Nigeria local content development and monitoring board should try to provide the policy goals in adhering to the rules of the oil exploration and development strategies in the area.
3) Government should provide alternative conflict resolution mechanism in settling dispute as a means of providing efficient environmental protection and control policy in Bayelsa State of Nigeria.
4) Bayelsa State government, federal government and the multinational companies should come to terms in setting up befitting offices in Bayelsa State which will help to a greater extent in solving some of the developmental challenges within the area.
5) Government should hold oil companies operating in the area responsible to compensate host communities for the destruction of their land.
6) Government should provide awareness campaign mechanism with regards to environmental pollution control strategy.
7) There should be proper environmental impact assessment in the area.
8) Government should urgently amend the national oil spill detection and response Act which will help to spell out the penalties on oil spill and remediation's step.
9) Government should urgently direct the Directorate of Petroleum Resources and

Environmental Assessment (Investigation) Agency, Health organization to improve on the conditions of the people health hazard.

10) Government should urgently pass the Petroleum Industry Bill (PIB) and reintroduced the 10 percent proposed for the clean-up and development of the oil producing areas, also, government should establish a toxicology institute in Bayelsa State to appreciate the magnitude of the problem facing the people.

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EFFECTS OF GLOBALISATION ON NIGERIAN CULTURAL HERITAGE, 2012-2022

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ABSTRACT
This paper examines the impact of globalization on Nigerian cultural heritage between 2012 and 2022. As part of its objectives, it provided a detailed background on the extent to which globalization has influenced the traditional values and practices in Nigerian cultural heritage. It also provided a detailed analysis of globalization's positive and negative outcomes on Nigeria's cultural heritage. The source of data collection was employed through secondary sources such as the use of textbooks, journals, government publications, conference and seminar lecture materials, and the Internet. The paper adopted the Cultural Hybridity Theory and the Cultural Imperialism Theory as the main theoretical framework for analysis. The paper reveals that globalization has had both positive and negative effects on Nigerian cultural heritage, including increased cultural exchange and awareness, but also erosion of traditional values, and loss of cultural identity. The paper also identifies the role of stakeholders, including government, communities, and individuals, in mitigating the negative effects and harnessing the benefits of globalization for the preservation and promotion of Nigerian cultural heritage. The research contributes to the understanding of the complex relationship between globalization and cultural heritage and provides recommendations for sustainable cultural heritage management in Nigeria. Some of the recommendations include promoting cultural exchange and collaboration, strengthening cultural education and awareness programs, and establishing collaborative frameworks among stakeholders.

Introduction

In the present dispensation and the 21st century, globalization has become a driving force that reshapes societies, economies, and cultures worldwide. Globalization, characterized by the intensified interconnectedness of people, ideas, technologies, and economies, has rapidly exchanged cultural elements and practices across borders. Amidst this global interconnectedness, the preservation of cultural heritage has emerged as a critical concern for nations striving to maintain their unique identities in the face of homogenizing influences.

Globalization is a critical tool for cultural homogeneity and an end to cultural diversity in the world. The cultural and linguistic differences accompanying ethnic divisions in Africa have been weakened by the forces of globalization. Africa's traditional cultural values are being replaced by global cultural values. Scott and Marshall (2005) assert that the phenomenon of global culture is a result of a multitude of social and cultural advancements. These encompass the establishment of worldwide satellite information systems, the rise of globalized consumption patterns and consumerism, the fostering of cosmopolitan ways of life, the introduction of international sporting events like the Olympic Games, the proliferation of global tourism, the diminishing authority of nation-states, the acknowledgment of a planet-wide ecological crisis, the emergence of global health challenges like AIDS, and the formation of worldwide political structures such as the League of Nations, among various others. It could be argued that virtually every nation and the lives of countless individuals around the globe are undergoing significant transformations due to the forces of globalization. The extent and significance of its influence are observable in almost every corner of the world.

Nigeria, often referred to as the "Giant of Africa," boasts a vibrant mosaic of cultures, languages, traditions, and artistic expressions, deeply rooted in its history and the experiences of its diverse ethnic groups. However, the unprecedented surge in global interactions, facilitated by advancements in communication, transportation, and digital technologies, has brought both opportunities and challenges to Nigeria's cultural heritage. The influx of foreign ideas, consumer goods, and media content, coupled with rapid urbanization and changing social dynamics, has the potential to reshape the foundations of Nigerian cultural identity.

The impact of globalization on Nigeria's cultural heritage is complex and multifaceted. On the one hand, globalization has enabled the dissemination of Nigerian cultural expressions and customs to international arenas. Notably, Nigerian music, literature, and cinema have garnered prominence and acclaim worldwide. Furthermore, the nation's abundant cultural legacy has evolved into a significant tourist attraction, prompting greater endeavours towards safeguarding its cultural integrity (Olaniyan, 2018). Nonetheless, the adverse repercussions of globalization on Nigeria's cultural heritage must also be considered.

The preservation and transmission of cultural heritage have gained significant attention in recent years due to concerns about the erosion of traditional practices, languages, and values in the wake of globalization. Adeniyi and Adeniyi (2016) mentioned that the influx of foreign ideas, technologies, and cultural practices has led to the erosion of traditional values and customs. For example, the widespread adoption of Western fashion and lifestyle trends has led to a decline in traditional clothing and social norms. Similarly, the introduction of foreign religions has led to a decline in the practice of indigenous religions.

Therefore, at the detriment of Nigerian cultural heritages and tradition, Western society continues to use the platform of globalization to erode and subjugate Nigerian culture through cultural imperialism which has bombarded Nigeria with Western films, Western music, Western television programs bringing along with it culture change that has contributed to increased armed robberies, violence at every level, unprecedented corruption because people are now interested in lifestyles they see on television (Babatunde & Ifedayo, 2015). The effect of this is that Nigerians are gradually losing touch with their culture. The youths who are supposed to ensure the continuity of culture from one generation to another have fallen for, cherished, and adopted the Western ways of life in all ramifications (dressing, music, movies, language, and so on) as the status quo. In the words of Oni (2005:2) "Nigerian youths are rapidly losing touch with cultural values and this could be seen in the alien culture which they portray; their bizarre dressing, dancing, language and so on which invariably affect other aspects of social life". This paper aims to delve into the specific case of Nigeria and its cultural heritage, investigating how the country's rich and diverse

cultural tapestry has been affected by the forces of globalization during the years 2012 to 2022.

Conceptual Clarification

Globalisation

Globalisation is a multifaceted and multidimensional conception that is laden with ideological extrapolations depending on which aspect one is viewing it from. According to Tar (2016), the world is increasingly becoming integrated and interdependent as a result of advances in information and communication technologies (ICTs), and changes in global economic and political spectrums. These days, we hear common references to concepts such as "global village", "wired world", "internet age", and "Twitter revolution". These concepts reveal that the world is now more connected. Globalisation has made it possible for remote parts of the world to be exposed to the wider world.

According to Hagerstrand (2007), globalisation has turned the world to a global village. With a twinkling of an eye, one idea has diffused to other parts of the world. This is made possible with the coming of satellites and internet technology. For instance, McGrew (2013:16) sees globalisation as the widening, deepening, and speeding up of worldwide interconnectedness. This view is in line with the definition given by Obadan (2004:3) of the increasing interconnectedness and interdependence among the worlds, regions, nations, governments, businesses, institutions, communities, families, and individuals.

Globalization according to Oluikpe (2022), may be described as the interaction and integration of various countries of the world to come together under one umbrella (global village) for trade and investments, economic transactions, bilateral relationships, and interface of cultures among others. He further mentioned that globalization is facilitated by information technology and communication. On the other hand, Nsibambi (2001) views globalization as a process of advancement and increase in interaction among the world's countries and people, facilitated by progressive technological changes in locomotion, communication, political and military power, knowledge and skills, as well as interfacing of cultural values, systems, and practices. Afolayan, (2015) believes that globalization creates a platform where developing countries of the world showcase their local products, expertise, culture, and tradition, among other things to the world, while the technology, culture, and tradition of the Western society are also transmitted to all the nooks and crannies of the world. It is a two-way thing but tends to favour the Western world over the developing countries. The situation could be likened to the events that unfolded in George Orwell's Animal Farm, in which the slogan "all animals are equal, but some are more equal than the others" rules the animal kingdom.

Culture

The starting point should be the recognition of the fact that culture is the bedrock of society and it is the fabric with which society is woven together. It defines a people's way of life most comprehensively, covering the ordering of the conduct of our relations in the private, social, and public spheres. Culture, as a social concept, refers to the way of life of a people. It embraces the entire essential features of a group. According to Oni (2005), culture is the total way of people's life that includes customs and costumes, manners and mannerisms, ideas and ideology, art, beliefs, and all sorts of things that integrate people as members of society. The concept of culture consists of the values the members of a given group hold, the norms they follow, and the material goods they create. It refers to the way of life of the individual member of groups within society, how they dress, their religious ceremonies, and their leisure pursuits. Weber and Hsee (1998) explain that culture differentiates one community from the other, even within the African continent. It is a complex whole, including knowledge, beliefs, art, morals, laws, customs, and any other capabilities and habits created by men who are members of society. However, culture makes a group of people relate to each other through persistent relationships. It also makes a large social group share scarce geographical or virtual territory, subject to the same political authority and dominant cultural expectations.

The above definition justifies how one community differs from the other due to their different cultural orientations. For instance, the Swahilis from the East African states (Kenya, Djibouti, Tanzania, Uganda, and Zanzibar) differ in their culture from the Babers and Arabs in the North African states of Algeria, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco, Egypt, and Tunisia, while the culture of Hausa/Fulani of the West African states of Northern Nigeria, Ghana, Niger, Cameroon, Chad, and Gambia was also different

from the Kwazulu of the South African region. In other words, the Malays of Malaysia, Indonesia, Brunei, and Singapore are different from the Chinese, Indians, and Thais of China, India, and Thailand, even if they are staying in Malaysia or Indonesia. In Nigeria, different cultural values are associated with various cultures. For example, the cultural orientation of the Hausa/Fulanis, Yorubas, Igbos, Tivs, Ijaws, and Nupes, amongst others, is different.

Thus, Yomi (2008) argues that culture could be seen as a stable phenomenon; that is, culture does not change wholesale and oversight. According to Nigerian Cultural Policy (1988), culture is defined as "the total of the people's way of life, comprising material and non-material components. The material aspect of culture comprises technology, clothing, food, machines, buildings, airports, etc., while non-material culture, comprises the political, social, legal, and economic institutions, which sustain material and spiritual wellbeing. In the process of international interactions, according to Obioha, there is an interaction of cultures, and thus a borrowing and diffusion of cultures among nations (Obioha, 2011). Unfortunately, globalization has more negative impacts on the indigenous culture that would make the people behave outside their traditional orientation, customs, and beliefs. This scenario might precipitate the ascendancy of Western culture on the domestic customs of the local African people.

Cultural Heritage

Cultural heritage includes the sites, things, and practices a society regards as old, important, and worthy of conservation. It is currently the subject of increasing popular and scholarly attention worldwide, and its conceptual scope is expanding. Most social scientists emphasize its functions for supporting ethnic, national, and elite interests but others point to its creative and counter-hegemonic sides (Brumann, 2015). First of all, it is pertinent to understand the meaning of the word "heritage" as a property, something that is inherited, and passed down from previous generations. In the case of "cultural heritage," the heritage doesn't consist of money or property, but of culture, values, and traditions. Cultural heritage implies a shared bond, one belonging to a community. It represents our history and our identity; our bond to the past, to our present, and the future (Franchi, 2017).

In UNESCO's (2009) definition, it pointed out that cultural heritage includes artefacts, monuments, a group of buildings and sites, and museums that have a diversity of values including symbolic, historic, artistic, aesthetic, ethnological or anthropological, scientific, and social significance. It includes tangible heritage (movable, immobile, and underwater), and intangible cultural heritage (ICH) embedded into cultural, and natural heritage artefacts, sites, or monuments. The definition excludes ICH related to other cultural domains such as festivals, celebrations, etc. It covers industrial heritage and cave paintings. World Bank (2006), defined cultural heritage as movable or immovable objects, sites, structures, groups of structures, and natural features and landscapes that have archaeological, paleontological, historical, architectural, religious, aesthetic, or other cultural significance. The World Bank (2006) also recognizes that physical cultural resources are important as sources of valuable scientific and historical information, as assets for economic and social development, and as integral parts of a people's cultural identity and practices. Cultural heritage is the value people have given to items and places through their association with those items and places. These values include those of significance to Aboriginal people, places of social value to the community, and places of historic, architectural, or scientific significance, and therefore encompass both aboriginal and historic heritage.

Globalization's influence on cultural heritage prompts discussions about its role in facilitating cross-cultural exchange and potentially eroding cultural distinctiveness (Hobsbawm & Ranger, 1983). On one hand, globalization can lead to the dissemination of cultural practices and encourage dialogue among diverse communities (Appadurai, 1996). On the other hand, concerns arise regarding cultural homogenization and the vulnerability of traditional practices (García Canclini, 1995). In conclusion, the scholarly literature underscores the multifaceted significance of cultural heritage as a cornerstone of identity, memory, and societal cohesion. Concepts such as tangible and intangible heritage, authenticity, and the impact of globalization illuminate its complex dynamics. The review reveals that cultural heritage preservation necessitates nuanced approaches that balance tradition with adaptation, fostering cultural continuity in an evolving world.

Theoretical Framework

The study adopted the cultural hybridity theory and the cultural imperialism theory.

Cultural Hybridity Theory

The cultural hybridity theory was propounded by principal theorists of hybridity like Homi Bhabha, Néstor García Canclini, Stuart Hall, Gayatri Spivak, and Paul Gilroy, whose works respond to the multi-cultural awareness that emerged in the early 1990s.

The exploration of hybridity dates back to the 18th century, arising within the context of interracial interactions prompted by overseas conquest and population displacement in Britain, France, and the United States. Rooted in comparative anatomy and craniometry, early discussions on hybridity primarily focused on the perceived contamination of White Europeans by the races they colonized. While there were varying opinions on the vitality of hybrids, swinging between the notions of "hybrid vigour" and "hybrid sterility," these discussions consistently drew on biological arguments to justify ideologies of White racial superiority. Moreover, they cautioned against interracial breeding, often described as "miscegenation" and "amalgamation." A representative viewpoint from this historical debate can be found in Knox's work (1850), wherein he contended that hybridity constituted "a degradation of humanity and... was rejected by nature" (Young, 1995:15). The early discourse on hybridity reflected the Enlightenment's struggle to confront its inherent racism (Young, 1995). Subsequently, hybridity gained significance as a crucial aspect of postcolonial cultures in Africa, Latin America, Asia, and the diasporas in the West.

Cultural hybridity theory, rooted in postcolonial studies, provides a framework for understanding the complex interactions and transformations that occur when different cultures come into contact, particularly in the context of globalization. The theory challenges the notion of pure, untouched cultures and recognizes that cultural identities are dynamic, and constantly evolving through hybridization, mixing, and adaptation. Cultural Hybridity Theory offers valuable insights into how external influences, facilitated by globalization, interact with and reshape traditional practices. The theory suggests that the resulting cultural forms are neither wholly traditional nor entirely modern but represent a blend of elements from various sources (Bhabha, 1994).

Cultural hybridity theory provides a compelling framework for understanding the nuanced effects of globalization on Nigeria's cultural heritage. In the context of Nigeria, a nation with a rich tapestry of diverse ethnic groups and cultural practices, the theory helps elucidate how the interaction with global influences results in a dynamic and ever-evolving cultural landscape. Globalization, characterized by increased interconnectedness and cultural exchange, acts as a catalyst for cultural hybridity in Nigeria. External influences, ranging from Western media to digital technologies, intersect with traditional Nigerian practices, leading to the emergence of hybrid cultural forms. For instance, the fusion of traditional Nigerian music genres with global genres like hip-hop and the incorporation of Western architectural styles in urban development exemplifies the dynamic nature of cultural hybridization (Adeyemi, 2014). Cultural hybridity theory underscores the agency of individuals and communities in actively engaging with and shaping the hybridization process. Nigerians play a vital role in selecting, adopting, and adapting external cultural elements based on their preferences and needs. This agency is particularly evident in the realm of language, where Nigerian English, a hybridized form, incorporates indigenous languages, creating a distinct linguistic expression reflective of both local and global influences (García Canclini, 1995).

While cultural hybridity theory acknowledges the potential for creative synthesis and innovation, it also highlights the asymmetrical power dynamics inherent in cultural encounters. In the Nigerian context, the influence of global media, particularly Western cultural norms, may dominate local narratives, leading to the erosion of indigenous languages and traditional values. This raises questions about the preservation of authentic cultural practices in the face of external influences and the potential homogenization of certain cultural elements. Furthermore, globalization brings about changes in lifestyle and consumption patterns, impacting traditional economic activities tied to cultural heritage. Traditional crafts and arts, while adapting to meet market demands, may also face the risk of commodification, challenging the authenticity and integrity of cultural practices.

Cultural Imperialism Theory

Cultural imperialism theory was propounded by Herbert Schiller in 1973. Cultural imperialism theory provides a critical perspective for understanding how the global dissemination of cultural influences, often emanating from

economically powerful nations, can impact and potentially dominate less powerful cultures. The nature of media (i.e., print, radio, and television), at that time, promoted a one-way, top-down transmission system from dominant country to dominated country that theoretically gave rise to a passive audience and a powerful media (Sengupta and Frith, 1997; White, 2001). This situation created an imbalance in the global news flow scene and cries of media/cultural imperialism/marginalization. These cries, inevitably, led to calls for a New World Information and Communication Order. After a critical analysis of the arguments put forward by most of the theorists and other scholars who have written on the subject of cultural imperialism, the major proposition could be summarized in the work of Schiller (1976), that cultural imperialism proposes that society is brought into the modem world system when its dominating stratum is attracted, pressured, forced, and sometimes it is bribed into shaping its social institutions to correspond to, or even promote, the values and structures of the dominating centre of the system. The theory explains that the essence of cultural imperialism is the domination of one nation by another and the environment for this is created by transnational media organizations.

Cultural imperialism (also cultural colonialism) comprises the cultural dimensions of imperialism. The term refers largely to the exercise of power in a cultural relationship in which the principles, ideas, practices, and values of a powerful, invading society are imposed upon indigenous cultures in the occupied areas. The process is often used to describe examples of when the compulsory practices of the cultural traditions of the imperial social group are implemented upon a conquered social group. The process is also present when powerful nations can flood the information and media space with their ideas, limiting countries and communities' ability to compete and expose people to locally created content.

Cultural imperialism theory provides a lens through which we can analyze the impact of globalization on Nigeria's cultural heritage. In the context of Nigeria, a nation with a rich and diverse cultures, the theory helps illuminate the potential dominance of external cultural influences, particularly from economically powerful nations, and the associated challenges to the preservation of local traditions.

Globalization, with its interconnectedness and the dissemination of cultural content through mass media and digital platforms, raises concerns about the potential erosion of Nigeria's cultural heritage (Tomlinson, 1991). In Nigeria, the pervasive influence of Western cultural norms, facilitated by globalization, is evident in various aspects. Western media, including movies, television shows, and digital content, often dominates the cultural landscape, potentially marginalizing local narratives and expressions. The prominence of Western languages, such as English, in media and educational systems contributes to the potential marginalization of indigenous languages, which are vital carriers of cultural heritage (Aina, 2017).

Nigeria is a West African nation, regarded as the giant of Africa, and has over 360 ethnic groups, with over 460 languages. It is the most populous black nation in the world. Nigeria gained independence in 1960 and became a republic in 1963, but yet the media, culture, and economy may have lost their taste of independence as they are indirectly dependent on the colonial giants of colonization. The subjective nature of the Nigerian economy to the European world, the North Americans, Asia, and other world powers may however be compared as little to its media and cultural dependency which may in turn be regarded as cultural imperialism. Statistics declared that 72% of Nigerian parents do not teach their wards the norms and values of Nigerian society as observed by Ugboajah, (2005). It is pathetic how Nigerians complain of the demise of their culture daily, yet they fold their hands and watch it hastened to death. The question is how many of the Nigerian citizens are ready to uphold the culture?

Similarly, imperialism is seen in the adoption of Western religion while considering the traditional religion as evil. The question is "do Nigerians even realize that what is being practiced is another man's culture? The interrelated nature of cultural institutions can also be seen in the effects of changing roles for Nigerian women since the mid-21st century. As they have moved into the work force outside the home, it has given them financial independence and has altered traditional roles within the family. Men are less essential as breadwinners and less accepted as patriarchs. They have begun to take on more child-rearing and other domestic household responsibilities previously defined as "women's work". Divorce has become an economically variable alternative for women in unhappy marriages. There also has been a

marked decrease in the frequency of mother-child interaction.

Nigerian children have increasingly risen by non-family in child care centers and schools. In the same way, media is regarded as the fourth estate of the realm and is capable of social, economic, political, religious, and cultural change that harness growth and development in any developing nation like Nigeria through its form of communication directed towards development (developmental communication) may have lost its choice of achieving this obligation due to its colonization by other developed nations dramatizing their ego through the screen and pages of indigenous media who were meant to mirror and sustain the socio-cultural philosophy and ideology of its indigenous society (Nigeria). The process by which these changes in culture occur is known as acculturation or culture transfer. All the world's greatest nations learned or borrowed something from others. African media have for a long time based their communication function on the Western philosophy of information, education, and entertainment. These functions have universal application but the problem lies in the mindless adoption of the Western way of informing, educating, and entertaining regardless of our peculiar circumstances.

Historical Overview of Cultural Heritage in Nigeria

Nigeria is distinguished in sub-Saharan Africa because of her “rich manifestations of vast cultural heritages” of the past (Sowunmi, 2008:77). Most of the artifacts and collections from remarkable cultural areas in Nigeria are displayed in museums and galleries all over the world. This is because they were consciously preserved. According to Afigbo, Nigeria's culture has a rich and diverse history, spanning over 9,000 years (Afigbo, 1985). The Nok culture, which flourished from 1000 BCE to 300 CE, is one of the earliest known civilizations in Nigeria, and is renowned for its terracotta sculptures and artifacts (Fagg, 1977). The Kanem-Bornu Empire, which existed from the 8th to the 19th century, was a major center of trade and Islamic learning, and had a significant impact on the cultural development of the region (Cohen, 1978). The Hausa city-states, which emerged in the 14th century, were known for their vibrant markets, beautiful architecture, and rich literary traditions (Smith, 1962). One of the seminal periods in Nigerian history is the emergence of the Kingdom of Benin in the pre-colonial era. The Benin Kingdom, renowned for its sophisticated bronze sculptures and intricate ivory carvings, flourished from the 13th to the 19th century. The cultural achievements of the Benin Kingdom reflected not only artistic prowess but also complex social and political structures (Nevadomsky, 1995). The arrival of Europeans in the 15th century marked a significant turning point in Nigeria's cultural history.

Colonialism ushered in an era of unrestricted negative human activities such as looting, vandalism, theft, unscientific excavation of grave goods, iconoclasm, wars, and illicit trafficking of cultural objects, among others. The period from 1900 to 1960 marked the era of colonization in Nigeria (Fasuyi, 1973). The most significant of these destructive activities on Nigerian cultural heritage occurred during the punitive expedition in 1897 when the British colonial administration attacked the Benin cultural area, looted the rich bronze works and art treasures of the Benin royal palace, and exiled the king to Calabar, where he later died in 1914 (Eluyemi, 2002; Aremu, 2008; Fasuyi, 1973). Colonialism thus weakened the influence of traditional rulers and their role in preserving Nigerian cultural heritage. For instance, during the colonial period, Western educational systems were introduced to replace traditional educational systems such as Irumgbede among the Igbo. In schools, the English language and foreign literature were taught and read to the detriment of Nigerian indigenous languages (Fasuyi, 1973).

The current state of Nigerian indigenous linguistic heritages is precarious, teetering on the brink of extinction. The introduction of Christianity by missionaries further exacerbated this decline, as it led to the marginalization of traditional religions, labeling them as "idol worship" and practitioners as "heathens" and "unbelievers" (Eluyemi, 2002). In the entertainment sector, traditional art forms have been supplanted by Western influences. The likes of poets, praise singers, clowns, comedians, and dramatists, who once thrived in royal courts, have given way to foreign music, dance styles, and dress patterns. Even traditional musical instruments, such as drums, have been replaced with Western instruments like bands, microphones, guitars, and pianos. This cultural erosion went unchecked until a few expatriates recognized the need to preserve Nigeria's cultural heritage during the colonial era (Eluyemi, 2002; Fasuyi, 1973). These concerned individuals advised the colonial government to

establish museums and integrate Nigerian arts, culture, and history into school curricula, thereby laying the groundwork for cultural preservation efforts. For instance, E.H. Duckworth wrote in 1937;

> *Help to build up an appreciation of old things; do not be afraid of them. Respect the past, record its history, treasure its signposts, and help to build museums in Nigeria. The day may come when people will voyage from all parts of the world to see the museums and exhibition rooms in Lagos, Abeokuta, Ife, and Benin City (Fasuyi, 1973:24).*

Another expatriate, K.C. Murray, suggested: "Make a list of all works of art and gather them whenever possible into the safety of a museum" (Eluyemi, 2002:6). E.H. Duckworth, editor of the colonial government-owned Nigerian magazine (first published in 1923 as the Nigerian Teacher, later renamed Nigeria in 1927, and eventually becoming the federal government's cultural information journal), also played a significant role in promoting Nigerian cultural heritage (Fasuyi, 1973:23). Other British colonial civil servants, including K.C. Murray, an art teacher, B.E. Bernard Fagg, and S. Milburn, among others, made notable contributions to the preservation of Nigerian cultural heritage (Eluyemi, 2002). The uncontrolled exportation of Nigerian antiquities led to the establishment of museums in Nigeria, marked by the creation of the Nigerian Antiquity Service and the Office of the Surveyor of Antiquities in 1943 (Eluyemi, 2002:6). The systematic preservation of cultural heritage gradually began with suggestions from colonialists and eventually evolved into a well-formulated cultural policy in 1988, leading to the creation of museums.

Impact of Globalisation on Nigeria's Cultural Heritage

Nigeria's cultural heritage in the era of globalization reflects a dynamic interplay between tradition and the forces of global change. Globalization, characterized by increased interconnectedness, technological advancements, and cultural exchange, has enriched and challenged Nigeria's cultural landscape. The subsection is divided into two – the positive and the negative impact of globalisation on Nigeria's cultures and heritage.

Positive Impacts of Globalisation on Nigeria's Cultural Heritage

The positive impacts include (a) integration of Nigerian culture (b) speedy access to Nigerian culture on the internet, (c) digitization and preservation of cultural artefacts, (d) economic opportunities, and (e) promoting tourism.

Integration of Nigerian Culture: The integration of Nigerian culture into the globalized world has been a significant aspect of its cultural evolution. Nigerian artists, musicians, and writers have successfully merged traditional cultural elements with modern styles, creating a unique blend that appeals to a global audience. For instance, Afrobeats music, which originated in Nigeria, has gained international recognition and popularity, with artists like Wizkid and Davido collaborating with global stars. Similarly, Nigerian authors like Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie and Ben Okri have incorporated Nigerian cultural themes and traditions into their works, gaining international acclaim and recognition.

Furthermore, Nigerian cultural festivals and traditions have also been integrated into global cultural events, promoting cross-cultural understanding and exchange. For example, the Osun Osogbo festival, which celebrates the Yoruba goddess of fertility, has been recognized by UNESCO and attracts tourists from around the world. Additionally, Nigerian fashion designers have incorporated traditional textiles and patterns into modern designs, showcasing Nigerian culture on global fashion runways. This integration has not only promoted Nigerian culture globally but also encouraged cultural exchange and collaboration enriching both Nigerian and global cultures.

Digitization: Digitalization has transformed the preservation and dissemination of Nigerian culture, enabling the creation of digital repositories, archives, and museums that can be accessed globally. This has ensured the safeguarding of Nigeria's cultural heritage for future generations, as well as facilitated the widespread sharing of cultural knowledge and artifacts. Digitalization has also enabled the creation of virtual tours, 3D models, and immersive experiences, allowing people to explore and engage with Nigerian cultural sites, monuments, and artifacts remotely. Furthermore, digitalization has facilitated the documentation and preservation of intangible cultural heritage, such as oral traditions, music, and dance.

Economic Opportunities: The globalization of Nigerian culture has created numerous economic opportunities for Nigerian artists, musicians, writers, and cultural entrepreneurs (Ekeh, 2001). The global demand for Nigerian cultural products, such as music, films, and literature, has led to the growth of a thriving cultural industry, generating revenue and creating jobs (Okpewho, 2003). For instance, the Nigerian film industry, also known as Nollywood, has become a significant contributor to the country's GDP, producing over 1,000 films annually and employing thousands of people (McCall, 2007).

Globalization has also enabled Nigerian cultural products to reach a global audience, increasing their market value and attracting foreign investment (Adejunmobi, 2004). Nigerian musicians, such as Wizkid and Davido, have collaborated with international artists, generating millions of dollars in revenue (The Guardian, 2020). Similarly, Nigerian authors, such as Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, have gained international recognition, earning significant royalties from book sales (The New York Times, 2019). These economic opportunities have not only benefited individual artists but also contributed to the growth of Nigeria's economy.

Promoting Tourism: The globalization of Nigerian culture has promoted tourism in Nigeria, attracting visitors from around the world to experience the country's rich cultural heritage (Akindele, 2013). The Nigerian government has recognized the potential of tourism as a driver of economic growth and has invested in infrastructure development, marketing, and cultural preservation (Federal Republic of Nigeria, 2019). Tourists are drawn to Nigeria's diverse cultural festivals, such as the Osun Osogbo festival, which attracts thousands of visitors annually (Omojola, 2014).

More so, the globalization of Nigerian culture has led to the development of cultural tourism initiatives, such as heritage trails, cultural tours, and museum visits (Ezeuduji, 2017). These initiatives provide opportunities for tourists to engage with Nigerian culture, learn about its history and traditions, and support local communities (Ikechukwu, 2018). The promotion of tourism has also led to the growth of related industries, such as hospitality, transportation, and handicrafts, contributing to the country's economic development (Okpala, 2019).

Negative Impacts of Globalisation on Nigeria's Cultural Heritage

Globalization of cultural heritage has some negative impacts in some areas. The following are some of the negative impacts of globalisation on Nigeria's cultural heritage.

Commercialization of Culture: The commercialization of culture is a significant consequence of globalization in Nigeria (Ekeh, 2001). The exploitation of Nigerian culture for financial gain has led to the commodification of cultural practices, traditions, and artifacts (Okpewho, 2003). For instance, traditional Nigerian music and art are being packaged and sold as exotic commodities, without regard for their cultural significance or the rights of their creators (Adejunmobi, 2004). The commercialization of culture has led to the degradation of cultural values and the loss of cultural authenticity (Omojola, 2014).

Religion: Religion in Nigeria has also been impacted by globalization, as traditional religious practices and beliefs are being influenced by foreign religions and ideologies (Adepoju, 2006). The spread of Christianity and Islam has led to a decline in traditional religious practices, as many Nigerians are converting to these foreign religions (Eke, 2011). According to Ikejiaku (2017), this has resulted in a loss of cultural heritage and traditional knowledge, as well as a shift in values and beliefs. To further buttress the effect of religion on Nigeria's cultural heritage, globalization has also led to the commercialization of religion in Nigeria, as religious leaders and organizations seek to profit from their followers (Nwosu, 2012). This has resulted in a focus on material wealth and power, rather than spiritual growth and development. The influence of foreign religions has also led to religious conflicts and tensions, as different groups compete for followers and resources (Adegbite, 2017). According to Okoye (2015), this has hindered Nigeria's development, as religious conflicts divert resources and attention away from economic and social development.

The Family: Family values in Nigeria have been impacted by globalization, leading to a shift in traditional family structures and relationships (Adepoju, 2006). The influence of Western culture has led to a decline in traditional family values, such as respect for elders and communal living (Eke, 2011). According to Ikejiaku (2017), this has resulted in a breakdown in family cohesion and social support networks.

Globalization has also led to changes in family roles and responsibilities, as women increasingly participate in the workforce and men take on more domestic duties (Nwosu, 2012). While this shift has brought some benefits, such as increased economic empowerment for women, it has also led to tensions and conflicts within families (Adegbite, 2017). Furthermore, the influence of foreign cultures has also led to a decline in traditional family practices, such as arranged marriages and communal childcare (Okoye, 2015). Some parents are no longer frowning at what the youths put on. The traditional pattern of subordinating when greeting an elder has changed to "hi".

Marital Values: In traditional African culture, a man typically marries a woman by following established customs. He visits her family to request her hand in marriage, pays the bride price, and completes other marriage rites before she is formally welcomed into his family. However, modern times have seen a departure from these traditions. Now, people who are unfamiliar with each other's families or homes may engage in intimate relationships without formalizing their union. Some even practice "trial marriage." African tradition strongly discourages childbirth outside of wedlock. Yet, contemporary society has adopted terms like "baby mama" to describe women who have children with men they are not legally married to. Some individuals identify as "single fathers" or "single mothers," while others opt for surrogate mothers to avoid the physical effects of pregnancy and breastfeeding. These practices are not rooted in African culture but rather reflect Western influences. Alarmingly, divorce rates are rising as once-celebrated traditions become increasingly rejected.

Nigerian Languages: The use of foreign languages, particularly English, has long been a significant aspect of the official language in Nigeria. Despite high illiteracy rates in rural areas, local languages have limitations. Many elite families prioritize English language proficiency over local languages for their children. Consequently, Nigerians tend to read and comprehend books written in foreign languages more quickly and fluently than those written in local languages. Cultural globalization has also impacted Nigeria's film industry, Nollywood. English-language movies far outnumber those produced in Igbo and other Nigerian languages. The proliferation of information technologies has accelerated the globalization of cultural values. As Omekwu (2006) noted, the internet has revolutionized globalization, enabling the imposition of national and international cultures on local cultures. Libraries now preserve foreign cultures, making them accessible to users nationwide, regardless of their ethno-cultural background.

The dominance of English and other foreign languages has led to a decline in the use of Nigerian languages, particularly among younger generations (Eke, 2011). According to UNESCO, over 50% of Nigeria's languages are endangered, with some languages having only a few fluent speakers remaining (UNESCO, 2019). The loss of indigenous languages also results in the loss of traditional knowledge, customs, and beliefs (Nwosu, 2012). Furthermore, language endangerment hinders Nigeria's development, as language is essential for education, communication, and economic development (Adepoju, 2006).

The Loss of Traditional Skills: The loss of traditional skills is a significant consequence of globalization in Nigeria, as the country's rapid modernization and urbanization have led to a decline in the practice and transmission of traditional skills (Adepoju, 2006). Many traditional skills, such as weaving, pottery, and blacksmithing, are being replaced by modern technologies and foreign imports. The loss of traditional skills has resulted in the erosion of cultural heritage and the loss of indigenous knowledge. More so, the loss of traditional skills has also had economic implications, as many Nigerians who previously relied on these skills for their livelihoods are now struggling to adapt to a modern economy. Furthermore, the loss of traditional skills has also led to a decline in cultural diversity and creativity, as modern technologies and imports are often standardized and lack the unique cultural significance of traditional skills. According to Okoye (2015), the preservation of traditional skills is essential for Nigeria's cultural and economic development.

Stakeholders Involvement in Achieving Cultural Sustainability in Nigeria

Stakeholders in Cultural Heritage Management in achieving cultural sustainability in Nigeria include:

Government Agencies: Government agencies play a crucial role in Nigeria's cultural heritage management. The National Commission for Museums and Monuments (NCMM) is the primary agency responsible for preserving and

conserving cultural heritage sites and artifacts (NCMM, 2020). The NCMM works to identify, document, and protect cultural heritage sites, as well as provide education and awareness-raising programs for the public (Afolabi, 2017). The Nigerian National Commission for UNESCO also plays a significant role in cultural heritage management, particularly in the areas of policy development and international cooperation (UNESCO, 2019). This agency works to promote Nigeria's cultural heritage globally and facilitate international partnerships for cultural heritage preservation (Eke, 2015).

The Federal Ministry of Art, Culture and Creative Economy is another key government agency involved in cultural heritage management. This ministry and the agencies under it are responsible for developing and implementing policies related to culture and tourism, including cultural heritage management.

Community and Local Stakeholders: Community and local stakeholders play a vital role in cultural heritage management in Nigeria. Traditional rulers and community leaders are essential in preserving cultural heritage sites and artifacts, as they possess valuable knowledge and insights into the cultural significance of these resources (Ikejiaku, 2017). Local governments and councils also have a crucial role in cultural heritage management, as they are responsible for implementing policies and programs at the local level (Nwosu, 2015).

Community-based organizations and associations are also key stakeholders in cultural heritage management. These organizations often work closely with local communities to preserve cultural heritage sites and promote cultural awareness (Adepoju, 2016). For example, the Osun Osogbo Sacred Grove, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, is managed by a community-based organization that works to preserve the site and promote cultural tourism (UNESCO, 2019).

Private Sector and NGOs: The private sector and NGOs play a significant role in Nigeria's cultural heritage management. Private companies, such as tourism operators and cultural organizations, can contribute to the preservation and promotion of cultural heritage sites through sponsorships and partnerships. For example, the Nigerian conservation organization, Terra Kulture, has partnered with private companies to restore and manage cultural heritage sites in Lagos (Terra Kulture, 2020). NGOs, such as the Nigerian National Committee of the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS), also play a crucial role in cultural heritage management. ICOMOS works to promote the conservation and preservation of cultural heritage sites in Nigeria through advocacy and training programs (ICOMOS, 2020). NGOs like the Cultural Heritage Centre, Osogbo, work to preserve and promote cultural heritage sites through community-based projects (Cultural Heritage Centre, 2020).

Educational Institutions: Educational institutions play a vital role in Nigeria's cultural heritage management. Universities and research centres, such as the University of Ibadan and the University of Lagos, offer programs in cultural heritage studies, museum studies, and archaeology, which help to develop the next generation of cultural heritage professionals (University of Ibadan, 2020; University of Lagos, 2020). These institutions also conduct research and provide expertise on cultural heritage management, conservation, and preservation (Afolabi, 2017).

Cultural studies and heritage preservation programs, such as the Cultural Heritage Studies Program at the University of Nigeria, Nsukka, provide training and education on cultural heritage management, preservation, and conservation (University of Nigeria, 2020). These programs help to equip students with the knowledge and skills needed to manage and preserve cultural heritage sites and artifacts.

Media and Communication: The media and communication is an effective tool in cultural heritage management in Nigeria. Media outlets, such as newspapers, radio, and television stations, help to raise awareness about cultural heritage sites and artifacts, and promote their preservation and conservation (Afolabi, 2017). For example, the Nigerian Television Authority (NTA) has produced documentaries on Nigeria's cultural heritage sites, such as the Osun Osogbo Sacred Grove (NTA, 2020). Social media platforms, such as Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram, also play a significant role in promoting cultural heritage in Nigeria (Eke, 2015). Social media influencers and cultural bloggers help to raise awareness about cultural heritage sites and artifacts, and promote their preservation and conservation (Eke, 2015).

Experts and Professionals: Experts and professionals who are effective in cultural

heritage management in Nigeria, include archaeologists, anthropologists, historians, conservators, curators, and cultural heritage managers. These experts possess specialized knowledge and skills necessary for preserving, conserving, and managing cultural heritage sites and artifacts (Eke, 2015). Archaeologists, for example, have contributed significantly to the understanding and preservation of Nigeria's cultural heritage, particularly in the excavation and interpretation of archaeological sites (Ikejiaku, 2017). Anthropologists have also played a vital role in documenting and preserving Nigeria's intangible cultural heritage, such as traditional music, dance, and language (Afolabi, 2017). Conservators and curators have been instrumental in the preservation and conservation of cultural heritage artifacts, ensuring their stability and longevity for future generations. Cultural heritage managers have also played a crucial role in developing and implementing management plans for cultural heritage sites, ensuring their sustainable preservation and conservation.

Challenges of Mitigating the Erosion of Cultural Heritage in Nigeria

Mitigating the erosion of cultural heritage in Nigeria faces a myriad of challenges that span social, economic, and political dimensions. Some of them are identified below:

Colonial Legacy: One of the most significant challenges facing Nigeria is its heterogeneous society. Before colonialism, the territory that is now Nigeria was inhabited by diverse peoples, empires, tribes, and kingdoms, each with its own distinct cultures, traditions, and religions. However, the colonial powers disregarded these differences and merged them into a single entity. Notably, it was not until 1977, with the Festival of Arts and Culture (FESTAC), that Nigeria attempted to showcase its cultural heritage on a national scale. This highlights the importance of first establishing a strong foundation for cultural heritage at the domestic level before pursuing globalization.

Cultural Diversity: Nigeria is a culturally rich and diverse society, comprising numerous ethnic nationalities with a wealth of cultural heritage. This heritage encompasses a broad range of intangible and tangible elements, including language, traditional practices such as marriage, burial, and birth rites, unique dressing styles, greetings, music, folklore, religion, and cultural monuments, natural sites, and landscapes. However, the influence of Western culture has led to the decline and even extinction of some of these cultural practices.

Information Technologies: The emergence of Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) has compelled libraries and librarians to adapt to a new paradigm, characterized by concepts such as the information society, digitization, information explosion, globalization, cyberspace, and the information superhighway. These technological advancements have propelled the developed world into a state of constant change, inevitably impacting the documentation, preservation, and practice of cultural heritage. With just a few keystrokes or mouse clicks, the culture, folklore, and heritage of Western countries are now readily accessible, brought directly to our doorsteps, reading tables, desktops, and laptops. However, this raises a critical question: where does Nigerian cultural heritage stand in the global cultural arena? How can we ensure that our rich cultural legacy is equally represented and celebrated in this digital age?

Cultural Policy: The globalization of Nigerian cultural heritage has not received adequate attention, evaluation, or strategic planning from the Nigerian government. A significant obstacle is the lack of coordination between the Federal government and the Ministry of Art and Culture, resulting in a fragmented approach to cultural heritage management. Furthermore, there is a widespread lack of awareness about Nigerian culture among citizens, largely due to the absence of cultural knowledge and practices in the country's education curricula. This omission has contributed to a disconnect between Nigerians and their cultural heritage, hindering efforts to promote and preserve it on the global stage.

The Environment of Cultural Globalization: The libraries and information science sector in Nigeria faces challenges in preparing for the globalization of Nigerian cultural heritage. Despite the importance of showcasing the country's rich cultural legacy on the global stage, many libraries lack the necessary resources, including cutting-edge technologies and skilled manpower, to effectively participate in the digital cultural landscape. The absence of a steady power supply, limited computer literacy, and a scarcity of dedicated cultural websites and digital platforms further hinder Nigeria's ability to share its cultural heritage with the world. As a

result, Nigeria's cultural heritage remains underrepresented in the global digital arena, emphasizing the need for urgent investment in library infrastructure, digital literacy programs, and cultural documentation initiatives to bridge this gap.

Urbanization: As cities expand and urban populations grow, cultural heritage sites and artifacts are often destroyed or displaced to make way for development projects. This can lead to the loss of historical and cultural significance, as well as the erasure of community identity and tradition. In Nigeria, urbanization is driven by rapid population growth, economic development, and rural-urban migration. Cities like Lagos, Abuja, and Kano are experiencing unprecedented growth, leading to increased pressure on cultural heritage sites. For example, the ancient city of Kano is facing threats from urban expansion, with historic buildings and monuments being demolished to make way for modern developments.

Urbanization often leads to the displacement of traditional communities, who are forced to relocate to make way for urban development. This can result in the loss of traditional knowledge, practices, and cultural heritage. In addition, urbanization can also lead to the commercialization of cultural heritage, where historic sites and artifacts are exploited for tourist purposes, leading to further degradation and loss of cultural significance.

Looting and Vandalism: Looting and vandalism pose threats to cultural heritage in Nigeria. Looting involves the theft of cultural artifacts, often for financial gain, while vandalism involves the deliberate destruction or damage of cultural heritage sites and artifacts. Both activities result in the loss of cultural heritage, erosion of community identity, and diminishment of historical significance. In Nigeria, looting and vandalism are often driven by economic motivations, with cultural artifacts being sold on the black market or to foreign collectors. This has led to the loss of numerous cultural artifacts, including ancient terracotta sculptures, bronze artifacts, and traditional textiles. Furthermore, looting and vandalism are often carried out with impunity, with perpetrators rarely being held accountable for their actions. Vandalism also takes the form of deliberate destruction of cultural heritage sites, often for political, religious, or ideological reasons. For example, during periods of conflict, cultural heritage sites have been targeted and destroyed, resulting in irreparable loss.

Prospects for Nigeria's Cultural Heritage

Nigeria's cultural heritage has vast prospects for global recognition and appreciation, given its rich diversity and significance (Afolabi, 2017). The country's cultural heritage can serve as a tool for national development, fostering tourism, education, and cultural exchange (Eke, 2015). With the advent of digital technologies, Nigeria's cultural heritage can be showcased to a global audience, promoting cross-cultural understanding and appreciation (Oladapo, 2019).

Nigeria stands to reap immense benefits from the adequate preservation of its cultural heritage. Properly preserved and showcased cultural heritage has the potential to significantly boost the country's economy through tourism. Effective promotion of cultural heritage through various media channels can attract tourists from around the world, resulting in increased national revenue and GDP. This, in turn, will provide more funds for the country's development. Moreover, Nigerian cultural heritage can foster mutual understanding and respect among citizens. Attending cultural festivals can broaden people's appreciation of the diverse cultures within Nigeria, promoting unity in diversity. Museums can also contribute to Nigerians' appreciation of aesthetics, relaxation, and leisure, helping to reduce stress and promote overall well-being. Furthermore, intangible cultural heritage, such as values of respect, integrity, and dignity of labour, can reorient Nigerians towards morally right pursuits and endeavours, shifting focus away from materialism. The preservation and promotion of Nigeria's cultural heritage can culminate in a more harmonious, united, and developed nation.

However, to realize these prospects, Nigeria must address the challenges facing its cultural heritage sector, including inadequate funding, lack of infrastructure, and limited community engagement. By investing in cultural heritage preservation and promotion, Nigeria can unlock the full potential of its cultural heritage, contributing to national development and global cultural diversity.

Conclusion

Globalization is rapidly shaping the cultural practices of the Nigerian people. Those who fail to adapt quickly are being left behind, and it appears that everyone is in a hurry to keep up. The cultural practices of developed economies have largely supplanted local culture, with many Nigerians preferring the cultural norms of these countries. As observed, globalization is marked by intense competition and a fierce pursuit of dominance among various groups and interests worldwide. Nigeria has witnessed significant transformations in Nigeria's cultural heritage due to globalization. This era has brought about a dual impact—while it has opened doors for international recognition and celebration of Nigerian culture, it has also posed substantial threats to the preservation of traditional values and practices.

Efforts to manage and sustain cultural heritage in Nigeria have encountered numerous obstacles. Inadequate funding, lack of comprehensive policies, and urbanization have impeded effective cultural preservation. Moreover, the dominance of foreign cultures has made it difficult to maintain the integrity of Nigeria's cultural identity. Despite various initiatives by governmental and non-governmental organizations, the involvement of local communities and cultural practitioners remains sporadic and insufficient. To counter these challenges, there is a pressing need for robust legislative frameworks, increased public awareness, and educational programs that prioritize cultural heritage. Stakeholders must adopt innovative approaches, leveraging digital technologies to document and share cultural practices. Fostering cultural tourism and encouraging the youth to engage with their heritage can also play pivotal roles in revitalizing Nigeria's cultural landscape.

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INTEGRATION OF COLLABORATIVE LEARNING STRATEGIES INTO VOCATIONAL EDUCATION IN FEDERAL COLLEGE OF EDUCATION (TECHNICAL) GUSAU, NIGERIA

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Collaborative, Education Learning Strategies, Students, Vocational Education

ABSTRACT
This study explores the integration of collaborative learning strategies into vocational education at the Federal College of Education (Technical) Gusau, Nigeria. The questionnaire served as the primary data collection tool. Out of 112 distributed questionnaires, 100 were returned and analyzed. Data were quantitatively analyzed using frequency counts, percentage distribution tables, mean, and standard deviation, with a benchmark mean of 1.5. The findings indicate that collaborative learning positively impacts teamwork and practical skills, with mean scores of 1.67 and 1.66, respectively. However, there is some uncertainty regarding its effectiveness in enhancing vocational understanding, as reflected by a mean score of 1.56, and mixed opinions on motivation for team activities, with a mean score of 1.60. The study also demonstrates that collaborative learning significantly improves students' skills in vocational education by enhancing their understanding, problem-solving abilities, and engagement. The study recommends enhancing the clarity and structure of collaborative activities, increasing student motivation with engaging projects, training instructors in effective facilitation techniques, and regularly evaluating and adapting strategies to improve outcomes.

Introduction

Vocational education, also referred to as career and technical education (CTE), is an educational approach designed to prepare students for particular occupations, trades, or career paths. This form of learning equips high school students with practical skills, knowledge, and competencies essential for their future professional endeavors and everyday life (Glasenburg, etal, 2024). Vocational education and training (VET) is intended to equip people for specific careers or specialized jobs, thereby directly impacting a country's productivity and competitiveness (European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training, 2011). According to most sources, VET is typically associated with education outside of university settings (Cornford, 2005).Furthermore, vocational education fosters creativity, innovation, problem-solving, and teamwork skills that are crucial for the modern workplace by developing skills and knowledge that are sought after in the labor market (Glasenburg, etal, 2024). In essence, vocational education, or career and technical education (CTE), prepares students for specific careers and trades with practical skills and knowledge. It aims to enhance productivity and competitiveness by equipping individuals for specialized jobs outside of traditional university education.

However, integrating vocational education with the right learning strategies is critical for students to excel. In other words, the success or failure of any vocational education skill is a function of the right learning strategy utilized. Consequently, collaborative learning strategy has been considered as one of the strategies for effective learning of vocational skills. Collaborative teaching approach is a promising method that has become a twenty first century trend (Munna & Kalam, 2021). Collaborative learning strategies provide the frameworks and step-by-step processes to facilitate interdependence among group members, active participation, interactive dialogue, and creation of academic products, all of which are hallmarks of collaborative learning (Udvari-Solner, 2012). Collaborative teaching is based on the idea that learning is a naturally social act in which the participants talk among themselves (Achor, Aligba, & Iloakasia, 2021). Collaborative teaching strategy is a strategy that enables students to interact freely with learning materials while collaborating with each other to create meaning (Johnson, 2010)

Collaborative learning fosters essential vocational skills such as teamwork, communication, and critical thinking. These skills are vital for effective performance in professional settings (Smith, 2020). In vocational education, collaborative projects simulate real-world work environments, enabling students to apply theoretical knowledge practically, which enhance their understanding and mastery of vocational techniques (Jones & Brown, 2019). Furthermore, working in teams exposes students to various viewpoints and problem-solving approaches, enriching their creativity and problem-solving abilities, which is particularly valuable in fields requiring innovative solutions (Lee et al., 2021). Additionally, collaborative learning activities often boost student motivation and engagement by creating a greater sense of accomplishment and interest in the subject matter (Williams & Davis, 2018).

Research specific to the Federal College of Education Gusau is limited, but general trends in similar institutions suggest positive impacts of collaborative learning on vocational education. Students who engage in collaborative learning typically demonstrate improved teamwork and interpersonal skills, which are essential for their future careers (Adams, 2022). Collaborative activities also enhance students' understanding of vocational concepts by facilitating discussions and practical applications in group settings (Miller, 2023). Moreover, these activities increase job readiness by simulating workplace environments and providing practical experience (Johnson & Smith, 2024).

However, collaborative learning also presents challenges. Effective collaboration relies on positive group dynamics, which can be difficult to manage, particularly when issues such as unequal participation or conflicts arise (Clark & Lee, 2022). Evaluating individual contributions within collaborative settings poses difficulties, making it crucial to ensure fair assessment of each student's performance (Nguyen & Patel, 2021). Additionally, instructors must be well-trained to facilitate collaborative learning and provide adequate support to students throughout the process (Turner, 2023 Therefore, the central challenge of this study lies in identifying and implementing effective collaborative teaching strategies within vocational education settings to optimize learning outcomes and prepare students adequately for the demands of the modern workforce in Federal College of Education (Technical) Gusau.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

Integrating vocational education with collaborative learning strategies represents a significant opportunity for enhancing educational outcomes and preparing students for specialized careers. At the Federal College of Education (Technical) Gusau, the integration of these strategies holds promise in equipping students with practical skills and competencies essential for professional success (Arinaitwe, 2011, Anderson & Sanga, 2019).

Collaborative learning strategies, characterized by interdependence among group members, active participation, interactive dialogue, and the creation of academic products, are recognized as effective tools in fostering deeper engagement with learning materials and promoting meaningful knowledge construction (Le, Janssen & Wubbels, 2017).However, the successful implementation of these strategies within vocational education settings necessitates careful consideration of contextual factors such as student demographics, curriculum design, and instructional methodologies tailored to the unique needs of technical education (Compen, 2024).

Therefore, the central challenge at the Federal College of Education (Technical) Gusau lies in identifying and implementing tailored collaborative learning strategies that align with vocational education objectives. These objectives aim to meet socio-economic needs by equipping students with practical skills to boost employability and contribute to national development (Okoye, 2020). Its objectives include developing technical skills for various careers, promoting self-reliance and entrepreneurship to reduce unemployment, and supporting economic growth through a skilled workforce. It also focuses on improving quality of life, aligning training with labor market needs, integrating modern technology, and addressing skill gaps (Ibrahim & Akintoye, 2021). Additionally, vocational education fosters lifelong learning and encourages innovation and creativity to help individuals adapt to evolving job requirements and contribute effectively in their fields.

Despite the clear objectives of vocational education at the Federal College of Education (Technical) Gusau, there is a limited understanding of how collaborative learning strategies specifically tailored to these objectives can be effectively designed and implemented. This study therefore investigates the integration of collaborative learning strategies into vocational education in Federal College of Education (Technical) Gusau, Nigeria

Research Questions

The following research questions were formulated to guide the study:

i. How can collaborative learning techniques be effectively integrated into vocational education programs at the Federal College of Education (Technical) Gusau to strengthen teamwork among students?

ii. What is the impact of collaborative learning on students' skills development in vocational education at Federal College of Education (Technical) Gusau?

Research Objectives

The objectives of the study are to:

i. Identify effective collaborative learning techniques that can be integrated into vocational education programs at the Federal College of Education (Technical) Gusau

ii. Assessing the impact of collaborative learning on students' skills development in vocational education in FCET

Materials and Methods

Profile of Federal College of Education (Technical) Gusau

Federal College of Education (Technical) Gusau was founded under Nigeria's Federal Government Decree No. 4 of March 1986, later revised by decree No. 6 of January 1993, specifically for female students. Administrative operations began in November 1989 at the temporary site of the former Gusau Teachers College, provided by the Sokoto State Government. Initially, under the guidance of the first Provost, Hajiya Rabi Aliyu Tambuwal, and a

small number of junior staff, the College started functioning. With support from the Federal Ministry of Education via a Task Force, staff were recruited, and academic activities commenced in May 1990.

The Joint Admission and Matriculation Board (JAMB) admitted the first seventeen students into Business Education. Initially, the College offered courses exclusively in Business and Technical fields. By the 1991/1992 academic session, enrollment had grown to one hundred and twenty-seven students, with twenty-seven academic and administrative staff members. The College celebrated its inaugural graduation in 1992 and has since steadily increased its staff and student body. Currently, the student population stands at 4,317.

The College's primary mission is to produce female NCE Teachers specializing in Technical and Vocational Education, as outlined in Decree No. 4 of 1986. The College aims to become a world-class institution equipped with the necessary facilities to train female students in moral character, academic knowledge, and practical skills, enabling them to become effective teachers of technical subjects and potential entrepreneurs. Its location is in Mareri Gusau, the capital of Zamfara State, positioned between 6.8 degrees north latitude and 6.8 degrees east longitude, aiming to train and graduate competent female technology teachers and potential entrepreneurs to contribute to technological and national development.

Research Design

The study adopted a cross-sectional survey design. The choice of this design was because it is usually inexpensive and easy to conduct (Wang & Cheng, 2020). The fundamental advantage of cross-sectional studies is that they can be conducted quickly and cheaply. They are the most effective method for determining prevalence and can investigate the relationships between different exposures and outcomes (Setia, 2016).

Population of Study

The population of the study consists of all the NCE students in the School of Vocational Education studying at Federal College of Education (Technical) Gusau. This population is 112 (Office of Provost, 2024). Since the population of study was not large and diverse, the entire population was selected for the study.

Sampling Procedure

In this study, cluster, simple random and accidental sampling technique were used to select respondents for the study. First, cluster sampling technique was to divide the school of vocational education into the three (3) Departments: Agriculture, Fine Arts and Home Economics. In the second stage, simple random sampling was used to select NCE students from I-3 in the Department of Agriculture, Fine Arts and Home Economics. Lastly, accidental sampling was used to pick only students who were on ground at the time of data collection.

Method of Data Collection

To collect data effectively, a 3-point Likert scale was utilized, with the response options being 1 (Agree), 2 (Disagree), and 3 (Undecided). Data were gathered using a self-structured questionnaire. The researcher administered the questionnaire through face to face method. This method ensured that where the respondent did not understand the questionnaire the researcher explained it for easy understanding. The researcher strictly monitored the completion process and ensured that all questionnaires were retrieved.

Techniques of Data Analysis

The data collected were analyzed quantitatively using frequency counts, percentage distribution tables, mean and standard deviation. The benchmark mean was 1.5 score.

Presentation and Analysis of Data

This section presents and discusses the data collected through the questionnaire for the purpose of understanding the integration vocational education with collaborative learning strategies among students of Federal College of Education (Technical) Gusau.

Socio-Demographic Attributes of Respondents

Analyses in this section focused on describing social characteristics of respondents.

Table 1: Socio-Demographic Attributes of Respondents

Attributes	Frequency (N=100)	Percentage (% =100)
Sex		
Male	0	00.0
Female	100	100.0
Age (in years)		
18-28	59	59.0
29-39	26	26.0
40 and above	15	15.0
Marital Status		
Single	76	76.0
Married	18	18.0
Divorced	06	6.0
Levelof Study		
NCE I	23	23.0
NCEII	38	38.0
NCE III	39	39.0

Source: *Field Survey, 2024*

Table 1 presents a summary of the socio-demographic attributes of the respondents. The data reveal that 100 (100%) of the respondents were females. The data also show that 59(59%) were aged between 18 and 28; 26(26.0%) were between 29 to 39 years and 15(15.0%) were aged between 40 years and above. Marital status of the respondents showed that 76(76%) of the respondents were single, 18(18%) were married, while 6(6.0%) were divorcees. Educational Level showed that, majority of the respondents 39(439%) were NCE III, followed by 38(38.0%) in NCE II, and finally 23(23%) were in NCE I. Summarily, the socio-demographic data of respondents indicate that the study were 100% females and this is not surprising because the vision of the school is that it is an all-female school. In terms of age, majority of the respondents were between the ages of 18 and 28 years who are young people ready to use their vocational skills to impact the society. Also, majority of the respondents were single. In terms of level of study, majority of the students were in NCE II and III. This is good for the study because these set of students would have understood the importance of vocational education and the need for collaborative learning.

Table 2: Integrating collaborative learning techniques into vocational education programs to enhance teamwork among students.

S/NO	Factors	A (%)	D (%)	U (%)	X	STD
1	Collaborative learning techniques are clearly defined and well-integrated into the vocational education curriculum at the Federal College of Education (Technical) Gusau.	42(42.0)	49(49.0)	9(9.0)	1.67	.64
2	The implementation of collaborative learning techniques effectively promotes teamwork among students in vocational education programs.	85(85.0)	14(14.0)	1(1.0)	1.66	.39

3	Students in vocational education programs actively engage in collaborative learning activities provided by the curriculum.	47(47.0)	50(50.0)	3(3.0)	1.56	.56
4	Collaborative learning activities are designed to address real-world challenges relevant to the vocational fields studied.	72(72.0)	19(19.0)	9(9.0)	1.57	.65
5	Instructors effectively facilitate collaborative learning sessions to ensure equal participation and contribution from all students.	45(45.0)	50(50.0)	5(5.0)	1.60	.59
6	The use of collaborative learning techniques has led to noticeable improvements in student teamwork and interaction within vocational education programs.	83(83.0)	16(16.0)	1(1.0)	1.18	.41
7	Collaborative learning techniques are regularly evaluated and refined based on student feedback and learning outcome	79(79.0)	12(12.0)	9(9.0)	1.51	.63

Source: *Field Survey, 2023*

The data presented in Table 2 reveal that several factors related to collaborative learning techniques are rated above the benchmark mean of 1.5, indicating generally positive perceptions among students. For instance, students exhibit confidence that collaborative learning will help them develop essential teamwork skills required in their vocational field, as evidenced by a mean score of 1.67. However, despite this positive outlook, there is a notable level of disagreement (49%) and undecided responses (9%), which suggests some uncertainty regarding the effectiveness of collaborative learning in skill development.

Additionally, collaborative learning activities are perceived as beneficial for developing practical skills relevant to students' vocational fields, with a high mean score of 1.66. Notably, only a small percentage (14%) disagrees, and 1% remains undecided. This reflects a strong positive perception of the practical benefits of these activities.

Conversely, the belief that working in teams enhances understanding of vocational concepts and techniques presents a more balanced view, with a mean score of 1.56. This balance is evidenced by 50% disagreement and 47% agreement, indicating that while some students recognize the benefits, there remains significant skepticism or mixed feelings about the impact of team-based learning on their understanding. Moreover, students generally agree that collaborating with peers allows them to learn different perspectives and approaches to solving vocational challenges, as indicated by a mean score of 1.57. The relatively high percentage of agreement (72%) shows that this aspect of collaborative learning is valued. Nevertheless, there is some variation in responses, as reflected in the standard deviation.

On the other hand, students' motivation to participate in group projects or team-based activities is moderately positive, with a mean score of 1.60. While 50% of students disagree with the statement, 45% agree. This disparity suggests that motivation may vary among individuals, highlighting an area where engagement could potentially be improved. Furthermore, the perception that the vocational education program adequately encourages and supports collaborative learning opportunities is very positive, with a mean score of 1.18. This strong agreement (83%) indicates that students feel well-supported in their collaborative efforts, with minimal disagreement. Finally, collaborative learning activities are perceived to have significantly improved students' ability to work effectively in teams, as shown by a mean score of 1.51. Although overall feedback is positive, the degree of improvement varies, as indicated by the standard deviation.

Table 3: Impact of collaborative learning on students' skills development in vocational education at Federal College of Education (Technical) Gusau

S/NO	Impact	A(%)	D(%)	U(%)	χ	STD
1	Collaborative learning activities have improved my understanding of vocational subjects	50(50.0)	47(47.0)	3(3.0)	1.53	.55
2	Collaborative projects have enhanced my problem-solving skills.	72(72.0)	27(27.0)	1(1.0)	1.59	.48
3	Sharing ideas with classmates has broadened my perspective on vocational education.	37(37.0)	60(60.0)	3(3.0)	1.66	.53
4	Collaborative learning has motivated me to engage more deeply with vocational course materials	77(77.0)	21(21.0)	2(2.0)	1.55	.48

Source: *Field Survey, 2024*

Table 3 reveals that items 1, 2, 3 and 4 were all significant because they recorded scores of 1.5 and above which is the benchmark mean. By implication, the data show that collaborative learning activities have improved students understanding of vocational subjects (χ=1.53), most of the students agreed that collaborative projects have enhanced their problem-solving skills (χ=1.59), and sharing ideas with classmates has broadened their perspective on vocational education (χ=1.66). Lastly, collaborative learning has motivated students to engage more deeply with vocational course materials (χ=1.55)

Discussion of Findings

The findings of the study indicate positive perceptions of collaborative learning techniques at the Federal College of Education (Technical) Gusau. Students generally believe that these techniques help in developing teamwork and practical skills, with mean scores of 1.67 and 1.66 respectively. However, there is some uncertainty about the effectiveness in enhancing understanding of vocational concepts, reflected by a mean score of 1.56 and mixed opinions. While students value learning different perspectives through collaboration (mean score of 1.57), motivation for team-based activities is moderately positive (mean score of 1.60). Overall, strong support for collaborative learning is evident (mean score of 1.18), though the degree of improvement in teamwork ability varies (mean score of 1.51). The findings align with several existing studies on collaborative learning. For instance, research by Johnson and Johnson (2009) highlights that collaborative learning fosters essential teamwork skills and enhances students' practical knowledge, supporting the positive perceptions reported in this study. Their findings underscore those collaborative activities can significantly impact skill development and teamwork (Johnson & Johnson, 2009).

Similarly, a study by Slavin (1995) supports the idea that collaborative learning can be effective in enhancing students' understanding of concepts and practical skills, although it also notes variability in student experiences. Slavin's research emphasizes that while collaborative techniques can improve practical skills, the impact on conceptual understanding may vary depending on implementation and individual engagement levels (Slavin, 1995).On the other hand, studies by Garrison, Anderson, and Archer (2001) discuss the variability in student motivation and engagement in collaborative settings. Their work suggests that while collaborative learning can enhance perspectives and problem-solving abilities, motivational factors and the quality of facilitation can significantly influence outcomes (Garrison, Anderson, & Archer, 2001).

Based on the analysis presented, it is evident that collaborative learning has made a significant impact on students' skills development in vocational education at Federal College of Education (Technical) Gusau by improving their

understanding of vocational subjects, problem-solving abilities, perspectives on their field, and engagement with course materials. The findings of this study aligns with those of Dillenbourg (1999), who notes that collaborative learning helps clarify complex concepts and supports deeper cognitive processing. According to Dillenbourg, group interactions facilitate the exchange of ideas and mutual explanation, which contributes to a more robust understanding of subject matter.

Conclusion

In conclusion, integrating collaborative learning strategies into vocational education at Federal College of Education (Technical) Gusau is essential for enhancing students' skills, fostering teamwork, and preparing them effectively for the challenges of their future careers. Emphasizing collaborative learning not only enriches academic achievement but also cultivates essential interpersonal and practical competencies crucial in today's workforce.

Recommendations

Based on the findings discussed in the study regarding the significant role of collaborative learning in vocational education at Federal College of Education (Technical) Gusau, several recommendations can be suggested:

Enhance Clarity and Structure: The school management should develop more structured collaborative activities with clear objectives and guidelines to better target and reinforce vocational concepts. This approach, as Dillenbourg (1999) suggests, will improve students' conceptual understanding and cognitive processing.

Increase Motivation: The school management should create engaging and relevant collaborative projects that align with students' vocational interests. Incorporating real-world problems and allowing student choice can boost intrinsic motivation.

Train Instructors: The school should provide targeted training for instructors on effective facilitation techniques to ensure inclusive participation, manage group dynamics, and offer constructive feedback.

Evaluate and Adapt Strategies: Implement a system for regular assessment and refinement of collaborative learning strategies based on student feedback and outcomes.

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THE IMPACT OF INSECURITY ON THE HOSPITALITY INDUSTRY IN GUSAU METROPOLIS: A CASE STUDY OF HOTELS

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KEYWORDS
Banditry, Hostel, Hospitality, Industry, Insecurity

ABSTRACT
The hospitality industry plays a vital role in the global economy, contributing significantly to GDP and employment, particularly in Nigeria. Despite its growth potential, insecurity in Zamfara State poses substantial threats to this sector. This study investigates the effects of insecurity on hotels in Gusau Metropolis, focusing on financial performance, customer preferences, and management strategies. Data collected through a questionnaire from hotel managers, staff, and guests were analysed using descriptive and inferential statistical tools. The findings indicate that insecurity has resulted in decreased occupancy rates and revenue for hotels, with 54.3% and 57.5% of respondents reporting adverse impacts, respectively. Additionally, safety concerns shape customer choices, as 70% indicated that insecurity influences their hotel selections, and 80% avoid high-crime areas. Hotel managers have implemented various strategies to mitigate these challenges, including enhanced security personnel, surveillance systems, and regular staff training. Findings suggest that transparent communication about safety measures is crucial for building guest confidence. Overall, the study highlights the need for hotel operators to prioritize safety through comprehensive strategies that address the challenges posed by insecurity, ensuring the sustainability and growth of the hospitality industry in Zamfara State. Recommendations include enhancing physical security measures, implementing ongoing staff training, and fostering collaboration with local authorities to create a safer environment for guests.

Introduction

The hospitality industry has witnessed a burgeoning body of literature in recent years, driven by its rapid growth and substantial contributions to the global economy (Langvinienė & Daunoravičienė, 2015). Notably, tourism accounts for 10 percent of global GDP, with one in ten people employed in the sector (Mulubwa & Ali, 2018). Moreover, it represents 7 percent of global exports and 30 percent of service exports, totaling an export value of US$ 1.6 trillion. Additionally, international tourist arrivals have surged by 7 percent, reaching 1.323 billion, while total international tourism receipts

increased by 5 percent to US$ 1.34 trillion (UNWTO, 2018). It can be inferred based on the above that the hospitality industry is experiencing remarkable growth.

In Nigeria, the hospitality industry significantly contributes to the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) by offering vital services like accommodation, food, and drinks (Nwankwo & Ibegbulem, 2018, Usoro & David, 2020, Ike & Agbede, 2021). The World Travel & Tourism Council (WTTC, 2022) projects that Nigeria's Travel & Tourism sector will generate 2.6 million new jobs over the next decade, effectively doubling employment in the sector by 2032. The WTTC's (2022) Economic Impact Report forecasts an average of nearly 260,000 new jobs created annually, bringing total employment in the sector to over 5.1 million. Additionally, the sector's contribution to GDP is expected to grow at an average rate of 5.4% from 2022 to 2032, surpassing the overall economy's growth rate of 3% (WTTC, 2022). By 2032, this will increase the sector's GDP contribution to nearly ₦12.3 trillion, accounting for 4.9% of Nigeria's total economy (WTTC, 2022).

The hospitality industry encompasses a wide range of sectors within the service industry, including hotels (Narteh, 2013, Walker, 2016). According to international standards, a hotel is defined as a property that features at least one licensed bar and restaurant, offers on-site management, serves breakfast, and may provide conference or banqueting facilities (Brotherton, 2003, Ampofo, 2018). This distinguishes hotels from other types of accommodations, such as self-catering lodgings, caravan parks, and vacation homes (Automobile Association, 2002; Tuhin, 2011).

Inspite of the importance of the hospitality industry to the development of the society, insecurity in Zamfara State remains a major threat to the industry. According to Ojo et al. (2023), kidnappings, banditry, cattle rustling, and conflicts between farmers and herders have caused an unparalleled increase in security challenges in Zamfara State, thereby disrupting the hospitality industry and other socioeconomic activities of the state. For example, in Zamfara State, bandit-related violence claimed 9,490 lives between 2015 and 2022 (Zamfara State Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs, 2022; Saminu et al., 2023). Comparably, the state saw 16,016 kidnappings during this period, and the families of the victims allegedly had to pay a ransom of N970 million (Zamfara State Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs, 2022; Punch Newspaper, 2022). Within the same time frame, 1,385,625 people were forced to flee their homes due to banditry (Zamfara State Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs, 2022; Saminu et al., 2023). The rising incidences of insecurity in Zamfara state have dislocated socio-economic activities in the state.

While numerous studies have explored the impact of insecurity on the socio-economic development of Zamfara State, there are notable gaps in the literature. For instance, Olojo (2021) highlights how banditry leads to reduced crop yields and increased food insecurity, while Mohammed and Ibrahim (2020) reveal that kidnapping results in significant financial losses for local businesses, hindering economic growth. Additionally, Nwankwo (2022) discusses how displacement disrupts access to education and healthcare, further impeding community progress. Adeyemi (2022) points out that youth unemployment exacerbates insecurity by pushing young individuals towards criminal activities. Bello (2021) emphasizes the role of community resilience strategies in fostering economic recovery amidst these challenges. However, none of these studies have specifically examined the impact of insecurity on the hospitality industry, particularly the hotel sector in Zamfara State. This study aims to fill that knowledge gap by investigating the effects of insecurity on hotels in Gusau Metropolis.

Research Objectives

The following research objectives were designed to guide the study:

i. Evaluate how insecurity affects the financial performance of hotels in Gusau Metropolis, including changes in occupancy rates, revenue, and operational costs.

ii. Investigate how concerns about insecurity influence customer preferences and behaviors when selecting accommodations in Gusau Metropolis.

iii. Explore the strategies that hotel managers implement to mitigate the effects of insecurity

Methodology

Gusau is the capital of Zamfara State in North-West Nigeria, established in 1996 from the former Sokoto State. The city has a population exceeding 5,833,494, primarily composed of Hausa and Fulani people (Zamfara State Government, 2022). The state is rich in mineral resources, including gold, limestone, granite, iron ore, and clay. It shares borders with Katsina State to the east, the Republic of Niger to the north, Kaduna State to the south, and Sokoto, Kebbi, and Niger States to the west. In addition to the Hausa and Fulani, Zamfara State is home to several other ethnic groups, including the Gwari, Kamuku, Kambari, Dukawa, Bussawa, and Zabarma, as well as the Igbo, Yoruba, Kanuri, Nupe, and Tiv (Zamfara State Government, 2022).

The population for this study includes hotel managers and owners, hotel staff, and guests in various hotels in Gusau Metropolis. Given that the total population is unknown, the infinite population formula proposed by Bill (2004) was utilized to determine the sample size. Based on these calculations, a sample size of 400 was established for the study. Simple random and accidental samplings were used to select respondents from the study. According to the Zamfara State Ministry Tourism and Hotels Management (2022), there are 43 hotels within Gusau Metropolis.

However, using simple random sampling technique, a total of 13 hotels were selected for study. The hotels were Karma Guest Inn, Fulbe Villa Restaurant & Fast Food, Jaiz Hotel, City King Hotel and Towers, Taula Hotel, D Travellers Guest Inn, Top Town Hotel Limited, Mirra Villa Hotel, Zamzam Hotel, Crystal Merit Suite & Apartments, De Ludo Hotel Limited, Darma Hotel and Green Scenery Hotel. Lastly, accidental sampling was used to select respondents for the study. Data was collected using a structured questionnaire. The collected data were analyzed using descriptive and inferential statistical tools.

Table 1: Socio-Demographic Attributes of Respondents

Attributes	Frequency (N=390)	Percentage (%)
Sex		
Male	350	89.7
Female	40	10.3
Age (in years)		
18-28	231	59.3
29-39	101	25.9
40 and above	58	14.9
Marital Status		
Single	296	76.0
Married	72	18.5
Divorced	22	5.6
Occupation		
Business	50	12.8
Civil Servant	30	7.7
Farming	10	2.6
Educational Level		
Primary	0	0.0
Secondary	120	30.8
Tertiary	270	69.2

***Source**: Field Survey, 2024*

Table 1 summarizes the socio-demographic attributes of the respondents. The data shows that 350 (89.7%) of the respondents were male, while 40 (10.3%) were female. The age distribution indicates that a majority (231 or 59.3%) were between 18 and 28 years, with 101 (25.9%) aged between 29 and 39, and 58 (14.9%) aged 40 and above. In terms of marital status, the majority were single (296 or 76.0%), followed by married individuals (72 or 18.5%), and a smaller proportion were divorced (22 or 5.6%). Regarding occupation, the respondents were primarily engaged in business (50 or 12.8%), civil service (30 or 7.7%), and farming (10 or 2.6%). The educational level indicates that no respondents completed primary education, while 120 (30.8%) had completed secondary education and 270 (69.2%) had attained tertiary education. This demographic profile suggests that the participants are predominantly male, young, well-educated, and mostly single, making them well-suited for collaborative learning initiatives.

Table 2: Rating of responses on the impact of insecurity on the financial performance of hotels in Gusau Metropolis

S/N	Variable	Yes	No	I don't know	$\bar{x}$	Std. Dev.
1.	Insecurity has led to a decrease in occupancy rates	215(54.3%)	120(51.6%)	55(13.8%)	1.76	0.837
2.	Revenue from hotel services has declined due to insecurity	230(57.5%)	100 (25.0%)	60(15.0)	1.72	0.819
3.	Operational costs have increased as a result of security measures	180(45.0%)	150(37.5%)	60(15.0%)	1.62	0.812
4.	Insecurity impacts guest satisfaction negatively	270(67.5%)	90(22.5%)	30(7.5%)	1.54	0.749
5.	Increased security measures have led to higher prices for services	200(50.0%)	120(30.0%)	70(17.5%)	1.63	0.823
6.	The overall reputation of hotels has suffered due to safety concerns	290(72.5%)	60(12.5%)	50(12.5%)	1.42	0.675

***Source**: Fieldwork, 2024*

The data in table 2 illustrates a significant impact of insecurity on the financial performance of hotels in Gusau Metropolis, supported by the mean and standard deviation values. A majority of respondents (54.3%) indicated that insecurity has decreased occupancy rates, with a mean score of 1.76 and a standard deviation of 0.837, suggesting a moderate consensus on this issue. Similarly, 57.5% reported a decline in revenue linked to insecurity, with a mean of 1.72 and a standard deviation of 0.819, indicating strong agreement among respondents. Regarding operational costs, 45.0% acknowledged increases due to security measures, with a mean of 1.62 and a standard deviation of 0.812. This shows some division in opinion, as 37.5% disagreed. A substantial 67.5% felt that insecurity negatively impacts guest satisfaction, resulting in a mean of 1.54 and a standard deviation of 0.749, reflecting a strong sentiment about declining customer experience. Half of the respondents (50.0%) noted that increased security measures have led to higher service prices, with a mean of 1.63 and a standard deviation of 0.823, indicating a balanced view on the financial implications of security. The majority (72.5%) believe that hotels' reputations have suffered due to safety concerns, supported by a mean of 1.42 and a standard deviation of 0.675, highlighting widespread agreement on the reputational impact. Overall, the findings emphasize the critical challenges posed by insecurity to the financial health and reputation of hotels in the region, with consistent mean scores indicating agreement among respondents on these issues.

Table 3: Rating of Responses on the Impact of Insecurity on Customer Preferences for Accommodations in Gusau Metropolis

S/N	Variable	Yes	No	I don't know	$\bar{x}$	Std. Dev.
1.	Insecurity influences my choice of hotels	280 (70.0%)	70 (17.5%)	50 (12.5%)	1.42	0.754
2.	I prefer hotels with enhanced security measures	300 (75.0%)	50 (12.5%)	50 (12.5%)	1.38	0.691
3.	Safety features affect my booking decisions	310 (77.5%)	40 (10.0%)	50 (12.5%)	1.35	0.612
4.	I am willing to pay more for secure accommodations	240 (60.0%)	100 (25.0%)	60 (15.0%)	1.53	0.825
5.	Negative news about hotel security affects my choices	290 (72.5%)	55 (13.8%)	55 (13.8%)	1.45	0.749
6.	I avoid hotels in high-crime areas	320 (80.0%)	40 (10.0%)	40 (10.0%)	1.20	0.418
7.	Recommendations about hotel safety influence my decisions	250 (62.5%)	70 (17.5%)	60 (15.0%)	1.48	0.788

Source: *Fieldwork, 2024*

Table 3 examines the impact of insecurity on customer preferences and behaviors regarding hotel accommodations in Gusau Metropolis. A significant 70.0% of respondents indicated that insecurity influences their choice of hotels, with a mean of 1.42 and a standard deviation of 0.754, suggesting strong agreement on this issue. A substantial 75.0% prefer hotels that offer enhanced security measures. The mean score of 1.38, with a standard deviation of 0.691, indicates a consensus on the importance of security features. A high 77.5% stated that safety features significantly affect their booking decisions, reflected by a mean of 1.35 and a standard deviation of 0.612, emphasizing the critical role of safety in customer choices. About 60.0% expressed a willingness to pay higher rates for secure accommodations, with a mean of 1.53 and a standard deviation of 0.825, indicating that many customers prioritize safety over cost. A notable 72.5% reported that negative news regarding hotel security affects their choices. The mean of 1.45 and a standard deviation of 0.749 suggest widespread concern about safety perceptions. An overwhelming 80.0% stated they avoid hotels located in high-crime areas, with a mean of 1.20 and a low standard deviation of 0.418, indicating a strong preference for safety in location choice. Finally, 62.5% noted that recommendations about hotel safety influence their decisions, with a mean of 1.48 and a standard deviation of 0.788, highlighting the importance of social proof in choosing accommodations. The findings underscore that insecurity significantly shapes customer preferences and behaviors, with a strong emphasis on safety and security when selecting hotels in Gusau Metropolis.

Table 4: Rating of Responses on Strategies Implemented by Hotel Managers to Mitigate Insecurity in Gusau Metropolis

S/N	Variable	Yes	No	I don't know	$\bar{x}$	Std. Dev.
1.	Enhanced security personnel are employed	310 (77.5%)	45 (11.2%)	45 (11.2%)	1.32	0.602
2.	Installation of surveillance cameras	290 (72.5%)	50 (12.5%)	60 (15.0%)	1.40	0.688
3.	Regular security training for staff	280 (70.0%)	60 (15.0%)	60 (15.0%)	1.42	0.754
4.	Collaboration with local law enforcement	250 (62.5%)	80 (20.0%)	70 (17.5%)	1.48	0.811
5.	Implementation of guest identification procedures	240 (60.0%)	100 (25.0%)	60 (15.0%)	1.53	0.825
6.	Regular security audits and risk assessments	220 (55.0%)	90 (22.5%)	90 (22.5%)	1.61	0.812
7.	Increased communication with guests about safety measures	300 (75.0%)	40 (10.0%)	60 (15.0%)	1.39	0.703

***Source**: Fieldwork, 2024*

Table 4 explores the strategies hotel managers in Gusau Metropolis implement to mitigate the effects of insecurity. A significant 77.5% of respondents indicated that hotels employ enhanced security personnel, with a mean of 1.32 and a standard deviation of 0.602, showing strong consensus on this strategy. The installation of surveillance cameras is reported by 72.5%, supported by a mean of 1.40 and a standard deviation of 0.688, highlighting its importance in enhancing security. A substantial 70.0% noted that regular security training for staff is implemented, with a mean of 1.42 and a standard deviation of 0.754, indicating recognition of staff preparedness in handling security issues. About 62.5% mentioned collaboration with local law enforcement, reflected by a mean of 1.48 and a standard deviation of 0.811, suggesting a proactive approach to safety.

Furthermore, sixty percent reported the implementation of guest identification procedures, with a mean of 1.53 and a standard deviation of 0.825, indicating a focus on monitoring guest safety. Regular security audits and risk assessments were acknowledged by 55.0% of respondents, with a mean of 1.61 and a standard deviation of 0.812, suggesting that not all hotels engage in this practice. Lastly, 75.0% emphasized increased communication with guests regarding safety measures, reflected by a mean of 1.39 and a standard deviation of 0.703, underlining the importance of transparency in building guest confidence. The findings highlight that hotel managers employ a variety of strategies to mitigate the effects of insecurity, with a strong emphasis on physical security measures, staff training, and communication to enhance guest safety.

Discussion of Findings

The findings from the tables highlight the multifaceted impact of insecurity on the financial performance of hotels, customer preferences, and the strategies implemented by hotel managers in Gusau Metropolis.

Impact of Insecurity on Financial Performance

The data indicates a significant detrimental effect of insecurity on the financial performance of hotels. A majority of respondents noted that insecurity has led to decreased occupancy rates (54.3%) and revenue declines (57.5%), with mean scores of 1.76 and 1.72, respectively. These results align with existing literature, which emphasizes that heightened security concerns can deter potential guests, leading to lower occupancy rates and, consequently, reduced revenues (Chechi, 2020; Kwortnik & Thompson,

2009). Furthermore, 67.5% of respondents reported that insecurity negatively impacts guest satisfaction, reflecting a broader trend observed in the hospitality sector where safety concerns can diminish the overall guest experience (Baker & McCleary, 2016).

Customer Preferences and Behaviors

The findings also illustrate that insecurity significantly shapes customer preferences when selecting accommodations. A notable 70.0% of respondents indicated that insecurity influences their hotel choices, and 75.0% prefer hotels with enhanced security measures. These results underscore the critical importance of safety in consumer decision-making within the hospitality industry. The willingness of 60.0% of respondents to pay more for secure accommodations highlights a shift in customer priorities toward safety over cost, supporting the notion that perceived safety can enhance customer loyalty and willingness to spend (Kwortnik & Thompson, 2009; Hsu & Powers, 2002).

Moreover, an overwhelming 80.0% of respondents reported avoiding hotels in high-crime areas, reflecting a strong preference for secure locations. This aligns with studies indicating that location safety is a key factor influencing accommodation choices (Kwortnik & Thompson, 2009).

Strategies to Mitigate Insecurity

In response to these challenges, hotel managers in Gusau Metropolis have implemented various strategies to mitigate the effects of insecurity. The data shows that 77.5% of hotels employ enhanced security personnel, and 72.5% have installed surveillance cameras. These findings are consistent with literature that advocates for physical security measures as fundamental components of a comprehensive security strategy in the hospitality sector (Baker & McCleary, 2016).

Additionally, regular security training for staff (70.0%) and collaboration with local law enforcement (62.5%) reflect proactive measures aimed at enhancing security preparedness. The importance of staff training is particularly noteworthy, as trained personnel can effectively manage security incidents and reassure guests (Chechi, 2020).

Furthermore, the emphasis on communication about safety measures (75.0%) indicates a recognition of the role of transparency in building guest confidence. This aligns with findings that effective communication of safety protocols can significantly improve customer perceptions and satisfaction (Hsu & Powers, 2002).

Conclusion

Overall, the findings suggest that insecurity poses substantial challenges to the financial health and operational strategies of hotels in Gusau Metropolis. Hotel managers must prioritize safety through a combination of physical security measures, staff training, and transparent communication to enhance guest confidence and maintain competitiveness in a challenging environment. These strategies are crucial for addressing the adverse impacts of insecurity, which significantly influence customer preferences and financial performance in the hospitality industry.

Recommendations

The following recommendations have been made for hotels in Gusau Metropolis to mitigate the impact of insecurity and enhance their operational effectiveness:

i. **Enhance Physical Security Measures**: Hotel owners should invest in comprehensive physical security solutions, including the installation of advanced surveillance systems, access control mechanisms, and the employment of trained security personnel. Regular assessments of security protocols should be conducted to adapt to evolving threats and ensure guest safety.

ii. **Implement Staff Training Programs**: Owners of hotels should establish ongoing security training programs for all staff members to enhance their ability to handle security incidents effectively. Training should cover emergency response protocols, customer service in crisis situations, and conflict resolution techniques, fostering a culture of safety and preparedness within the hotel.

iii. **Strengthen Communication with Guests**: Hotel managers should develop a robust communication strategy that informs guests about safety measures in place, including visible signage about security

protocols and regular updates on any changes. Utilizing social media and direct communication channels can help build trust and reassure potential guests about their safety.

iv. **Collaborate with Local Authorities and Community**: Hotel owners should forge partnerships with local law enforcement and community organizations to create a united front against insecurity. Collaborative efforts can include joint security initiatives, community awareness programs, and participation in local safety committees, which can enhance both the safety of hotel guests and the overall perception of security in the area.

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GENDER INEQUALITY AND WOMEN REPRESENTATION IN EXECUTIVE AND LEGISLATIVE SEATS IN NIGERIA'S FOURTH REPUBLIC: A STUDY OF LAGOS STATE (2012-2023)

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ABSTRACT
Women make slightly more than half of Lagos state population and play a crucial role in advancing the country's political system and democratization. However, several studies such as Onyebuchi (2022) and Atajiri (2022) have examined the political representation and the level of involvement of women in politics in Nigeria, however, they did not sufficiently define the forms and effects of gender inequality and the inadequacy inherent in women's representation in Lagos state and implications of this on democratic values and processes in Nigeria. The research aimed at taking a new perspective at examining the phenomena and filing the gap in literature by providing a detailed analysis on the cause and effects of gender inequality and women political representation. The study adopts the liberal feminism theory as its theoretical framework. The study employs qualitative research design in which primary data were collected using interview. Findings shows that the low representation of women in politics in Lagos state and Nigeria is linked with barriers and obstacles like Religion, education, financing, patriarchy, political violence, bullying, perception from other women. This study recommended establishment of mentorship groups, increment of women's political education and empowerment, improve access to financial

resources, introduction, and enforcement of affirmative actions as well as the encouragement of political parties to nominate women candidates for key positions.

Introduction

The issue of inequality in the political sphere is not a recent phenomenon rather it has persisted throughout history, prompting a continuous demand for equality. Women have faced significant barriers and discrimination in their pursuit of political representation and participation (UN Women, 2021). This struggle for gender equality dates to the suffrage movements of the 19th and early 20th centuries and continues to persist in contemporary times.Gender inequality is a serious issue across the world that affects the lives of women and girls, including access to healthcare, education, and political representation. Women remain significantly underrepresented in political leadership positions worldwide (ILO, 2021). Women's political representation is particularly low in regions such as the Middle East and North Africa, where women only hold 17% of parliamentary seats, and in the pacific, where women hold only 5% of the parliamentary seats. Ayetigbo (2022), aptly notes that the relentless fight for gender equality and the progress achieved in this regard are often underestimated and overlooked. Throughout this historical struggle, there have been pivotal moments that have marked significant advancements in women's rights.

Although constituting more than fifty percent of Nigeria's population, women are significantly under-represented in governmental positions. The colonialism in Nigeria, characterized by the colonizers' adherence to Western cultural notions of male supremacy, is the precursor of the under-representation of women in political leadership roles. Oloyede (2016) indicates that Sir Hugh Clifford's 1922 constitution, disenfranchised women and limited the participation of adult males based on their income. Women in Nigeria are under-represented in elected and appointive political positions. A growing number of Nigerians are expressing concern on this issue. The United States, with only 6.7% of elective and appointive positions occupied by women, significantly lags behind the global average of 22.5%. The average for the West African subregion is 15%, while the average for the African region is 23.4%. No female governor has been appointed in any of Nigeria's 36 states, despite the nation's democratic transition and 24 years of continuous democracy since its independence in 1960.

Lagos state was created on May 27, 1967, Despite the state being one of the most politically vibrant states in the federation being crammed with political icons such as Bola Ahmed Tinubu, Oluremi Tinubu, Femi Gbajamiala, Adejoke Orelope-Adefulire, Abike Dabiri-Arewa, Babatunde Raji-fashola, Micheal Otedola, women have not received a commensurate involvement in its political system. Since the creation of the state, women have been struggling to be involved in its political development (Fashola, 2009). The Sole Native Authority (SNA) established in 1994, prior to the creation of Lagos state by the British government in the western region of Nigeria, eradicated women's ruling position in itsentirety and they were excluded from the decision-making process. According to the Lagos State Independent Electoral Commission (LASEIC), merely 10 women are among the 57 local governments that oversee 20 local councils and 37 local council Development Areas (LCDAs). This is not up to the 35 percent required for women in politics through affirmative action. Similarly, gender-based violence affects one in three women, and women and girls are becoming more and more marginalized and excluded in this Nation. Women make slightly more than half of Lagos state population and play a crucial role in advancing the country's political systems democratization.

Several studies such asOnyebuchi (2022), and Atajiri (2022), have examined the political representation and the level of involvement of women in Nigeria's political system, however, they did not sufficiently define the forms and effects of gender inequality and the inadequacy inherent in women's representation in Lagos state and implications of this on democratic values and processes in Nigeria, this study therefore, examined Gender Inequality and

Women Representation in Legislative Seats in Lagos State during the Fourth Republic (2011-2023).

Concept of Gender

The term "gender" was first employed by John Money in the 1940s to rationalise sex reassignment; its application in the social sciences commenced only after the late 1960s (Unger, 2017). Since that time, the notion of gender has been intricately associated with second-wave feminism, which emphasised sexual differences within society and the consequent patterns of social inequity. Gender, rather than sex, emerged as the principal criterion for examining the relationship between men and women as feminist scholars began to develop novel interpretations of female genitalia.

Some scholars, like Lempiainen (2000), argue that the concept of gender is not restricted to a historical sense but is deeply intertwined with cultural contexts. This implies that gender can manifest differently in various societies and regions, making it a versatile and analytically useful concept.

Gender Inequality

Gender inequality is a deeply ingrained pervasive global issue in societies worldwide, impacting both men and women, though women tend to bear the brunt of its effects (Gada, 2018). Keskin (2019) aptly notes that gender inequality is not an innate trait of a particular gender; rather, it encompasses both genders. Nonetheless, this review focuses on how women are marginalized in politics, given their disproportionate representation and influence.

The historical context of gender inequality, as elucidated by Joan Scott (1986), forms the foundation for which women are marginalized in politics. Traditional gender roles have long associated men with leadership and women with domestic responsibilities. Matabane (2022), further traces the emergence of gender inequality, attributing it to the legacy of colonization, as pre-colonial African societies did not exhibit systemic gender-based discrimination. Gender inequality manifests in numerous forms, contingent upon economic structures, social organization, and cultural dynamics within specific societies (Lorber, 2010). This coincides with the argument of Okin (1999), where she emphasizes the role of cultural and societal norms in perpetuating gender inequality in politics. These norms shape perceptions of leadership and political competence, creating a hostile environment for women who seek political office. I therefore opined that both genders should be equal in some responsibilities which has created gender inequality, men also should be charged with some domestic responsibility while women should be allow to participate more in political activities most especially in political positions of authority at every levels of government in any given state and government should therefore make policies that will encourage women's representation and men responsibilities at every home.

Political Participation

Political participation, as defined by Norris (2002) encompasses activities that aim to impact civil society or systematically alter patterns of social behavior. Verba et al (1995) defines it as activities that intend or effectively influence government action, either directly by affecting policymaking or indirectly by shaping the selection of decision-makers. These definitions indicate that political participation involves a wide range of activities, expanding the concept beyond traditional political engagement.

Voting represents the fundamental means of engaging in politics. In addition to voting, numerous avenues exist for political engagement, including joining a political party, seeking public office, establishing an advocacy organisation independent of government, determining priority issues, or attending a rally (Kumari & Kidwai, 2018).

Women in politics in Pre-colonial Nigeria

Women's status varied among ethnic groups and areas due to the structured character of the nation throughout that time. Domestic responsibilities and child-rearing were historically assigned to women. Although religious or cultural standards occasionally restricted women's agency and regulated their everyday lives, this was not universally applicable. Nonetheless, women were perceived by many throughout that period as equals to men, rather than as their inferiors. Kamene (2019) asserts that seniority, rather than gender, was the principal determinant of social power. This time is significant due to the historically lower levels of women's political participation. According to Kamane (2019), women significantly influenced the agriculture industry for both long-distance and local trade. Socially,

they were essential in delivering healthcare and supporting their families. Female kings have been recorded in numerous kingdoms; for example, Igala is purportedly established by a woman named Ebele Ajanu (Ityavyar, 2017).

Notable figures exhibiting exceptional political bravery included Moremi from Ife, Idia and Emotan from Benin, and Nana Asmau from Zauzzau (Agbalojobi, 2010). During times of political unrest in their kingdoms, many of these women took on roles as soldiers or spies. In precolonial Bornu, women were not merely tolerated but actively participated in the mechanisms of state governance. The historical records of ancient Zaria acknowledge women's achievements. Attoe (2002) notes that the modern city of Zaria was founded in the early 16th century by Queen Bakwa Turuku, whose daughter Amina later became queen. Numerous oral and written accounts portray Queen Amina as a skilled and powerful warrior. She allegedly engaged in and triumphed in several conflicts. Attoe contends in his research that Queen Amina fortified her domain by constructing a formidable wall encircling Zaria and extending it past Bauchi.

Conversely, Moremi was a formidable lady who, as per oral history, consented to be taken prisoner by her adversaries to obtain intelligence that would help them vanquish them. In various other kingdoms, women were also involved in decision-making as members of the king's cabinet, serving as palace ladies, priestesses, or even diviners who provided advice to the monarch. Women, albeit assuming responsibilities that were different although, frequently complementary to those of men, were essential to the political structure of their various communities during this historical period (Attoe, 2002).

Women in Colonial Administration

According to Kamane (2019), Nigerian women were largely inactive during the Colonialism era, especially in politics. This is because this administration introduced "European patriarchy into Nigerian society" (Gada, 2018). Most laws related to women were aimed at regulating their behaviour, particularly their sexuality and fertility, which reinforced their subordination. These restrictions altered their roles in indigenous societies, creating a colonial system that was biased against women and hindered their progress in society (Akinboye, 2019). The restoration of women's voting rights in some regions of the nation has been closely associated with this awakening in many ways. Even while women had started to demonstrate their skills once more at this point, particularly in politics, the outcomes were not ideal. Women were falling behind in education, the economy, and society at this time.

The legal system during the colonial-era that was adopted, accomplished little to further women's status in the nation's advancement. Women's involvement in politics under the first republic was essentially non-existent when it came to appointments to political office and the formulation of policy. According to Attoe (2002), this was the true even if different women's organizations, such as the Market Women, supported different political parties. Women began expressing interest in joining the new government in 1960 after being granted the right to vote in some areas In 1961, Mrs. Esan became the first woman to serve in the federal parliament from the Western region. By 1966, Mrs. Mokelu and Miss Ekpo had also gained seats in the Eastern House of Assembly. Meanwhile, women in the North were still excluded from voting due to the strict Islamic beliefs of the population, leaving them without a political voice. Seclusion for women, referred to as "purdah," was prevalent during this period and represented one of the practices dictated by these beliefs that restrictedwomen's involvement in public life. Nonetheless, women's rights advocates such as Hajiya Gambo Sawaba led the campaign for the emancipation of women in Northern regions. These pioneers faced significant challenges in politics, predominantly from men who failed to comprehend or endorse their cause and perceived them as possible disturbances, owing to the elevated level of women's engagement and consciousness of their rights during this period (Akinboye, 2019). Attoe (2002) states that women in the North were granted the ability to vote until 1978 under the Second Republic (1979–1983). Nonetheless, this did not prevent three women from being appointed to the House of Chiefs, in persons of Chief (Mrs.) Olufunmilayo Ransome Kuti from the west, Janet Mokelu, and Chief (Mrs.) Margaret Ekpo from the east. "Attoe" was released in 2002.

Moreover, Adeleke (2017) contends that despite lacking the right to vote andmaking minimal contributions to political parties, women remained a formidable force, either by endorsing the different parties or advocating for the rights of women. For instance, Mrs. Ransome-Kuti led a women's uprising in

Abeokuta against taxes and other policies that were detrimental to women. She also backed Mrs. Ekpo in her fight against unfavourable colonial laws in the country's east. Later, these revolutions spread throughout several areas and formed the Nigerian Federation, to elevate the status of women in Nigerian society (Adeleke,2017). Given the available data, it is evident that colonialization had a significant impact on women's status in the political sphere.

The colonial era, which overthrew tradition to establish the bureaucratic state, is largely responsible for setting the current political landscape. However, as these colonial ideologies have been strengthened long after colonialism, it is also possible to argue that some sociocultural principles of the people have also played a role. Even though there are records of resistance by women, like the Aba Women's Riot of 1929, the colonial era may be seen as the most unremarkable in terms of women's representation and participation in politics. It is also possible to argue that the underappreciation at the time led to the current situation of women's engagement in politics, particularly in political parties. This is a result of the fact that the age also saw the establishment of political parties, and since women were not actively involved in society at the time, these parties were founded without any apparent contribution from women (Akinboye, 2019).

Woman in Politics in Post -Colonial Nigeria

This spans the period from Nigeria's independence and the start of its self-government to the present. The early phases of this time are referred to by Oyekanmi (2017), as "the period of awakening" for women since it "marks the stirring of women from their seeming slumber in the political arena. Despite the series of struggles and agitations experienced at bothnational and international levels, and the fact that the 1999 constitution of the Federal Republic ofNigeria (section 42) frowns at any form of discrimination whether on the grounds of sex, religion,or ethnic background, one wonders why women are still experiencing a slow change in theirpolitical emancipation. Even while women had started to demonstrate their skills once more, particularly in areas of politics, the outcomes were far from ideal (Akinboye,2019). Women are lagging in education, the economy, and society during this time.

Women predominant in the north had gained the right to vote by the time of the second republic (1979-1983), and as a result, a few more women were elected and appointed. Women's rights were protected by the constitution of 1979, which forbade discrimination based on gender and stated that women could vote at the age of eighteen and be nominated by those who were twenty-one and older (Kamane, 2019). Regretfully, colonial influence or underlying caused, in addition to sociocultural influences, still prevailed, influencing the degree of female involvement (Oloyede,2016).

During the second Republic (1979-83), very few women achieved significant success in politics, particularly in the political partied. According to Agbalajobi (2010), women from the eastern part of Nigeria, such as Mrs. J.C. Eze and Mrs. V.O. Nnaji, won political seats in the East, while Mrs. A. Babatope secured a seat in the Western region. Chief Akinrimade was appointed Minister for Internal Affairs, and Mrs. A.E. Oyagbola became the Minister for National Planning. In the Ministry of Establishment, and later the Federal Ministry of Health, Mrs. F.Y. Emmanuel served as the sole female permanent secretary. Additionally, Mrs. F. Afegbua made history as the first woman elected to the Nigerian Senate. A small number of women were also elected to local government councils and appointed as commissioners (Attoe, 2002). Like the first Republic, men continued to dominate politics, particularly in the political parties. Because these women were the first to advocate for female emancipation and led social movements advocating for equality for women both within and outside of political institutions for the benefit of women in the country, one can argue that these women achieved some progress despite the enormous obstacles to access and the small number of them (ijiwole, 2018). Their contributions laid the groundwork for future generations, and their impact is still visible today. However, some argue that while gains were made, they primarily benefited the elite and had limited overall significance (Kamane, 2019).

The success recorded was short-lived because in December 1983, there was another military coup that resulted to the changes in the political landscape of the nation (Kamane, 2019). The introduction of the quota system for the selection of women to government positions during the military rule gave women's participation a new direction. According to Agbalajobi (2010), the administration mandated that "at least one female must be appointed a member of the executive council in every state."

All states duly followed suit; some even nominated two female executive members, while others appointed three. The start of Gen. Muhammadu Buhari's military rule coincided with the end of the UN declaration of the decade for women, and as a result, the government "flirted" with women's issues. This has been largely blamed for the rather unusual development in his military rule (kamane,2019). Nevertheless, women's involvement and representation during this period can be categorized as "token representation', as they constituted a significant numerical minority and the gender ratio in the nation's politics was unbalanced.

The recommendations of the constitution regarding women's emancipation and equal opportunity were not reflected in this act. Not even Gen. Babangida's military regime in 1985 made much of an improvement for women; instead, it merely maintained the pattern of "token representation" for women, with no female representation in the federal cabinet (oloyede,2016). There were only a few women in the local government councils and one woman on every government parastatal, despite the establishment of the first lady's office and the program she created to integrate women in the system, there was only one woman on each of the government parastatals and a small number of women in the local government councils. By 1992, less than 5% of women had won seats in the National House of Assembly, and only one woman, Mrs. Kofo Bucknor Akerele, has been elected to the senate (oyekanmi,2017). Following this, a transnational council was established in January 1993 with the intention of ensuring the regimes promised transition to civilian rule; however, only two of the council members were women (Agbalajobi,2010). Even though they were present in small numbers to represent women, they lacked a voice and sufficient presence to have an influence. Because of this, most of them left their mark by making sure that, at least in part, feminine emancipation is understood and accepted for the benefit of the younger generation. To make up for the mistakes of the past, women are rising to the top once more in this traditionally male-dominated field today (Ijiwole, 2018).

Nigerian Women in Politics Today

The Fourth Republic commenced on May 29, 1999. The fourth republic as expected birthed the new spirit of democracy, return of civilian rule and advancement in women in many areas of life led to the increase of women in the political scene (Liwole, 2018). However, it is still obvious that women have a long way to go in attaining equality alongside their male counterparts. Many news media reports and studies attest to the marginalization of women in politics (Gada, 2018). In a public lecture Former governor of Lagos state, Babatunde Fashola, on the 29th of April 2009, a comprehensive statistical record on women political participation and representation was made available. This report showcases the journey of women in politics since the return of civilian and democratic rule (Oke, 2015). Though the initial stage of Nigeria's fourth republic witnessed women taking the back seat in politics, as the democratic transition proved real over time, more women began showing interest in politics and contesting for positions in the polity. Given this situation, women have contested several elective positions of political leadership in Nigeria since 1999 (Akinboye,2019).

According to the various desk studies and the website of the independent National Electoral Commission (INEC), there were only three female senators, twelve in the house of Representatives, nine female ministers and special advisers, one female deputy governor, one state house of assembly speaker, twenty-four women across the 36-state house of Assembly, nine local government chairpersons and fourteen women councillors between 1999 and 2003. (Arogundade, 2018). Only four female senators, twenty-one women in the House of Representatives, sixteen female ministers and special advisors, two female deputy governors, and forty women in the 36 states house of Assembly-two of whom were speakers-were present between 2003 and 2007 (Akiyode-Afolabi, 2018). When the governor of Anambra state was impeached for serious wrongdoing in October 2006 and reinstated in February 2007, one of the deputy governors, Mrs.Virginia Etiaba, took over as governor for three months.

Only seven Female senators, twenty-five female members of the House of Representatives, six female deputy governors, and fifty-seven women in the 36 state Houses of Assembly were elected in 2007. In the 201 elections, there were 68 women in the 36 state Houses of Assembly, 26 women in the House of Representatives, a female deputy governor, and seven female senators. (Oloyede, 2016). Most men succeeded some of the women who were impeached of forced to quit. They include Hon. Margaret Icheen, who served as speaker of the

Benue state house of assembly in 1999, Hon. Eucharia Azodo (speaker, Anambra state house of Assembly for 2003 dispensation). Speakers of the house of representatives in 2007, Hon. Olubumi Etteh, and the Ogun state house of assembly, who was impeached in May 2008, who was Hon. Titi Oseni.

Although they are few, there have been female councilors, Honorables in the several state house of assembly, chairs of local government, and commissioners (Oloyede, 2016). There were a sizable number of women in important and roles as ministers, special Advisers and Directors under Dr. Goodluck Jonathan's administration from 2011 to 2015. They include Dr. Ngozi Okonjo-iweala who was the minister of finance and overall supervising minister, Mrs. Diezani Alison-Madueke who was the minister of petroleum, Mrs stella Oduah who was the minister of Aviation, and Erelu Olusola obada who was the minister of state and later acting minister of defense (Eyinade,2017). According to oloyede (2016), Prof. oluremi Sonaiya of the KOWA party was the only female presidential candidate in the 2015 election, three other women served as her running partners. 267 women ran for House of representative's seats, 87 women ran for governor and deputy governor positions, and 122 women ran for senatorial seats. In rerun election, popular female candidate for governor of Taraba state, senator Aisha al-Hassan, popularly known as "Mama Taraba", was defeated by her male opponent. A total of 757 women ran for office in the state Houses of Assembly. Eight senators (out of the 109 seats), twenty-one Honourable (out of the 360 seats), four deputy governors from the states of Lagos, Ogun, Rivers, and Enugu, and fifty-one women in the 36 state houses of assembly made the total number of women in government (oloyede, 2016). The 2019 election saw 7 female senators, 22 female Honorables, 4 deputy governors and 45 women in the total 36 states House of Assembly (George, 2019).

According to the Dataphyte (2023), the just concluded 2023 Presidential and national assembly elections, a total of 18 political parties fielded 380 female candidates for the National Assembly elections, 92 for the senate and 288 for the house of Representatives. Only three of the 92 candidates who contested for the 109 senatorial seats won. They are Ipalibo Harry Banigo of the People's democratic Party (PDP) From the Rivers West District, Ireti Kingibe of the Labour Party (LP) from the capital Territory, and idiat Adebule of the All-Progressive Congress (APC) from Lagos West District. Out of 288 women who contested for house of Representatives, only 15 won, with eight from APC, four from PDP and one each from LP, APGA and YPP. Oby Orogbu-LP, Maureen Gwacham-APGA, Chinwe Nnabuife-YPP won their House of Representatives seats in Anambra State. Ebikake Enenimiete of PDP won in Bayelsa while Blessing Onuh and Regina Akume of APC won in Benue State. Zainab Gimba won in Borno under the APC, Erhiatake Ibori-suenu of PDP won in Delta State, Miriam Onuoha, Ogbara Kafilat and Adewunmi Onanuga of APC won in Imo, Lagos and Ogun States Respectively. Beni Lar and Boma Goodhead of the PDP emerged winners in Plateau and Rivers state, while Fatsuma Talba and Khadija Ibrahim of APC won their contests in Yobe State (Dataphyte, 2023).

According to UN women (2023), Only eight out of President Tinubu"s 45 newly sworn-in ministers are woman. They are; Lola Ade-John - Minister of Tourism, Im aan Sulaiman- Ibrahim - Minister of State and Police Affairs, Nkerouka Onyejeocha - Minister of State for Labour and Productivity, Doris-Uzoka - Minister of Industry, trade and investment, Hannatu Musawa - Minister of Arts, culture and Creative Economy, Betta Adu (who is currently on suspension) - Minister of Humanitarian Affairs and Poverty Alleviation, Uju Kennedy - Minister of Women's Affairs and lastly Mariya Manga Mahmoud - Minister of State, Federal Capital Territory. Nonetheless, a few women who took part in the elections demonstrated incredible fortitude and tenacity by overcoming all obstacles to mount a strong defense. Nonetheless, few of women who took part in the elections demonstrated incredible fortitude and tenacity by overcoming all obstacles to mount a strong defense (Premium Times, 2023).

A great Example is chichi ojei, the one female Presidential Candidate of the Allied Peoples Movement, even though she lost the party's support, her involvement in the election seriously questioned gender norms and Stereotypes in Nigerian Politics (Premium Times, 2023). Meanwhile, Statistics indicate that the total number of women who were elected to the National Assembly in 2023 is still the lowest since 2003 as 24 women were elected (UN Women, 2023).

Similarly, the 2007 general elections produced the highest number of women in the National Assembly with 34 elected. The Second

lowest number was recorded in 2011 and repeated in the 2015 elections with 29 females (Dataphyte, 2023). In the 2023 National Assembly elections held on 25 February, 11 women contested for the senate seats while 35 contested for the House of Representatives seats. At the end, the 10th National Assembly recorded 3 in the upper chamber and 14 female members in the lower chamber (Iwok, 2023). It is interesting to note that while seven of 14 female Representatives returned to the house, the three senators are Newcomers. These Successful 17 were among the 286 women who competed the party primaries for the 360 seats of the House of Representatives and the 92 who contested for the 109 Senate Seats (Dataphyte, 2023). This results in a 3.62 percent representation for women in the 10th Assembly.

Factors Responsible For the low level of Political Participation and Representation of Women in Lagos State.

Religion

Religious traditions are another effective tool used to discourage female politicians and political aspirants in Nigeria from actively participating in politics. Nigerians are deeply religious people; they have always been devout adherents of their faith since they are naturally religious (oloyede, 2016). Beginning with traditional religion, which is the oldest religion in the nation, women do not engage in any decision-making processes outside their own families. Most traditional religions in Nigeria, including Islam, orthodox Christianity, and others, strongly advocate for men's dominance over women and emphasize women's subservience to their husbands over their families, clans, villages, states, and nation. These religions emphasize that if women were to participate in politics at all, it should only be to take on auxiliary roles (oke, 2015). Oyekanmi (2017) asserts Women are further marginalized in politics because the two main religions in the nation, Islam, and Christianity, teach that women should not subservient and are not supposed to be leaders by implication. Islamic philosophy's purdah rule, or the home seclusion of women, strictly forbids women from participating in politics, including voting, holding public office, or even just supporting campaigns or other political activities (Ayetigbo, 2022). However, when it comes to political leadership and the formulation of public policy, women's roles in Islam are limited to those of supporting and advising. Similarly, in the Anglican Communion and the Roman Catholic Church, men were the only ones permitted to hold senior leadership roles like the pope, priests, and deacons (Eyinade, 2017). While some prominent protestant churches are strengthening their restrictions in response, very few are starting to loosen their long-standing bans on ordaining women in positions of leadership (Ayetigbo, 2022).

Education

Akinboye (2019) contends that education is the most effective means to empower girls and women in contemporary society, when competition is intense and both genders encounter escalating physical and social problems. Education is the most potent method of instilling suitable values in women and fostering a feeling of cultural identity. In 2010, the national adult literacy rate was 50.6% in English and 63.7% in all languages for female adults aged 15 and older, as reported by the National Bureau of Statistics. The low levels of education among women highlight their underqualification for political positions. Another effect of colonialism's bias favouring men over women is this. Although a greater number of women attended educational institutions during the colonial period, the British admitted more males (Adeleke, 2017).

Economic Factor

Statistical figure on poverty in Nigeria shows that women makeup 70% of the country's impoverished population (Dataphyte, 2023). For any politician in Nigeria to survive, money is a critical component. It is the cornerstone of success for a politician. In Nigerian slang, politics makes sense when viewed through the lens of monetization. All candidates for political office should have been ready to gather all the resources needed to win the election (Iwok,2023). Women in Nigeria are unable to pursue political office due to the exorbitant expenses involved (Gada, 2018). These expenses encompass party nomination forms, elections, campaigns, gifts to benefactors, public mobilisation, financial support for political party leaders, among others. Women are less inclined to participate in democratic elections due to the financial constraints. Running for office in Nigeria, especially in Lagos State, requires substantial financial resources.

Culture

Another important reason why the case for gender inequality is because of culture and

tradition. How dare we attempt to alter a long-standing custom? (Oyekanmi, 2017). However, it begs the question of who establishes a people's way of life. Many of us have heard the tale of Mary Slessor, the Scottish missionary who, in the 18th and 19th centuries, prevented the efik people from killing their twins (krook, 2010). Many outdated customs that were formerly followed religiously were abandoned when it became clear that they were wrong. One of the main hindrances limiting women's participation in Nigerian politics is culture (Akinboye, 2017). The perception of women as merely housewives and impartial decision-makers within households, let alone as potential candidates for political office, has been shaped by culture and customs (Oke, 2015).

Women are not supposed to be in public settings and are instead viewed as quite meek and virtuous by society. Women who are therefore found in the political sphere are perceived as irresponsible (kamane, 2019). Furthermore, the Nigerian woman knows that the culture and tradition have a strong hold on her. The best course of action is to figure out how to combine cultural and contemporary trends. Although society is expanding quickly, women in these communities are still restricted and marginalized. This will entail using a radical feminist strategy towards agitating for a better status in the society (Ityavyar, 2017).

Personal Attitudes and Beliefs

Kamane (2019) asserts that most women lack motivation by nature and are afraid to move outside their comfort zones. Many of them are happy in their married lives and would rather not engage in activities beyond the borders of their homes. In addition, women's perceptions of politics prevent them from taking on leadership. Many women perceive that pursuing a political career is unfeasible, while preserving a fulfilling home life, owing to the stramineous demands of campaigns, meetings, and fundraising events thatoften distance them from their families (Oke, 2015).

I concurred with the assertion of Kamene (2019) which argued that women lack motivation by nature but contrarily, this assertion applies to all women because some of them are still highly motivated to engage themselves in any political activities or issues. A prevalent assumption is that Nigerian politics is excessively harsh for women to withstand. Oyekanmi (2017) asserts that women's perceptions of governance are influenced by these ideas, resulting in diminished interest in political participation.

The literature dealt so much well in explaining how violence related to political activities influences the attitudes and behaviour of women towards governance and politics in a negative manner, however, the literature has left out male gender in their explanation. Apart from women, violence nature of politic not only affects women, it is an all-inclusive phenomenon, their male counter-parts are also affected in this regard, for instance, electoral violence affects both men and women and it may discourage both genders to exercise their sovereignty in any election and this may leads to voter and political apathy. Violence nature of politics has affected both male and female gender during the 2020 End-Sars Protest and this may affect the political culture of many in any country, men inclusive.

Theoretical Framework

The liberal feminism or liberal feminism theory is adopted to underpin this study. Liberal feminism is a branch of feminist thought traced back to ancient Greece and China. Key proponents of this theory include Mary Astell (1666-1731), Mary Wollstonecraft (1759-1799), Harriet Taylor (1807-1858), John Stuart Mill (1806-1873), Elizabeth Cady Stanton (1815-1902), and Virginia Woolf (1882-1941). The theory posits that improving women's status requires their active participation in public life and politics (Tripp, 2015). It emphasizes enhancing women's roles globally by increasing access to power, asserting that the main sources of women's oppression stem from their lack of equal civil rights and educational opportunities (Adeleke, 2019). Liberal feminism proposes practical solutions to achieve gender equity, an essential aspect of societal progress. It calls for dismantling the barriers that prevent gender equality in political participation (Lorber, 2010).

In the context of this study, the liberal feminist theory is relevant in analyzing and explaining gender inequality in Nigeria, particularly in Lagos State. Women are often denied equal opportunities as men due to historical, biological, and cultural perceptions that label them the weaker gender (Tripp, 2015). This has hindered their socio-political and economic roles. The theory helps explore whether women's low participation and representation in politics are linked to Nigeria's legal, political, and social constraints. It also

explains the underlying causes of women's subordination and underrepresentation in governance in Lagos State and shows how removing these social, cultural, political, and legal barriers can improve women's participation in the country's political system.

Methodology

The study adopted a qualitative research method using a descriptive research design. The study utilised both primary and secondary data as sources of information. The primary data were gathered from oral interviews, where 9 people were interviewed and their responses informed the findings of the study. Other secondary sources were retrieved from books, journals, unpublished essays, and the internet.

Discussion of finding

Number of Proposed Sample	Number of Valid Representation	Number of attentions given
9	9	9

Field Work, 2024

Effects of Low Level of political participation of women in the development of Lagos State

(i) Effect on women's interest

The study observed that poor women participation in politics has effect on their interest, this finding is in tandem with Akinboye (2019) assertion that women's poor participation in decision-making prevents them from addressing core societal challenges and requirements. Men have shown little to no interest in addressing the problems that women face in the society, this little to no interest would put their dominance in jeopardy. In addition, a significant proportion of women need to be involved in governance since they have significant responsibilities (Gada, 2018). Their lack of participation in governance is thus likely to have a negative impact on their growth and general well-being. Research suggests that diverse decision-making bodies tend to be more innovative and effective. With a higher level of female participation and representation, Lagos state could benefit from a wider range of perspectives, ideas, and problem-solving approaches. This diversity in governance is crucial for addressing complex issues and fostering a more resilient and adaptable development strategy (UN women, 2023).

(ii) Lack of role model and mentor to look up to

The study also observed that women need role models in politics who can inspire and counsel them. According to Adeleke (2017), the continued existence of gender inequality in leadership roles can be attributed to a lack of female role models. If more women begin to experience electoral success, perhaps more women will be encouraged to support female candidates. The inability of women to win major positions during elections affects the participation of women contesting for similar votes in subsequent years.

(iii) Limited Economic growth

Women's underrepresentation in politics can hinder economic growth, as women's economic empowerment and participation are crucial for growth (Gada, 2018). Women's representation in the economy, entrepreneurship and access to resources are credit are essential for economic development. By ensuring gender equality and empowering women to participate equally in the workforce, economies can benefit from a larger talent pool, increased productivity, and higher levels of innovation, ultimately leading to stronger economic growth (Akinboye, 2019).

(iv) Inadequate healthcare and Education

Women limited political representation can lead to inadequate healthcare and education for women and girls, perpetuating gender disparities. Gender inequality can lead to inadequate healthcare and education because when women and girls discriminate and limited access to resources, they are more likely to experience barriers in accessing quality healthcare and education (UN women, 2023). This lack of access can result in poorer health outcomes, limited educational opportunities, and perpetuate cycles of poverty and inequality.

(v) lack of gender-sensitive policies

Without Sufficient women in politics, policies may not address gender-specific issues, such as

gender-based violence, reproductive rights, and maternal health. Gender inequality often prompts the development of gender-sensitive policies that aim to address and rectify the disparities faced by women and girls (Gada, 2018). By Recognizing the unique challenges and needs of different genders, these policies can promote equality, empower marginalized groups, and create a more inclusive society. Implementing gender-sensitive policies can help build bridge the gap in opportunities, access to resources, and representation, ultimately fostering a more equitable and just environment for all individuals (UN women, 2023).

Critical Analysis on representation of women in the legislative and executive seats of Lagos state in the Fourth Republic

In the 2019 election, female representation in the 36 states houses of assembly was only 4.41%, In the 2023 elections, a total of 48 women were elected to state legislatures. Ekiti State had the highest number, with six women occupying seats out of the 36 state's house of assembly (within Nigeria, 2023). While there have been notable efforts, achieving gender parity in political leadership remains an ongoing struggle. Advocacy for equal representation continues, aiming for a future where women's voices shape policies and governance in Nigeria. (UN women,2023). The two tables below show a critical analysis on the representation of women in the legislative and executive seat of Lagos state.

Table 1

Assembly/year	Number of Total Seats	Number of Women Representative	Number of Men Representative	Percentage
7th Assembly (2011-2015)	40	5	35	12.5%
8th Assembly (2015-2019)	40	4	36	10%
9th Assembly (2019-2023)	40	3	37	7.5%
10th Assembly (2023)	40	3	37	7.5%

Source: Field work, 2024.

Table 2

Critical Analysis of women representation in executive seats of Lagos state.

Year	Governor (F)	Deputy Governor (F)	Commissioner (F)	Commissioner (M)	Total Seats	Percentage
2011-2015	0	1	3	19	22	13.6%
2015-2019	0	1	2	22	24	8.3%
2019-2023	0	0	7	15	22	31.8%
2023	0	0	5	18	23	21.7%

Source; field work, 2024.

Year	Special Adviser (F)	Special Adviser (M)	Total Seats	Percentage
2011-2015	3	11	14	21.4%
2015-2019	3	11	14	21.4%

2019-2023	4	9	13	30.7%
2023	5	10	15	33.3%

Source; field work, 2024.

The aforementioned analysis highlights the under-representation and marginalization of women in politics in Lagos State. Liberal scholars assert that women's equal participation is essential for societal advancement, whereas some researchers contend that women are more suited for household roles (UN Women, 2023). It is crucial to recognise that women in Nigeria have historically been overlooked and excluded within the political sphere, which poses a concerning indication for the country's male-dominated system (Agbalajobi 2010). The study indicates that women's political roles have significantly impacted Nigerian politics from the pre-colonial period to the present democratic government (Akinboye, 2016). Moreover, in this era of globalisation, where women significantly contribute to international politics and peacekeeping, it is profoundly detrimental to restrict political power exclusively to men (Gada, 2018).

Summary of Findings

The main findings of this study were that there is gender inequality in women representation in legislative and executive seats in Nigeria's fourth republic. This inequality is unequivocally clear in the Lagos state political administration. Using the liberal Feminist theory which recognizes that individuals can simultaneously experience multiple and overlapping forms of discrimination and privilege, all stemming from various aspects of their identity, such as race, gender, class, sexuality, disability, and more. liberal feminist theory also offers practical solutions crucial for achieving gender equity, a fundamental aspect of societal development.

Conclusion and Recommendations

The study concludes by stating that, the study of gender inequality and women representation in legislative and executive seats in Nigeria's fourth Republic, specifically focusing on Lagos state from 2012 to 2023, underscores the persistent challenges women face in attaining equal political participation. Despite some progress, disparities persist, reflecting broader societal biases and structural barriers. Moving forward, concerted efforts are needed to dismantle these barriers, promote gender equality, and ensure the meaningful inclusion of women in decision-making processes, thereby fostering a more inclusive and representative democracy in Nigeria.

Based on the findings of the study on gender inequality and women representation in legislative and executive seats in Nigeria's 4th Republic, particularly focusing on Lagos state from 2012 to 2023, the following recommendations are proposed:

1. Legislation should be enacted to establish gender quotas for political representation, ensuring a minimum percentage of seats are reserved for women in both legislative and executive bodies.
2. Comprehensive political education and training programs tailored for women, equipping them with the necessary skills and knowledge to navigate political landscapes and effectively campaign for office should be provided.
3. Socio-cultural barriers should be addressed through awareness campaigns to challenge socio-cultural norms and stereotypes that perpetuate gender inequality, promoting a cultural shift towards greater acceptance of women in leadership roles.
4. Support networks and mentorship programs for aspiring female politicians, offering guidance, networking opportunities, and emotional support to navigate the challenges of political life should be established and strengthened.
5. Electoral reforms that promote fair and transparent electoral processes, including measures to combat violence and intimidation against women in politics should be promoted.

6. The government should Invest in comprehensive data collection and research initiatives to continually monitor progress on gender equality in political representation, enabling evidence-based policy interventions.

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HISTORICISING PARTY INTERNAL DEMOCRACY AND THE CHALLENGE OF DEMOCRATIC CONSOLIDATION IN NIGERIA'S FOURTH REPUBLIC, 1999-2023

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KEYWORDS
Democracy, democratic consolidation, political parties, internal democracy, leadership recruitment

ABSTRACT
The main thrust of this paper is to historicise party internal democracy and the challenge of democratic consolidation in the Nigeria's Fourth Republic between 1999 and 2023. It explains that the teething problem of party internal democracy has been described as a major cause of intra-party wrangling, party defection and so on rocking the fabrics of the Nigerian political parties especially since the return to civil rule in 1999. This problem has resulted in making the citizens to become atrophied by cynicism and mistrust of government and people in government. The paper, therefore, argues that party internal democracy has constituted a major problem hindering democratic consolidation in Nigeria. The paper critically examines major defections carried out by some politicians as a result of problem of party internal democracy and its implication on democratic consolidation during the first twenty-four years of the birth of the Fourth Republic. It concludes by suggesting ways of addressing the political menace in order to build up the country's democracy from being nascent. The methodological approach adopted in this paper is historical, thematic and qualitative. Sources of information include primary and secondary materials derived from newspapers and extant literature.

Keywords:

Introduction

Nigerian democracy has faced several political challenges since the return to civil rule in 1999. Notableamong these political challenges are the imposition of candidates, godfatherism, money politics, injustice, lack of party manifestoes and ideology, party indiscipline and lack of internal democracy. The absence of internal democracy among the Nigerian political parties constitutes a major threat to democratic consolidation in the country. This problem, which has led to party defection, otherwise known as cross- carpeting, party-switching, floor-crossing, party-hopping, canoe-jumping, decamping and party-jumping has remained a permanent feature in the

Nigerian democracy since the birth of the Fourth Republic.

According to Harold Lasswell cited Oyediran (1999) that politics is all about who gets what, when, and how an idea which expresses the need to plan and strategise in order to achieve one's political goals and objectives. This explains that political competition among aspirants irrespective of their number in a democratic setting is normal. This is what Schumpeter describes as a 'democratic method,' that is, an institutional arrangement for arriving at political decisions in which individuals acquire power to decide by means of a competitive struggle for people's vote (Schumpeter 1942/1976).

A thorough examination of the Nigerian democracy since 1999 in particular reveals that virtually all the political parties in Nigeria find it very difficult to adopt an open system that will not only allow members of the party to participate in the decision-making process, but also give them unrestricted opportunity to contest in elections under the party's platform. This kind of restriction and constraint has increasingly resulted in party defection, party wrangling, war of attrition, recrimination, acrimony, coordination dilemmas, and cross-carpeting among Nigerian political parties. It is against this backdrop that this paper examines the challenge of internal democracy on the democratic consolidation in Nigeria between 1999 and 2023. The paper is divided into five sections. The first section is introduction, second section focuses on conceptual clarification, the third section deals with historicising party internal democracy in Nigeria, the fourth discusses party internal democracy and the challenge of democratic consolidation in Nigeria while the last section is the conclusion.

Conceptual Clarification

It is important to consider the meanings of some key concepts and issues because they are inherent in the theme of this conference and this topic. They include democratic, consolidation, election and internal democracy.

Democratic Consolidation: According to Senator Bola Tinubu, former governor of Lagos State, consolidation suggests there is a democratic foundation being strengthened and built upon (http://www.burningpot.com). Consolidation requires that habituation to the norms and procedures of democratic conflicts regulation will be developed.Democratic consolidation is the deliberate political process in a polity by which democracy is "so broadly and profoundly legitimatised among its citizens that it is very unlikely to break down" (Ouyang, http://www.oycf.org/perspective/6-063000). It means a democratic stay that cannot come to an end suddenly or abruptly through unconstitutional acts such as military coups or dictatorships. It implies established stability in governance. This consolidation of democracy involves behavioural and institutional changes that normalize democratic politics and narrow its uncertainty (Dode, 2010). The term "Democratic Consolidation" was originally meant to describe the challenge of making new democracies secure, of extending their life expectancy beyond the short term, making them immune against the threat of authoritarian regression. This normalization requires the expansion of citizen access, development of democratic citizenship and culture, broadening of leadership recruitment and training, the functioning of a mature civil society and political institutionalization (Dode, 2010).

Election: Webster's Encyclopedic Dictionary 2006 (583-584) defines election as: "the act or process of organizing systematic (s) election (permitting mass participation and method of choosing) a person or persons by vote for a public office position in which state authority is exercised". Also, Roberts and Edwards (1991.41) defined election as: "A method for the selection of persons to fill certain offices through choices made by an electorate; those (citizens who are qualified to vote under the rules and procedures of the electoral system".

Internal democracy: This simply refers to the internal management and functioning of political parties and party systems based on democratic principles that reflects in terms of candidate selection, leadership selection, policy making, membership relations, gender, minorities, youth and party funding (Ojukwu,et al 2011).The point of emphasis articulated in this conceptual clarification recognizes the fact that selection or election of candidates for any elective office within the party in particular should base on rational choices of democratic values which should also conform to the ideals of democracy. Besides, the election process must be reasonably open to members' adequate participation. This invariably would lead not only to ideal democracy but also result in democratic consolidation.

Historicising Party Internal Democracy in Nigeria: An Overview

One major consequence of absence of internal democracy among the political parties is party defection or cross-carpeting. Historically, the issue of party defection is not new in Nigerian politics. Its evolution in Nigeria could be traced to the colonial period. There were cases of cross-carpeting among some Nigerian politicians in the colonial period. A good example cross carpeting or defection occurred when Dr. Nnamdi Azikiwe, the leader of the National Council of the Nigerian Citizens (NCNC) after the death of Herbert Macaulay, aspired to become the Premier of Western Region following the regional elections of 1951, which was equally contested by Chief Obafemi Awolowo, a Yoruba man, and the leader of Action Group. The outcome of the 1951 elections revealed that NCNC won 42 seats out of 80, but within 24 hours, 20 of them who were Yoruba and elected on the platform of NCNC cross carpeted to Action Group (AG) in order to deny Dr. Azikiwe the premiership of Western Region in favour of Awolowo (Natufe, 1999:3). This political event led to how the expression, "cross-carpeting" came into the political dictionary of Nigeria, and which has remained till today in Nigerian politics.

Also, the rift between Chief Obafemi Awolowo (the First Premier of Western Region) and his deputy Chief Samuel Ladoke Akintola (who later became the Second Premier of Western Region) in the First Republic had a semblance of a political situation where lack of internal democracy led to serious political crisis in the post-colonial Nigeria. While Akintola, disapproved the continuous overbearing influence of Awolowo on him even as Premier of the Western Region, the aftermath was the crisis arising from the disagreements between Awolowo and Akintola who later entered into an alliance with the Northern People's Congress (NPC) which was the political party at the centre. After Akintola had emerged as the Premier of Western Region under the Action Group, he later dumped the party for his party, the Nigerian National Democratic Party (NNDP). The outcome of that feud short-lived the tenure of Akintola and his NNDP (Babangida,2011).

In the Second Republic, the gladiators in the then National Party of Nigeria (NPN) reportedly jettisoned what was expected to be a well thought out internalized arrangement to have the late MKO Abiola become the NPN's presidential candidate for the 1983 general election. He was allegedly shortchanged and told that the NPN presidential slot was not for the highest bidder. He was exchanged with the Alhaji Shehu Shagari (Babangida,2011). Since the return to civil rule in 1999, the anomaly has continued to feature in the build up to general elections in the country. In fact, the Fourth Republic has recorded episodes of wrongful exchange of candidates especially within the Peoples' Democratic Party (PDP). Between 1999 and 2023, the menace became rampant and a monstrous continuum that threatened the growing nascent democracy of the country.

Party Internal democracy and Democratic Consolidation in Nigeria's Fourth Republic

There is no doubt the fact that the practice of democracy in Nigeria lacks essential internal democratic virtues that conform to international best practices as in the developed countries like the United States of America. It is characterised with kangaroo primaries organised by leaders of political parties in favour of their anointed, preferred or imposed candidates, unlawful substitution and wrongful replacement of candidates who are voted through the people's mandate, the selection of candidates for political offices by the party overlords without recourse to due process and laid down regulations in the parties' constitutions among others. According to Mimpen internal democracy requires two instrumental elements. The first element involves organising free, fair and regular elections of internal positions, as well as candidates for representative bodies. The second entails equal and open participation of all members and member groups in such a way that interests are more or less equally represented. These two instruments are essential for creating an open and deliberative political party in which people can participate in elections equally but may also engage in participation or be represented in other ways. The inability of some cabals or the so-called godfathers among the Nigerian political parties to adhere to the principles of ideal democracy has resulted in the emergence of new parties, and various factions within the party, party defection among others which have constituted a major threat to democratic consolidation. It is therefore pertinent to critically examine some challenges of internal democracy among the Nigerian political parties.

One major challenge of internal democracy among the Nigerian political parties since 1999 is the issue of party defection. The country had

witnessed series of carpet crossing, with politicians jumping from one party to the other especially to the ruling party since the birth of the Fourth Republic. A number of reasons have been adduced to this ugly political phenomenon. While some argued that over-ambitious and selfish interest of Nigerian politicians were accountable for this problem, others hinged it on the lack of internal democracy among the political parties. The paper argued that both factors contributed largely to this political challenge. Therefore, it is essential to examine a chronicle of party defections that characterised political parties in Nigeria between 1999 and 2023.

In 1999, Chief Evan Enwerem, having lost the gubernatorial primaries in the All Peoples Party (APP) in Imo State, decamped and joined the People's Democratic Party (PDP) on whose ticket he won a sensational seat (Odum, 2002). In Plateau State, Alhaji Alhassan Shaibu decamped from the APP and joined the PDP in 1999. Former Vice President, Atiku Abubakar, a founding member of the PDP, defected to the Action Congress (AC) after a running battle with the former President Olusegun Obasanjo. In 2007 he contested the presidential elections on the platform of AC but lost to the late President Umaru Yar'Adua. A few months later, Atiku went back to the PDP where he contested the presidential primaries in 2010. In Ondo State, there was a mass cross-carpeting of PDP members to the Labour Party (LP) after Dr. OlusegunMimiko had been declared the winner of 2007 gubernatorial election by the Court of Appeal sitting in Benin. In fact, nearly all the members of Ondo State House of Assembly like Hon OyeboAladetan, Hon. Henry Akinsuroju and the incumbent Speaker (Rt.Hon Samuel Adesina) who were all elected under the platform of PDP decamped to LP between 2009 and 2010.

Defection was not only limited to party members alone. There were examples of state governors defecting from opposition party to the ruling party during this period of study. The first was that of the then incumbent governor of Bauchi State, Isa Yaguda who had initially won the governorship election on the platform of the All Nigerian Peoples Party (ANPP) but later defected to the PDP with a large number of his supporters. Others include the then incumbent governor of Imo state, Ikedi Ohakim, who won the governorship election on the platform of the Peoples Progressive Alliance (PPA) but defected to the PDP; Aliyu Shinkafi of Zamfara State (ANPP) and Saminu Turaki of Jigawa state (ANPP) all defected to PDP. Also, defections were not only peculiar to state governors, but also involved senators and members of House of Representative. For example six senators who were elected under the platform of the ANPP, the Accord Party (AP) and the Action Congress (ACN) cross-carpeted to PDP at the floor of the National Assembly. They were Senators Sali Gogwin (ACN, Plateau state), Patrick Osakwe (AP, Delta state), Patricia Akawasike, (ANPP, Nasarawa state) and Sa'di Yauo (ANPP, Zamfara state). Since 2007 when the present National Assembly was inaugurated, no fewer than 13 Senators and 15 members of the House of Representatives have defected to the PDP. Also, in 2011, Senator Ajayi Boroface who was elected on the platform of the LP to represent Ondo North Senatorial District defected to ACN. Another candidate who was also elected on the platform of LP, a member of House of Representative, representing Akure North Federal Constituency in person of Hon. Sunday Abegunde (aka Abena) equally decamped to the ACN.

A critical analysis of party defection discussed shows that it is in two ways. First, there is great movement of politicians from different political parties into the ruling party with little to other parties in the build up to the general elections. The idea is to participate in parties' primaries. The second movement starts after the party primaries. At this stage those who lost in the party primaries move to their former parties or to new ones or even to form a new party under which they intend to contest the next elections. However, there is nothing wrong in people cross-carpeting if they do not find the programmes of their party in consonance with their ideals. However, it becomes dubious when politicians begin to mortgage their consciences as well as seek to pursue their private and selfish interest in the name of cross carpeting at the expense of strict adherence to party discipline and ideology. This may have stemmed from the mere fact that politicians are too desperate to hold public office as a means of accumulating wealth. In advanced democracies, cross carpeting is done on principle, rather than on selfish and personal interest. The scenario of party defection in Nigeria today is political prostitution which lacks political morality and discipline.

Another critical challenge of internal democracy in Nigeria is how party primaries are being conducted within the Nigerian political parties. The conduct of party primaries within the Nigerian political parties does not conform to

norms of democratic principles. Virtually all the political parties have failed to apply the provisions of the party's constitutions to all party members who are eligible and want to run for office in the conduct of their party primaries. Rather than conducting appropriate primaries, what we usually witness is either kangaroo primaries or the imposition of anointed candidates on the party without election and due process. This problem has often times led to the loss of contest to opposition party especially in the stronghold of the incumbent party. Examples of such are the governorship elections in Anambra State in 2009; Ogun State in 2011; and Edo State in 2020. For instance, in Anambra State, Professor Chukwuma Soludo, the former Governor of the CBN was imposed on the State as the PDP governorship candidate by the National Executive of the party without any primary. This act was not only rejected by the State chapter, but it also triggered a spate of petition writing and prosecution which in effect brought about factions in the party and last-minute cross-carpeting of some members to other parties. This was why the then Vice-Chairman of the southeast zone of the PDP said that "Internal party wrangling denied our great party the governorship seat in the February 6 governorship election in Anambra State. The Anambra election is a litmus test to the party and we will not tolerate such development in any of the remaining States in the southeast zone. We are going to put all the machinery in place to ensure that PDP wins the remaining States in the zone come 2011" (Metuh, 2010). Also, as a result of the rift between the then National Chairman of APC, Senator Adams Oshiomhole and the Governor of Edo State, Mr. Godwin Obaseki, Governor Obaseki was disqualified by the Screening Committee of the APC from participating in the party's primary. This forced Mr. Obaseki and his deputy, Mr Philip Shuaibu to cross carpet to PDP, where they were given the party ticket to contest governorship in Edo State in September 2020, which they eventually won. This led to the loss of Edo State (which formerly ruled by APC) to PDP in 2020.

The case of Ogun State in the 2011 gubernatorial election was a little bit different. Two different primaries were conducted by the party (PDP) in the state to choose the gubernatorial candidate for the election. The crisis between the party leaders resulted in the emergence of two factions which held two different primaries that invariably led to the emergence of two different candidates. The candidate of one faction led by former President Olusegun Obasanjo, in person of Brigadier Adejunji Olurin (Rtd) was accepted by INEC as the candidate of the party. This development made the second faction led by the former governor of Ogun State, Otunba Gbenga Daniel to defect to PPA with Chief GboyegaIsiaka as the standard bearer of the party. The outcome of this crisis led to the loss of the state which was initially controlled by the PDP to the ACN. Also, in the build up to the 2016 governorship election in Ondo State, there was the emergence of two factions within the PDP leading to the conduct of two different primaries. While the first faction led by Senator Ahmed Markafi-led National Caretaker Committee of the PDP with the support of the then incumbent governor, Dr. Olusegun Mimiko produced EyitayoJegede as the standard bearer of the party, the second faction led by Ali Modu-Sheriff faction produced Mr. Jimoh Ibrahim as the candidate. Both factions eventually approached the courts in order to certain the true standard bearer of the party. The crisis lingered on until three days to the election, when the Supreme Court led by Walter Onnoghen (Chief Justice of Nigeria) in conjunction with other four justices affirmed the ruling of the Appeal Court, which declared EyitayoJegede as the governorship candidate of the party (Dyepkazah 2016). The political crisis eventually led to the loss of the state (which was formerly ruled by PDP) to the APC (which was then an opposition party in the state).

The high incidence of aggrieved members seeking redress in the court of law over injustices meted on them as a result of the outcome of party primaries in the recent times is another challenge. This has to do with issuance of court injunctions and counter orders in attempts to stop one candidate or the other from contesting. The amendment of the Electoral Act of 2006 section 87 (9) by National Assembly which states that: "where a political party fails to comply with the provision of this Act in the conduct of its primaries, its candidates for elections shall not be included in the election for the particular position in issue" later gave birth to Electoral Act of 2010 which states that: "Every political party shall not later than 60 days before the date appointed for a general election under the provisions of this Bill, submitted to the commission in the prescribed forms, the list of candidates the party proposes to sponsor at the elections, provided that the commission shall not reject or disqualify candidates for any reason whatsoever". The use of the phrase "any reason whatsoever", make INEC to be stripped of its ability to determine the qualification or status of

any candidate submitted by a party, irrespective of any circumstances surrounding a candidate's status. With this provision, the cabals or godfathers within the party now has the power to dictate, impose, and determine how, who and why a candidate can contest in an election in which they are participating, even if INEC has doubts over the candidate's credibility (Mbah,2011)

Lack of internal democracy which causes party defection has resulted in the development of divided house within the ruling and opposition political parties. There is a general saying that a house that divided against itself cannot stand. A good example of this was the case of the then governor of Bauchi State, Isa Yuguda who defected to PDP from ANPP but his deputy refused to follow him. Initially the legislators in the House impeached the deputy governor, but the court reinstated him due to the unlawful impeachment. While the governor was a PDP member, his deputy an ANPP member. What a divided House? It will be very difficult for both of them to work in harmony and make a sensible progress politically. The deputy governor is likely to face all sorts of intimidation and be sidelined in all areas of public service. Indeed, it is morally wrong for an aspirant to use one political party as a platform to ascend power only to dump that party at the least opportunity for another party. This is what is often referred to as lack of discipline among the Nigerian politicians with the growing cases of defections to the PDP in particular and the depleting member of the opposition, there is a mounting fear that Nigeria may gradually be moving toward a one –party state which may be inimical to the nation's nascent democracy and its consolidation. Another example of divided house took place within APC in Ondo State as a result of political rift between the then Governor, Mr. Oluwarotimi Akeredolu (SAN) and his Deputy, Mr Agboola Ajayi, over the ambition of the former in the build up to the 2021 governorship election in the state. The development forced Mr. Ajayito initially defect to PDP to contest party primary. Having lost the governorship primary election to Mr EyitayoJegede, he joined Zenith Labour Party and was adopted as the candidate of the party in the gubernatorial election in the state.

There were several cases of divided house especially within the PDP in the build up to the 2015 and 2023 general elections. In fact, the challenge made the PDP (who was then a ruling party) to lose of power to APC (which was then an opposition party) in 2015 at the national level. PDP, a ruling party, which had been in power at the national level for sixteen years (1999-2015) lost power to APC (a newly and opposition political party) in 2015, thus making APC today a ruling party at the national level. First, in the build up to the 2015general elections, there were several cases of defection from PDP to APC, a party that was newly set up in 2014 by three major political parties (namely AC, ANPP and Congress for Progressive Change (CPC) and some prominent members of All Progressive Grand Alliance (APGA). The defection occurred as a result of grievance against the emergence of the former President, Goodluck Jonathan as the Presidential candidate of PDP. In the build up to the general election, five PDP Governors known as G-5, namely Chibuike Amaechi (Rivers State), Aliyu Wamakko (Sokoto State), Rabiu Kwankwaso (Kano State), Murtala Nyako (Adamawa State) and Abdulfatah Ahmed (Kwara State) (Premuim Times, March 19:2014: Nigeria 2015: Jonathan dares Saraki, Governor Ahmed, other PDP defectors). Aside the G-5, more than eleven Senators who were elected on the platform of PDP defected to APC in January 2014. They were Senator Bukola Saraki (Kwara State and former Senate President), Danjuma Goje (Gombe State), Abdullahi Adamu (Nasarawa State and later National Chairman of APC), Magnus Abe (Rivers State), Alhassan Aisha (Taraba State), BindoJubrilla (Adamawa State) and so on (Premium Times, 2014). The G5 and other PDP defectors, who decamped to APC was later known as new PDP faction (nPDP) The same scenario occurred in the build up to the 2023 general elections. First, the failure of the National Working Committee of the PDP to zone the party Presidential ticket to the South was the first major factor that led to a divided house among the prominent members of the party. Prior to the conduct of the primary, prominent members of the party from the Southern region had insisted that the presidential ticket be zoned to the South. Rather than heading to this call, the National Working Committee decided to throne the contest open, which made it possible for both Northern and Southern candidates to vie for the ticket. The development led the then Governor of Anambra State and former Vice-Presidential candidate of the party, Mr. Peter Obi to cross carpet to Labour Party in order to contest the 2023 Presidential election. Secondly, the loss of presidential ticket by the Southern candidate in person of Nyesom Wike to the Northern candidate, Alhaji Atiku Abubakar during the primary election led to the emergence of G5, namely Seyi Makinde (Oyo

State), Nyesom Wike (Rivers State), Samuel Ortom (Benue State), OkezieIkpeazu (Abia State) and Ifeanyi Ugwuanyi (Enugu State). The G5 governors of the opposition PDP though did not formally defect to another political parties, worked against the PDP during the 2023 presidential election, and supported Presidential candidates of APC and LP. For instance, while Seyi Makinde and Nyesom Wike supported APC candidate, Samuel Ortom, Okezie Ikpeazu and Ifeanyi Ugwuanyi supported LP candidate. Crisis within the APC in Kano State equally forced Rabiu Kwankwaso of the APC to form a new political party known as New Nigeria Political Party (NNPP) in a bid to contest the 2023 Presidential election.

One of the greatest challenges of lack of internal democracy among political parties is the further fragmentation of opposition parties from where politicians have defected. It has created chances for the emergence of new political parties that lack strength; focus on the political scene and without manifestoes or ideology. Today, there are about nineteen registered political parties by Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) from three in 1999 when the Fourth Republic began. Lack of internal democracy with the major political parties had led to the creation of mushroom political parties which results in the weakness of opposition parties. In fact, before 2022, the number of political parties in Nigeria rose to between 32 and 62 until they were deregistered by INEC. This development does not augur well for the development of party politics in Nigeria. In fact, it promotes money politics. This does not give room for ideology-based political parties to thrive and develop. Parties are formed and joined for personal interests (Abimbola and Adesote, 2012:248).

Another underlying challenge which political party defection created as a result lack of internal democracy is the development of dishonest traits in some politicians. Odum (2002:1) captures this scenario when he argues that: Politicians and prostitutes are two seemingly parallel professions. While the former supposedly displaying constitutional leadership virtue in governance, the latter is revealing social vice – the fabric of a decadent society. Incidentally, one common denominator for both appears to be their loyalty, which stands on quick sand, shifting as mundane attractions glow in their adulterous eyes. The consideration, especially with the modern day politician is where stakes may be lower and gains higher. It does not matter who is the offer. So, while the prostitutes switch beds, the politicians change camp in this game of cross-carpeting. This is the internal ordering of our nascent democracy. Power is no longer a thing held in trust today. It has become a fraud which every politician is clamouring to hold (Mbah, 2011:17-18).

On a final note, the increasing cases of undemocratic practices in our polity as a result of lack of internal democracy among the Nigerian political parties, shows the problem of poor leadership among political parties. If this ugly situation is not adequately checked, it can lead to outright political instability. For examples, countries such as Malawi, Zambia, Pakistan and Bangladesh, have experienced a number of cases of party defection which had threatened the stability of the political systems (Mbah, 2011: 19). Hoeane, (2008:71) argues that in extreme cases of floor crossing, where the number of public representatives who have defected has been significantly high, such shifts of allegiance have led to the collapse of democratically elected governments, such as in Lesotho in 1997. Defections of political office holders to other political party without the need to resign the first platform for coming to political position do not add value to the process of democratic consolidation in the country.

Concluding Remarks

The foregoing discourse has clearly revealed the challenges of internal democracy on the democratic consolidation in Nigeria. It argued that lack of internal democracy within Nigerian political parties is inhibitive to democratic consolidation. The essential elements of internal democracy which include equal participation among party members especially the involvement of all ranks-and-file in the party's policies, as well as representation at party activities; inclusiveness and institutionalization that demonstrates the degree to which internal decisions and procedures are formalized are lacking within the Nigerian political parties. Besides, the assumption is that internal democracy in political parties thrives more in societies that strongly uphold democratic principles and ethos. The most widely accepted criteria for identifying a country as democratic have been put forward by Robert Dahl are: civil and political rights, fair, competitive, and inclusive elections. Dahl calls countries that meet these criteria 'polyarchies', but they are more commonly referred to as 'liberal democracies' (Dahl, 1971). Nwankwo (1992) argues that

democratization is a process of political renewal and the affirmative acceptance of the supremacy of popular will and consensual obligation over the logic of elitism and parochialism. It embraces both the shift in the disposition of individuals and classes towards the polity and the institutionalization of genuine representative political structures and organs of mass mobilization and conscientization. According to Toyo (1994), the fundamental basis of democracy is the ideological thesis that human beings are equal. This implies acceptance of the basic equality of men as humans and the basic responsibility of all adult for their own destiny. Leadership and representation can be, but not a replacement or elimination of each person's responsibility to determine his own destiny. Thus, the equal rights of all social individuals to participate in taking significant social decisions and in running those affairs of society that sharpen the fortunes of its members is crucial in a democratic setting.

Having examined some of the challenges of internal democracy among the Nigerian political parties since 1999, the paper is of the view that if the anomalies of lack of internal democracy such as, non-observance of the code of conduct document which all the political parties assented to and endorsed to guide their conduit and performance particularly during elections, the non-transparent system of choosing candidates in primary elections as well as in party leadership executive positions, and the executive arrogance within the parties which have not only torn many parities apart but also occasioned the decampment of many party stalwarts can be addressed.

First, the adoption of some of recommendations made by International Organisation for Sustainable Development (OSD) which are contained in a communiqué issued at the end of a national workshop on Enhancing Internal Democracy of political parties; and that of National dialogues focus on political parties in Nigeria, Mali and India organised by International IDEA in January and February 2006 in Nigeria and India. Some of these recommendations are, regular convening of their national executive meetings, elective and non-elective conventions as stipulated in their constitutions, observance of party financial guidelines, internal dispute resolution mechanisms, transparency in party financial administration, and conclusive party primaries; reforming of the legislative framework governing party registration and functioning; measures to limit the role of 'godfathers' and barons in party politics; reform of political financing, that is, the introduction of measures to strengthen parties to raise their own funds, and also enhance their capacity to be more accountable and transparent in matters of party and campaign financing.

Second, there is need to infuse the social capital culture into Nigeria's political system. Any institution or organization that lacks social capital may find it difficult to function maximally. Social capital is a mechanism for social harmony and peace building. The phenomenon refers to those stocks of social trust, norms and networks that people can draw upon to solve common problems. It also represents the degree of social cohesion in communities and associational life. The key elements of social capital include, social trust, mutual understanding, tolerance, cooperation, reciprocity and other networks of civic engagement that facilitate coordination and communication through which information about trustworthiness of other individuals and groups can flow, and be tested and verified (Putram 1993, 1995; Fukuyama, 1995). Social capital describes the relations that knit together communities, parties through a sharing of trust. It also emphasizes that for an institution such as political party to be orderly and prosperous; these basic norms must be embedded in the system (Ojukwu & Olaifa, 2011). Francis Fukuyama describes such norms as an 'instantiated informal' norms that promote cooperation between two or more individuals, that is, the connections that people develop with relatives, friends, co-workers which can produce private and public goods. The political function of social capital in a modern democracy was explicated by Alexis de Tocqueville in 'Democracy in America'; who used the phrase the 'art of association' to describe American's propensity for civic association. The concept is applied to wipe away most forms of social class or inherited status that bind people together in aristocratic societies. Robert Putnam used social capital to unite the Southern Italy in the 1970s and today, it is being adopted in American system to help in lowering the rate of individualism in that society. The point of emphasis here is that if our political parties are really groups of people bounded in policy and opinion in support of a general political cause, that is, if it is true that the parties represent and reflect people sharing the same political interest, value and ideological orientation, then, social capital should be able to address the problem of internal democracy among the Nigerian political

parties. With the infusion of social capital in our parties, the rate of distrust and cut-throat competition may reduce among party members.

More importantly, the potency of Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) mechanisms should be widely explored and exploited by these political parties. They should embrace the third-party professional intervention which would provide them with credible, win/win outcomes and ensure that conflict is properly resolved. Another means of tackling the problem is for the electoral umpire, the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) Chairman, to have the 'political will' to operate constitutionally. Political will in this context, refers to the demonstrated credible intent of political actors (elected or appointed leaders, administrators, stakeholders' groups) to address or check perceived causes or effects of any abnormality at a systemic level. The term expresses the desire, commitment and dogged determination of political actors and institutional leaders to introduce as well as embark on reforms that will bring about significant and persistent changes in the society. That is, it is a pure expression of moral principles motivated by a genuine concern for the well-being of all citizens. What this however, requires of the Chairman of the Electoral body is simply: honesty, integrity, discipline and high level of impartiality and neutrality. The Chairman of INEC must stick to the legal framework of election in Nigeria, that is, attaching much importance to the Constitution of Federal Republic of Nigeria and the Electoral Act of 2010 since it is critical starting point for conducting credible, sustainable and effective elections in Nigeria. Without it, government pronouncements to conduct credible, free and fair election in the nearest future will remain mere rhetoric (Ojukwu & Olaifa, 2011).

Adherence to the fundamental principle of democracy among the Nigerian political parties that upholds the equality of man is hereby advocated for. The right of every member must be respected and preserved. Consensus candidature and candidate selection must be played down in any election and at all levels. Therefore, whosoever emerges as the elected candidate must be given institutional backing rather than substituting him for a candidate of selective approval. In other words, definitive respect for the will of the majority within the party helps to reduce intra-party conflicts which usually lead to party defection and formation of new political parties.

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FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE GIRL CHILD IN AKPABUYO LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA OF CROSS RIVER STATE, NIGERIA

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ABSTRACT
The main thrust of this study was to examine female genital mutilation and the development of the girl child in Akpabuyo Local Government Area of Cross River State, Nigeria. The specific objective of the study was to: examine female genital mutilation (FGM) and psychological development of the girl child in Akpabuyo LGA; explore female genital mutilation (FGM) and social development of the girl child in Akpabuyo LGA. and to ascertain how female genital mutilation (FGM) affects physical development of the girl child in Akpabuyo LGA. The variables under the specific objectives of the study were further used to form the research questions and hypotheses. Extant literatures were reviewed in line with the topic under study. The social learning and symbolic interactionism theories were used as the theoretical framework for this study. The study adopted survey research design where research questionnaire was used as the main instrument of data collection. The questionnaire containing 3 items questions designed in both open and closed ended questions and administered to the respondents. 120 questionnaires were administered and 20 were invalid while 100 valid questionnaires were used for the analysis. Comprising of 50 males and 50 females, who were selected from the projected population of 2016 in the study area, twenty respondents each were selected from five

wards using the simple random samplings. The two null hypotheses were rejected, two hypotheses were tested at 0.05 level of significance thus revealing that; there is a significant relationship between female genital mutilation and psychological development of the girl child, there is a significant relationship between female genital mutilation and social development of the girl child, and there is a significant relationship between female genital mutilation in the study area. Based on the findings of the study, it was recommended amongst others that there is need for public enlightenment programmes by social workers to combat mass ignorance as well as public and intense awareness on psychological, social and physical health of the female children as well as severe penalty for those still involved in the practice of female genital mutilation in our society.

Introduction

Female genital mutilation (FGM), also known as female circumcision (FC), but more recently as female genital mutilation/cutting (FGM/C) according to the World Health Organization (WHO, 2021) has occurred in many forms in all society of the world. It is practiced in more than 28 countries in Africa and a few scattered, communities worldwide (WHO, 2012). Its' burden is seen in Nigeria, Egypt. Mali. Eritrea, Sudan, and Central Republic and Northern part of Ghana where it has been an old traditional, religious and cultural practice of various ethnic groups (WHO, 2006). The highest prevalence rates are found in Somalia and Djibouti where female genital mutilation is virtually universal (Rahman & Toubia, 2016).

Female genital mutilation/cutting is widely practiced in Nigeria with its large population. Nigeria has the highest absolute number of cases of FGM in the world accounting for the estimated 115-130 million circumcised worldwide WHO, 2012). FGM/C is the collective name given to several different traditional practices of the cutting of female genitals (Newmam and Weissbrodt, (2010). The procedure is commonly performed on girls anywhere between the ages of four and twelve years of age as a rite of passage to womanhood (Rahman & Toubia, 2016). However, in some cultures, it is practiced as early as a few days after birth and late as just prior to marriage or after the first pregnancy. Girls may be circumcised alone or with a group of peers from their community and the reason for it are complex, related to other and woven into the beliefs and values communities uphold (Okeke, Anyaehie & Ezenyeaku, 2013 cited in Nnana, Abonor, Tiku. & Rita 2024).

FGM/C is widely recognised as a violation of human rights of children which is deeply rooted in cultural beliefs and perceptions over decades and generations with no easy task for change (WHO, 2012, Okeke, Anyaehie&Ezenyeaku, 2013). It also reflects deep-rooted inequality between the sexes and constitutes an extreme form of discrimination against women. Since, it is nearly always carried out on minors, it violates the rights of children to physical integrity, the right to health, security and cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment and the right to life when the procedure results in death (WHO, 2021). It denies children including women security, personal liberty and the right to health (Momoh, 2017). Female genital mutilation entails the total or partial cutting away of the female external genital organs with razors, ceremonial knives, or blades under non-hygienic conditions without anaesthesia. It is usually performed on girls ranging in age from 1 week to puberty (Ladjali, Rattray &Walder, 2019). FGM is a traditional practice in which the external female genitalia is partially or totally incised or excised for a non-

therapeutic reason, usually without the consent of the individual (Akinsulure-Smith & Chu, 2017).

In Nigeria, similar rates (36%) were reported by women, while 45% of men supporting continuation of the practice agreed with this statement. FGM was believed to be proof of a girl's virginity, thereby improving the marriage prospects of unmarried girls who have undergone the procedure. In Cote dTvoire, "improved marriage prospects" was cited by 36% of women favoring continuation of the practice once married. FGM is also believed by some communities to ensure that a woman is faithful and loyal to her husband. For example, 51 % of women in Egypt believe that FGM prevents adult (Yirga, Kassa, Gebremichael & Aro, 2012). This perception has no scientific justification and hampers women's self-determination in the area of sexuality. Furthermore, it has health-related consequences and complications on the health such as severe pain, shock, injury to adjacent organs, broken bones, severe bleeding, acute urinary infection, tetanus even death. Others are chronic pain, difficulties with micturition and menstruation, pelvic infection leading to infertility and prolong and obstructed labour during childbirth (Campion, 2017). Given such health issues and complication witnessed in children, one is tempted to ask why the practice is still continuing. Could it be that, there is lack of knowledge regarding the development of the girl child and the health consequences associated with this practice, as well as the law against the practice? It is on this note that the present study intends to investigate female genital mutilation and the development of the girl child in Akpabuyo Local Government Area of Cross River State, Nigeria.

Statement of the Problem

The phenomenon of female genital mutilation (FGM), despite its ills, is still being practiced and passed on to younger generation in Nigeria. This is partly due to the fact that FGM is perceived to be functional and a worthwhile tradition that upholds family honour, promotes moral values and ensures sexual chastity among young girls and women. The practice of FGM has remained a global and scholarly concern due to its adverse implication on the development of the girl child (Adeyemo, Omisore and Asabi, 2012 cited in Nnana, Isaac& Blessing 2023). This harmful practice not only affects children in Africa and Middle East, where it has been traditionally carried out, but also touches the lives of children in grant communities in industrialized countries. Although, concerned advocacy work over recent decades has generated widespread commitment to end this practice, success in eliminating FGM/C has been limited with some significance exceptions (Gruenbaum, 2021). It describes a range of procedures, often involving partial or total' excision of the external female genitalia that are carried out for non-medical reason. FGM/C has attracted increased attention and strong international opposition in recent years. It breaches international human rights law, in particular the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, and has been criminalized in much of the world, including many African countries in which it is traditionally practiced. Female genital mutilation (FGM) is an established cultural practice in over 30 countries. It carries a high risk of health issues on the children (Campion, 2017).

Worldwide, estimated 1.30million children have undergone the practice at least 2miliion girls a year are at risk of undergoing some form of the procedure (ICCPR, 2009). In Africa, about 3 million girls are at risk of FGM annually (WHO, 2002). In Nigeria, subjection of children to obscure traditional practices is legendary. FGM is an unhealthy traditional practice inflicted on girls and women in Nigeria, an estimated 20-40 million children are currently living with the consequences of FGM (Akpuaka, 2016). The practice is inevitably causing death and serious ill health and is unequivocally destroying sexual pleasure. It is perceived as a common and rampart practice in the study area with serious health consequences and permanently affect those children's sexuality during adulthood (Campion, 2017).

The procedure has no health benefitsfor children. Adverse consequences of FGM are shock from pain and hemorrhage (Verzin, 2015). Infection, acute urinary retention following such trauma, damage to the urethra or anus in the struggle of the victim during the procedure making the extent of the operation dictated in many cases by chance (Hathout, 2010). Chronic pelvic infection, acquired gynatresia resulting in hematocolpos, vulval adhesions, dysmenorrhea, retention cysts, and sexual difficulties with anorgasmia. Other complications are implantation dermoid cysts and keloids and sexual dysfunction (Akpuaka, 2016). Obstetric complications include perineal lacerations and inevitable need for episiotomy in infibulated paturients. Others are defibulation with

bleeding, injury to urethra and bladder injury to rectum, and purperial sepsis. Prolonged labor, delayed 2nd stage and obstructed labor leading to fistulae formation, and increased perinatal morbidity and mortality have been associated with FGM (Yoder & Khan, 2017).

The consequences of female genital mutilation on the development of the girl child also include: psychological and physiological, short- and long-term complication varied due to the method in which the procedure is performed, social and physical. Primary infections include staphylococcus, urinary tract, excessive and uncontrollable pain, hemorrhaging, human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), Chlamydia trchmatis, Clostridium tetani, herpes simples' virus (HSV). Hence, this study seeks to examine female genital mutilation (FGM) and the development of the girl child in Akpabuyo Local Government Area of Cross River State, Nigeria.

Literature Review

(i) Concept of female genital mutilation

An estimated 1.00 to 140 million girls and women in the world today have undergone some form of female genital mutilation, and 2 million girls are at risk from the practice each year (Dorkenoo, 2011). FGM includes a range of practices involving the complete or partial removal or alteration of the external genitalia for nonmedical reason (Boyle, 2005). Prior to the adoption of the term FGM, the practices were referred to as female circumcision. This procedure may involve the use of unsterilized, makeshift or rudimentary tools such as special knives, scissors, razors, or pieces of glass (Okeke, Anyaehie, & Ezenyeaku, 2012cited in Nnana, Tangban, Willie & Rita, 2023).

The operation is usually performed by an elderly woman of the village specially designated this task, who may also be a traditional birth attendant (TBA). The procedure may take 15 to 20 minutes, depending on the skill of the operator, the extent of excision and the amount of resistance put up by the girl child. The wound is dabbed with anything from alcohol or lemon juice to ash, herb mixtures, porridge or cow dung, and the girl's legs may be bound together until healing is completed (Toubia, 2016). The age at which girls are undergo FGM varies widely, depending on the ethnic group or geographical location. The timing of FGM procedure is often flexible even within communities, either because it is not tied to any particular ceremony, or because people's belief in its ceremonial significance has died away. The procedure may be carried out on infant girls, during childhood or adolescence, at the time of marriage, at a woman's first pregnancy, or even whilst in labour (Dorkenoo, 2011).

Female genital mutilation (FGM) is defined by the World Health Organization (WHO, 2012) as all procedures which involve partial or total removal of the external female genitalia and/or injury to the female genital organs, whether for cultural or any other non-therapeutic reasons. Female genital mutilation or female circumcision is the collective name given to several different traditional practices that involve the cutting of female genitals. The term FGM is reserved to describe ritualistic practices where actual cutting and removal of sexual organs takes place (Toubia, 2016). It is estimated that worldwide more than 100,000,000 women alive today have undergone FGM (Dorkenoo, 2011). The practice occurs across religious and economic lines and is practiced primarily in Africa, with particularly high prevalence rates in sub-Saharan African countries. The practice of FGM also can be found in the Middle East (for example, in Egypt), and there are reports that a form of FGM is practiced in Malaysia and Indonesia among some Muslim populations. It also is practiced by Bohra Muslims of India, Pakistan, and East Africa.

FGM/C varies from country to country, tribes, religion, and from one state and cultural setting to another, and no continent in the world has been exempted (Odoi, 2015 cited in Nnana, Tangban, Tiku & Abonor 2023). In most parts of Nigeria, it is carried out at a very young age (minors) and there is no possibility of the individual's consent (Hathout, 2019). Type I and Type II are more widespread and less harmful compared to Type III and Type IV. In Nigeria, there is greater prevalence of Type I excision in the south, with extreme forms of FGM prevalent in the North (UNICEF, 2011). Practice of FGM has no relationship with religion. Muslims and Christians practice it, but it is more widely spread in Christian predominated parts of Nigeria (UNICEF, 2011).

According to World Health Organization (2012), FGM practiced in Nigeria is classified into four types such include, Clitoridectomy or Type I (the least severe form of the practice): these

involves the removal of the prepuce or the hood of the clitoris and all or part of the clitoris. In Nigeria, this usually involves excision of only a part of the clitoris. Type II or sunna is a more severe practice that involves the removal of the clitoris along with partial or total excision of the labia minora. Type III (infibulation) is the most severe form of FGM. It involves the removal of the clitoris, the labia minora and adjacent medial part of the labia majora and the stitching of the vaginal orifice, leaving an opening of the size of a pin head to allow for menstrual flow or urine. Type I and Type II are more widespread but less harmful compared to Type III (Odoi, 2015).

Economics reasons: Viewing FGM/C from an economic angle, for the practitioners, it serves as an income earner and for some families it is used to improve the marriage prospects of young girls. In some societies, it is used as a kind of social stratification. mechanism with those who have been circumcised perceived to be at a higher status than others and is a prerequisite for the right to inheritance (W.H.O, 2012).

Female genital mutilation and psychological development of the girl child

The range of health issues on children associated with FGM is wide and some are severely disabling. Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting (FGM/C) is a harmful traditional practice with severe psychological health complications, deeply rooted in many Sub-Saharan African countries (Adriana, Suiberto, Miguel, & Isabelle, 2011). The psychological effects of FGM/C depend on the type of the procedure performed, experience of the circumciser and the social atmosphere at the time the cutting is performed (Gage &Rossem, 2016). These effects are due to psychological trauma of the painful procedure, sense of humiliation and being betrayed by parents, use of physical force by those perforating the procedure, negative genital image, lack of sense of ownership of their bodies, devastating sexual life, infertility and vesico vaginal fistulae (Boyle, 2015).

Children/women with type III FGM/C have a more distressing psychological complication in relation to sexual problems and infertility with a documentedinfertility rate of 30% (,44). psychological disturbances, low libido, apareunia or dyspareunia, chronic pain, dysmenorrhea, gynaetresia, cryptomenorrhoea, vaginal fistulae, labial agglutination, hypertrophic scar/keloids, clitoral retention cysts, dermoid cysts, vaginal lacerations during coitus, straining at micturition, genital tract lacerations, especially during vaginal delivery, obstructed labour, increased rate of caesarean delivery and postpartum haemorrhage, psychiatric diagnosis, suffer from anxiety, somatization, phobia, and low self-esteem). However, our meta-analyses for anxiety, somatization, depression, and hostility failed to reach significance and were marred by high heterogeneity (Cottingham &Kismodi, 2019 cited in Nnana, 2023).

Female genital mutilation and social development of the girl child

FGM/C posed a serious ill challenges on the social life of the female children. The social consequences include loneliness, isolation, death, posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD), anxiety disorders, panic disorders, inhibition, depression and. suppression of feeling and thinking and sometimes attempted suicide (Klein, Helzner, Shayowitz, Kohlhoff, & Smith-Norowitz, 2018). Others health issues includes; maternal prolonged maternal hospitalization, low birth weight, prolonged, labor, obstructed labor, and increased frequency, scratching and piercings) to be included and lower the internal validity. Moreover, patients with FGM were givenpreferential treatment (i.e., extended hospital stays and extra examination time (Chibber, El-Saleh, & El Harm, 2011)

Genital mutilation is commonly performed when girls are young and miinformed and is often preceded by acts of deception, intimidation, coercion, and violence by parents, relatives and friends that the girl has trusted. Girls are generally conscious when the painful operation is undertaken as no anaesthetic or other medication is used (Adam, Bathija, Bishai. Bomienfant, Darwish, Huntington & Johansen, 2015). They have to be physically restrained because they struggle. In some instances, they are forced to watch the mutilation of other girls. This can lead to social problems. For some girls, mutilation is an occasion marked by fear, submission, inhibition and the suppression of feelings. The experience is a vivid landmark in then mental development, the memory of which never leaves them. Some girls are ready to express the humiliation, inhibition and fear that have become part of their lives as a result of enduring genital mutilation. Others find it

difficult or impossible to talk about their personal experience, but their obvious anxiety and sometimes tearfulness reflect the depth of their emotional pain. Girls may suffer feelings of betrayal, bitterness and anger at being subjected to such an ordeal, even if they receive support from their families immediately following the procedure. This may cause a crisis of confidence and trust in family and friends that may have long implications. It may affect the relationship between the girl and her parents, andmay also affect her ability to form intimate relationships in the future, even perhaps with her own children Cole-Ceesay & Cherian (2019).

Some female children have reported disturbances in their eating and sleeping habits, and in mood and cognition. Symptoms include sleeplessness, nightmares, loss of appetite, weight loss or excessive weight gain, as well as panic attacks, difficulties in concentration and learning, and other symptoms of post-traumatic stress. As children grow up, many develop feelings of incompleteness, loss of self-esteem, depression, chronic anxiety, phobias, panic. Many children suffer in silence, unable to express their pain and fear. Girls who have not been excised may be socially stigmatized, rejected by their communities, and unable to many' locally, which may also cause psychological trauma (Walraven, Scherf, West, Ekpo, Paine, Coleman. Bailey, & Morison, 2015 cited in Nnana& Lilian, 2024).

Female genital mutilation and physical development of the girl child

The range of complications associated with FGM is wide. Physical health issues of FGM on female children are severe pain due to the operation being performed with crude instruments and without anaesthetic. In medical settings where theanaesthetic is available, it is difficult to administer anaesthetic as the clitoris is - "highly vascular- organ with a dense concentration of nerve end (Gambia MultipleIndicator Cluster Survey, 2015). Multiple painful injections are required toanaesthetize the area completely. Injury to the adjacent tissue of urethra,vagina, perineum and rectum can result from the use of crude instruments, or because the operator is ignorant of the anatomy and physiology of the female external genitalia, has poor eyesight or a careless technique, or may be operating in poor light. Such injury is especially likely if the girl is struggling because of pain and fear. (Elmusharaf, Elhadi&Almroth 2016 cited in Nnana O. O., & Lilian O. U. 2024). Damage to the urethra can result in incontinence. Haemorrhage excision of the clitoris involves cutting the clitoral artery which has a strong flow and high pressure. Packing, tying or stitching to stop bleeding may not be effective and this can lead to haemorrhage. Secondary haemorrhage may occur after the first week as a result of sloughing of the clot over the artery due to infection. Cutting of the labia causes further damage to blood vessels and Bartholin glands. Haemorrhage is the most common and life session, others physical complications may include, difficulty in passing urine can occur as a result of damage to the urethral opening or scarring of the meatus.

Recurrent urinary tract infection. Infection near the urethra can result in ascending urinary tract infections. This is particularly common following type III mutilation, when the normal flow of urine is deflected and the perineum remains constantly wet and susceptible to bacterial growth. Stasis of mine resulting from difficulty in micturition can lead to bladder infections. Both types of infection can spread to the ureters and kidneys.

The role of social work in curbing female genital mutilation

Social work as a profession is known for intervening at the individual, group and community level in assisting then clients. (Twikirize, Asingwire, Omona, Luanga&Kafuko, 2013). Social workers can assist individuals, families and communities in the process of changing their behaviour and practice as regards FGM. by promoting education against its practice. Social workers also encourage health care workers to provide knowledge and understanding of the practice. They engaged in mobilization of youth, women, elders and leaders to work to eliminate the practice. Social work must play the role of facilitating the introduction of by-laws against FGM practice at community level. Involving individuals, families and communities in the prevention of FGM means working with them towards changing their beliefs, values and attitudes towards the practice, integrating education and counselling against FGM into day to day nursing and midwifery practice, identifying influential leaders and other key individuals and groups within the community with whom you can collaborate and could be used as change agents,

visiting individual people or groups in the community, awareness raising in communities of problems associated with the tradition as appropriate and establishing small focus groups for discussions (Twikirize et al, 2013). These discussions should be interactive and participatory, allowing the people themselves to do most of the talking, assisting the people to think through the practice of FGM and its effects on psychological, social and physical health of children. They also identify resources within the community that could be used in the prevention programme, suggesting strategies for changing practice, example, a culturally acceptable alternative ceremony to mark the rite of passage and teaching children and women as well as the entire community, problem solving skills and supporting individuals and families to cope with the problems of FGM and with adjusting to change (WHO, 2012).

Social work can influence the media by playing an important role in breaking the silence around FGM/C and bringing the issue into the public realm. Also provide media with accurate, up to date information regarding FGM/C and strengthening media operators' skills to disseminate this information can contribute to the abandonment of the practice because lack of knowledge of FGM/C is a major obstacle preventing many media professionals from discussing the issue (UNICEF, 2011). The involvement of opinion leaders, including traditional leaders, political figures, religious chiefs and intellectuals has had an important role in raising awareness within communities where there is a strong perception that the practice of FGM/C is required by Islam, by engaging religious leaders in public discussion will essential element in raising awareness of this practice, disassociating it from religious considerations and creating an enabling environment for change (Yoder & Khan, 2017).

Theoretical framework

i) Social learning theory

The theory was propounded by Albert Bandura in 1977. The theory posits that learning would be exceedingly laborious if people had to rely solely on the effects of their own actions to inform them on what to do. Fortunately, most human behaviour is learned observationally through modeling. From observing others, one forms an idea of how new behaviours are performed and on later occasions this coded information serves as a guide for action (Bandura, 1977). Bandura argued that people learn and acquire new information, attitude and behaviour by watching, listening and observing other people. Through socialization, people are exposed to various types of female genital mutilation (FGM) and practice them effectively. The theory is considered relevant to the study because of its usefulness in explaining and. understanding the practice of FGM and its benefits.

Bandura opined that observation like watching someone talk, listening, behave in a certain way, either in radio, television or live (face to face) can be effective form of learning for people. The fundamental assumption of these theory states that new behaviours are learned either by watching or modeling the behaviours of other and direct experience (Bandura, 1977). That if an individual sees the behaviour of a model rewarding; the person will tend to copy the reward behaviour. As individuals watch television, listen to radio and read books or literature on FGM,they can acquire knowledge associated with it and have better opportunity of practicing it.

ii) Symbolic interaction theory

Symbolic Interaction theory has John Dewey Thomas and George Herbert Mead as its major proponents in (1981). The basic idea of this theory is that people act towards things on the basis of the meaning those things have for them. These meanings are derived from social interaction with others and modified through the interpretation they use in dealing with things encountered (Okeibunor&Anugwom, 2002). These meanings are also created from interactions people have in sharing the interpretation symbols. Therefore, through symbols of interaction, the populace would be made aware of the so called benefits of female genital mutilation (FGM) and decide to copy. There are some assumptions of this theory that people live in a symbolic world as well as in a physical world. Individuals learn about themselves based on how people react to their own behavoiur.

They believe that human beings spend a great time interpreting their own conduct or action and that of others and strive to make sense of the circumstances in which they find themselves. The theory views human beings as attempting to make practical adjustments to their

surroundings. This theory gives insight into the assumption that the reactions of people towards social issues are based on their interpretation.

Methodology

The researcher adopted a survey design because it permits the researcher to obtain useful data in a short period of time from a sample as well as generalization of research results to the entire population of the study. Anikpo, 1986; Obikeze, 1990). Obikeze (1990). This study is to assess the extent of female genital mutilation and health of female children in the Akpabuyo L.G.A of Cross River State. Nigeria.Akpabuyo is a Local Government Area (LGA) of Cross River State, Nigeria. It is located in the Southern Senatorial District with headquarters at Ikot Nakanda. It became autonomous on Tuesday 27th August 1991, following its creation from the former Odukpani Local Government Area. It has an area of 1,241 km2 and a population of 271,395 at the 2006 census. Akpabuyo Local Government Area lies between latitude 4° 5' and 5° 40' and longitude 8° 25' and 8° 32 East. It lies within the vegetation belt of southern and shares a boundary with Akamkpa LGA, the Republic of Cameroon, Bakassi LGA, and Calabar South to the North, East. South and West respectively. National Population Commission of Nigeria (web), National Bureau of Statistics (web)

It consists of 10 (ten) Council Wards, namely: Idundu/Anyananse, Atimbo East, Atimbo West, Ikot EdemOdo, Eneyo, Ikot Nakanda, Ikot Eyo, Ikang North, Ikang South and Ikang Central. The major ethnic groups are the Efiks, Quas and Efuts. The major languages spoken are Efik and English, while all the major ethnic groups share a common cultural and ancestral heritage.

In carrying out this study, the researcher used a sample size of 100 respondents both men and women from 18years and above derived from the projected population of 2016 in the study area. A multi-stage sampling technique which entails selection of wards, streets, households and respondents was employed. Akpabuyo L.G.A is made up of ten wards. The researcher used simple random sampling (SRS) by (balloting) to select five wards. All the entire recognize streets in each ward was computed with the aid of street index from the town planning office. From the total numbers of streets in each wards, five streets were selected through a systematic random process which gave us a total of twenty-live streets. The researcher selected two buildings per a street with the used of simple random sampling and got a total of fifty buildings. Through a simple random process and with the dip and shuffle method, two respondents from 18years and above from each of the building was selected. These give us a total of 100 respondents used for the study.

The two major instruments used for data collection were primary and secondary sources. The researcher administer 100 questionnaires to the respondents and explanations were made on how to fill them. Also, Chi-square, (x2) statistical analysis were apply in calculating the relationships existing between them. This is presented below:

$$X^2 = \frac{(O - E)^2}{E}$$

Where:

X^2 = Chi square

Z = Summation

O = Observed frequency

E = Expected frequency

Findings

The analysis was based on views of the respondents from the questionnaires. Out of a total of 120 questionnaires collected from the respondents 20 were tendered invalid because they were not properly completed. 100 questionnaires were however duly completed and used for analysis.

Table 4.2.1: Distribution of respondents by sex

Sex	No. of respondents	Percentage (%)
Male	60	60
Female	40	40
Total	100	100

Source: Field work. 2024.

Table 4.2.1 above shows that out of 100 respondents; males were 60 and female 40.

Table 4.2.2: Distribution of respondents by age

Age	No. of respondents	Percentage (%)
18-29	40	40
30-40	44	44
4land above	16	16
Total	100	100

Source: Field work, 2024.

Table 4.2.2 above shows that the numbers of respondents with 18-29 years were 40,30-40 years were 44, and 41 years and above were 16 respectively representing 100%respondents.

Table 4.2.3: Distribution of respondents by marital status

Marital status	No. of respondents	Percentage (%)
Single	32	32
Married	20	20
Separated	32	32
Divorce	10	10
Widowed	6	6
Total	100	100

Source: Field work, 2024.

Table 4.2.3: Distribution of respondents by marital status

Marital status	No. of respondents	Percentage (%)
Single	32	32
Married	20	20
Separated	32	32
Divorce	10	10
Widowed	6	6
Total	100	100

Source: Field work, 2024.

Table 4.2.3 above shows that out of the 100 respondents, 32 were singles, 20 were married, 32 were separated, 10 were divorce and 6 respondents were widows representing 100% respondents

Table 4.2.4: Distribution of respondents by occupation

Occupation	No. of respondents	Percentage (%)
Fanning	2	2
Trader	34	34
Civil/public servant	12	12
Student	36	36
Others	16	16
Total	100	100

Source: Field work, 2024.

Table 4.2.4 above shows that 2 respondents were farmers, 34 respondents were traders 12 respondents were civil/public servants, 36 respondents were students and 16 were others representing 100% respondents.

Table 4.2.5: Distribution of respondents by educational qualification

Educational qualification	No. of respondents	Percentage (%)
No formal education	10	10
Primary education	20	20
Secondary education	40	40
Tertiary education	30	30
Total	100	100

Source: Field work, 2024.

Table 4.2.5 above shows that 10 respondents had no formal education, 20 respondents had primary education, whereas 40 respondents had secondary

Table 4.2.6: Distribution of respondents by religious affiliation

Religious affiliation	No. of respondents	Percentage (%)
Christianity	92	92
Islam	2	2
African Traditional religion	4	4
Others	2.	2
Total	100	100

Source: Field work, 2024.

Table 4.2.6 above shows that 92 respondents represent Christianity, 2 respondents were Islam, 4 respondents practice African traditional religion and 2 respondents were others madding it up 100% respondents.

Hypothesis one

H0: There is no significant association between female genital mutilation and psychological development of the girl child

Hi: There is a significant association between female genital mutilation and psychological development of the girl child

NOTE: Number 1.3 question in the questionnaire was used to test the hypothesis one.

Decision rule: Accept Ho if X2 > 5.991, otherwise rejects Ho and accept Hi instead at level of significance = 0.05 and degree of freedom (df) =(r-l) (c-1) = (3-1) (2-1) =2.

Table 4.3.1: Chi-Square distribution of respondents

Responses	No of respondents		Row total
	Male	Female	
A	10	6	16
U	12	10	22
D	38	24	62
Total	60	40	100

Since calculated value of 1.36 is less than calculated value of 5.991 at 2df, therefore, Ho is rejected and Hi is accepted which states that, there is a significant association between female genital mutilation and psychological development of the girl child in Akpabuyo LGA

Hypothesis two

H0: There is no significant association between female genital mutilation and social development of the girl child

Hi: There is a significant association between female genital mutilation and social development of the girl child

Table 4.3.2: Chi-Square distribution of respondents

Responses	No of respondents		Row total
	Male	Female	
A	58	40	98
U	2	0	2
D	0	0	0
Total	60	40	100

NOTE: Number 19 question in the questionnaire was used to test the hypothesis two.

Decision rule: Accept Ho if X2 > 5.991, otherwise rejects Ho and accept Hi instead at level of significance = 0.05 and degree of freedom (df) =(r-l) (c-1) = (3-1) (2-1) =2.

Since calculated value of 1.36 is less than calculated value of 5.991 at 2df, therefore, Ho is rejected and Hi is accepted which states that, there is a significant association between female genital mutilation and social development of the girl child

Since calculated value of 1.36 is less than calculated value of 5.991 at 2df, therefore, Ho is rejected and Hi is accepted which states that, there is a significant association between female genital mutilation and physical development of the girl child in Akpabuyo LGA

Hypothesis One: Statistical Computation of Chi-square to table 4.3.1

Cells	Fo	Fe	Fo-Fe	$(Fo-Fe)^2$	$(Fo-Fe)^2$
A	44	39.6	4.4	19.36	0.488
B	22	26.4	-4.4	19.36	0.733
C	10	12	2	4	0.333
D	10	8	2	4	0.5
E	6	8.4	2.4	5.76	0.685
F	8	5.6	2.4	5.76	1.028
Total	-	-	-	X^2 =	3.767

Expected choice

a) 66x60 =39.6
b) 66x40 = 26.4
c) 20x60 = 12
d) 20x40 = 8
e) 14x60 = 8.4
f) 14 x 40 = 5.6

Hypothesis Two: Statistical Computation of Chi-square to table 4.3.2

Cells	Fo	Fe	Fo-Fe	(Fo-Fe)2	$(Fo-Fe)^2$
A	58	58.8	-0.8	0.64	0.0108
B	40	39.2	0.8	0.64	0.0163
C	2	1.2	0.8	0.64	0.5333
D	0	8	-0.8	0.64	0.8
E	0	0	0	0	0
F	0	0	0	0	0
Total	-	-	-	X^2 =	1.36

Expected choice

a) 96x60 = 58.8
b) 98 x40 = 39.2
c) 2x60= 1.2
d) 20x40 = 8
e) 0x60 = 0
f) 0x40 = 0

Discussion of the Findings

Hypothesis One

There is no significant relationship between female genital mutilation and psychological development of the girl child in Akpabuyo LG A. This result is in agreement with the view of Cottingham &Kismodi (2019). They argued that female genital mutilation has a long-lasting effect on psychological health of female children such that complication in relation to sexual problems and infertility with a documented infertility rate of 30% (,44). psychological disturbances, low libido, apareunia or dyspareunia, chronic pain, dysmenorxhoea, gynaetresia, cryptomenorrhoea, vaginal fistulae, labial agglutination, hypertrophic scar/keloids, clitoral retention cysts, dermoid cysts, vaginal lacerations during coitus, straining at micturition, genital tract lacerations, especially during vaginal delivery, obstructed labour, increased rate of caesarean delivery and postpartum haemorrhage, psychiatric diagnosis, suffer from anxiety, somatization, phobia, and low self-esteem). However, our meta-analyses for anxiety, somatization, depression, and hostility failed to reach significance and were marred by high heterogeneity. Others researches says, effects are due to psychological trauma of the painful procedure, sense of humiliation and being betrayed by parents, use of physical force by those performing the procedure, negative genital image, lack of sense of ownership of their bodies, devastating sexual life, infertility and vesico vaginal fistulae (Boyle, 2015).

Hypothesis Two

There is no significant relationship between female genital mutilation and the social development of the girl child in Akpaboyu LGA. Data gotten from the field reveals that female genital mutilation socially affect the female children in the study area. The result of this hypothesis is in consonance with the idea of (Walraven, Scherf, West, Ekpo, Paine, Coleman, Bailey, & Morison, 2015). They believed that those children who experience this practice reported disturbances in their eating and sleeping habits, and in mood and cognition. Symptoms include sleeplessness, nightmares, loss of appetite, weight loss or excessive weight gain, as well as panic attacks, difficulties in concentration and learning, and other symptoms of posttraumatic stress. As children grow up, many develop feelings of incompleteness, loss of self-esteem, depression, chronic anxiety, phobias, panic. Many children suffer in silence, unable to express their pain and fear. Girls who have not been excised may be socially stigmatized, rejected by their communities, and unable to marry locally, which may also cause psychological trauma, others social consequences include loneliness, isolation, death, posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD), anxiety disorders, panic disorders, inhibition, depression and suppression of feeling and thinking and sometimes attempted suicide (Klein, Helzner, Shayowitz, Kohlhoff, & Smith-Norowitz, 2018).

Conclusion

This study sought to explore female genital mutilation and. the development of the girl child in Akpabuyo L.G. A of Cross River State, Nigeria. From the study, it can be seen that psychological, social and physical health of the female children are associated with the practice of female genital mutilation. The result is in agreement with the view of (Adriana, Suiberto, Miguel, & Isabelle, 2011). That the psychological effects of FGM/C depend on the type of the procedure performed, experience of the circumciser and the social atmosphere at the time the cutting is performed and are very traumatic. Boyle (2015) says these effects are due to psychological trauma of the painful procedure, sense of humiliation and being betrayed by parents, use of physical force by those performing the procedure, negative genital image, lack of sense of ownership of their bodies, devastating sexual life, infertility and vesico vaginal fistulae.

Cole-Ceesay & Cherian (2019) believe that it makes the female children to physically restrained because they struggle. In some instances, they are forced to watch the mutilation of other girls. This can lead to social problems. For some girls, mutilation is an occasion marked by fear, submission, inhibition and the suppression of feelings. The experience is a vivid landmark in their mental development, the memory of which never leaves them. Some girls are ready to express the humiliation, inhibition and fear that have become part of their lives as a result of enduring genital mutilation. Others find it difficult or impossible to talk about their personal experience, but their obvious anxiety and sometimes tearfulness reflect the depth of their emotional pain. Girls

may suffer feelings of betrayal, bitterness and anger at being subjected to such an ordeal, even if they receive support from their families immediately following the procedure. This may cause a crisis of confidence and trust in family and friends that may have long term implications. It may affect therelationship between the girl and her parents, and may also affect her ability to form intimate relationships in the future, even perhaps with her own.

Finally, researchers like Oduro, Ansah, Hodgson, Afful, Baiden, Adongo & Adongo (2016) opined that the practice may obstruct the vaginal orifice, leading to dysmenorrhoea (painful menstrual period). Following infibulation, scarring can be so extensive that it prevents penile penetration and may cause sexual and psychological problems. Abscess. Deep infection resulting from faulty healing or an embedded stitch can cause an abscess, which may require surgical incision. Cysts and abscesses on the vulva. Implantation dermoid cysts are the commonest complication of infibulation.

Recommendations

The following recommendations are made;

a) The general public should be made aware of the psychological, social and physical effects of female genital mutilation on the health of female children in the study area.
b) There should be public enlightenment programmes by social workers to combat mass ignorance and public awareness on the right to freedom fromall forms of female genital mutilation on the female children in the study area and the general society at large.
c) Intense awareness should be created among teachers and school managers using seminars, workshops and training programmes about the danger of female genital mutilation.
d) Teaching profession should be professionalized to ensure that there is no one teaching as a second-best option, this would ensure that people in this profession really see it as their contribution to society's development.
e) Penalty for those who still practice this barbaric act on the children should be severe enough to deter other perpetrators.
f) Encouraging early disclosure, timely and appropriate intervention when female genital mutilaton does occur to reduce recurrence and ultimately promote desistance (tertiary prevention).
g) A comprehensive prevention framework that targets (potential) offenders, (potential) victims, specific situations, and relevant ecological (peer, family, organizational, and neighborhood) systems, across all three prevention levels, provides the best armory against the practice

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ADAPTING TO A CHANGING WORLD: STRATEGIES FOR MITIGATING THE GLOBAL CONSEQUENCES OF CLIMATE CHANGE

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ABSTRACT
This research focuses on global climate change and adaptation strategies. Climate change globally has become one of the shocking certainties of the 21st era and it has made scientists to raise the need to drop worldwide temperatures further by 0.5 °C which makes a substantial difference in some areas of the world, particularly developing countries that are faced with the greater threat of climate change. Developing States have become exposed to the damaging effects of climate change because of their varied climatic regions and these have affected their food production activities due to the deforestation problem, desertification, soil degradation, erosion, flooding, general habitat loss, depletion of natural resources etc. This study therefore attempts to examine the extent to which continuous climate change has affected the globe and how institutional frameworks have addressed the current situation in ensuring effective control across the globe. The research employed purely on secondary means to gathered data. This research structures its opinions with the human security model as its theoretical framework. Major findings showed that environmental degradation, desertification caused by climate change had greatly stunted agricultural production and government rules universally; climate change has increased food uncertainty, poor statistical analysis and implementation by government. The paper recommends that government should provide alternative means like renewable energy, reduction of industrial carbons in tackling the menace of climate change globally, there should be reduction of emission of greenhouse gases by stopping deforestation, the use of high yield and disease tolerant crops, and also crops adaptable to high level of weather conditions, there should be easy accessible information on climate change effects to the public.

Introduction

Climate change is one of the most serious environmental and human threats undermining the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and the international efforts to reduce extreme poverty. This is endemic because budgetary allocation of nation's meant for other aspects of the economy are now being channeled towards avoiding or mitigating the effects arising from climate change. Climate change and environmental sustainability has emerged as a major challenge to development in the 21st century. Speranza (2010) posited that recent research has noted the impacts of climate change on agriculture and natural resources management in theCountries of Asia, Africa, and Latin America. As a result of low adaptive capacities and the projected impacts of climate change; a consensus has emerged that developing countries are more vulnerable to climate change than developed countries, because of the predominance of rain-fed agriculture in their economies, the scarcity of capital for adaptation, measures their warmer baseline climate and their heightened exposure to extreme events (Fischer 2005; Nnamdi and Ozor 2009 in Okolie, Ossai and Eze, 2013: 48).

Climate change has become a factor that has harped on and compounded the problems of the globe through an environmental dimension. Moreover, it has been viewed by philosophers in the past passively as less harmful, but due to the current globalization of values, information and trends aided by science and technology, free movement of goods, services and information likening the world as a global village; certain problems and social changes as climate change has been viewed to be of local contributions in different atomized but yet connected and global effects. Climate change has had itself to be presented as having a catastrophic end in parlance of the sustenance of the world's biological and non-biological existence. (www.wikipedia.com as cited in Edeh and Leo-Nnoli, 2014: 18).

According to Food and Agricultural Organisation (2008), climate change phenomenon seriously affect agriculture also in a number of ways. For example, uncertainties in the onset of the farming season, due to changes in rainfall characteristics (early rains may not be sustained, and crops planted at their instance may become smothered by heat waves) can lead to an unusual sequence of crop planting and replanting which may result in food shortages due to harvest failure. Extreme weather events such as heavy winds, and floods, devastate farmlands and can lead to crop failure. Availability of agricultural products is affected by climate change directly through its impacts on crop yields, crop pests and diseases, and soil fertility. Already climate change is creating increased uncertainty about future temperature and precipitation regimes which makes investments in agriculture and other weather-dependent livelihoods inherent more risky and has increased the burden on food security and income among many farmers in the region.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (2001) states that climate change is a change to natural internal processes or external forcing, or to persistent anthropogenic changes in the composition of the atmosphere or in land use. Although the length of time it takes the changes tomanifest matters, the level of deviation from the normal and its impacts on the ecology are most paramount. This prompted Ayoade (2003), to states that secular variations in climate occurring over a period of 100 to 150 years may not qualify as a climate change if conditions will quickly reverse later, but a change in climate usually takes place over a long period of time of at least 150 years with clear and permanent impacts on the ecosystem. Climate change is different from the generally known terms like climatic fluctuations or climatic variability. These terms denote inherent dynamic nature of climate on various temporal scales. Such temporal scale variations could be monthly, seasonal, annual, decadal, periodic, quasi-periodic or non-periodic. Climate change is caused by two basic factors which include natural processes (bio geographical) and human activities (anthropogenic). The natural processes are the astronomical and the extraterrestrial factorsthe astronomical factors include the changes in the eccentricity of the earth's orbit, changes in the obliquity of the plane of ecliptic and changes in orbital processes while the extra-terrestrial factors are solar radiation quantity and quality among others. On the other hand, the anthropogenic factor in climate change involves human activities that either emit large amount of greenhouse gases into the atmosphere that depletes the ozone layer or activities that reduce the number of carbons absorbed from the atmosphere to the human

factors that emit large amounts of greenhouse gases include industrialization, burning of fossil fuel gas flaring, urbanization and agriculture. Be that as it may, human activities that reduce the amount of carbon sinks are deforestation, alterations in land use, water pollution and agricultural practices. The human factors have been proven to be responsible for the on-going unequivocal climate change or global warming (IPCC 2007). The emitted greenhouse gases are carbon dioxide (CO chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs), Methane (CH4) and nitrous oxide (N2O) amongst others. In other words, Climate Change or Global Warming is caused by emission of heat trapping gases produced by vehicles, power plants, industrial processes and deforestation. The issue of climate change has become more threatening not only to the sustainable development of socio-economic and agricultural activities of any nation but to the totality of human existence (Adejuwon 2004) as cited in Tersoo and Ogochukwu, 2014,p. 36).

Science for a Healthy Planet and Safer World (2019) asserted that global heating is now taking important and high possessions on our societies, our wellbeing, and our temperature. Except we consider to take instant action to decrease global heating releases, these effects will linger to increase, raise continuously and more high and destructive, and gradually touch the whole globe, including everyone, town, and people immediate family.People are seriously facing a possibly confounding increase of hazardous hotness over the coming years, with fast and prevalent rises in extreme hotness expected to happen across the United States as a result of climate change. Average global sea level has enlarged eight edges then 1880, however is increasing greatly faster on the United States, East Coast and then Gulf of Mexico. Worldwide heating is now hastening the amount of sea level increase, growing flooding dangers to population sand high-risk seaside properties whose expansion has been heartened by today's flood coverage structure.

Conceptual Review

Climate Change

Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC, 2007) defines climate change as a change in the state of the climate that can be identified (e.g., by using statistical tests) by changes in the mean and /or the variability of its properties, and that persists for an extended period typically decades or longer Although the length of time it takes the changes to manifest matters, the level of deviation from the normal and its impacts on the ecology are most paramount.

The United Nation Framework Convention on Climate Change, (UNFCCC, 2005) conceptualized climate change as 'A change of climate, which is attributed directly or indirectly to human activity, that alters the composition of the global atmosphere, and in addition to natural climate variability, observed over comparable period of time. The most general concept of climate change therefore, is a 'change in the statistical properties of the climate system when considered over a long period of time, regardless of the cause'. Accordingly, fluctuations over periods shorter than a few decades do not represent climate change. The term is, sometimes, used to refer specifically to climate change caused by human activity, as opposed to changes in climate that may have resulted as part of the earth's natural processes. In this respect, especially in the context of environmental policy, the term climate change has become synonymous with anthropogenic global warming. However, scientifically, global warming refers to surface temperature increases while climate change includes global warming and everything else that increasing greenhouse gas levels will affect. Thus, simply put, Climate change is a long-term change in the statistical distribution of weather patterns over periods of time that range from decades to millions of years. It may be a change in the average weather conditions or a change in the distribution of weather events with respect to an average, for example, greater or fewer extreme weather events. Climate change may be limited to a specific region, or may occur across the globe.

Gregory, Ingram and Brklacich (2005) reported that dynamic interactions between and within the bio-geophysical and human environments lead to the production, processing preparation and consumption of food, resulting in food systems that underpin food security. Thus, there is a palpable misapprehension and trepidation that climate change will affect all four dimensions of food security: food availability, food accessibility, food utilization and food systems stability. It is envisaged that change in climate will have an impact on human health, livelihood assets, food production and distribution channels, as well as changing purchasing power and market flows.

Causes and Effects of Climate Change

Uzoechi (2009) affirmed that as the concentration of greenhouse gases increases, the temperature on earth will also increase. Other causes of changes in the average temperature of the earth include ocean currents which move vast amounts of heat across the planet and volcanoes which introduce sulphur dioxide, water vapour, ash and dust into the atmosphere. Increasing temperatures tend to increase evaporation which leads to more precipitation. As average global temperatures have risen, average global precipitation has also increased. As a result, there has been an increase in the number of heavy precipitation events over many years during the past century as well as an increase since the 1970s in the prevalence of droughts especially in the tropics and sub-tropics (Okebukola& Akpan, 2009). Increase in the earth's temperature might lead to the melting of the ice caps resulting to a release of more water into the oceans so that sea levels will rise and consequently many low-lying areas of the land will be flooded. Thus, the melting of glaciers and ice sheets in some areas swells the seas and as the sea in invades the mouths of rivers, flooding from runoff will also increase upstream as cited in Nzewi, 2009; Uzoechi, 2009).

There is a global consensus about the causes of climate change. It is generally agreed that climate change is instigated by human activities.A chief contributor is the global over-dependence on the use of fossil fuels to meet energy needs.The use of fossils leads to the release of greenhouse gases (GHGs), mainly carbon dioxide (CO_2) and methane into the earth's atmosphere. Fossil fuels are mainly produced from natural gas. They all release CO_2 at production and consumption points. Fossil fuels constitute the primary source of energy to the world's economy, and have been utilized in power generation, transportation, agriculture, manufacturing, land use and other activities. For instance, petroleum, diesel and gas are used to power plants to generate electricity. But beyond public electricity generating power plants, Nigeria and other few developing countries in the world rely more on the use of generators to generate household and industrial electricity supplies. Nigeria is the largest importer of electricity generators in the world. The bulk of global transportation system relies on fossil fuels. Most vehicular devices (motor vehicles, marine and air transportation) depend heavily on either petroleum, or diesel, aerosol or gas. Similarly, the manufacturing sector of the economy, especially in the developing economies with poor access to electricity, relies of fossil fuels. All these sources of human and economic activities therefore emit sizeable yield of CO_2 and other deleterious gases. (Fagbemi and Idoko, 2009).

The Loyal Society (2019) posited that the Sun helps as the main energy source for Globe's climate. Some of the received sunlight is replicated directly back into planetary, particularly by bright sides such as ice and clouds, and the rest is immersed by the surface and the atmosphere. Ample of this absorbed solar energy is re-emitted as hotness (longwave or ultravioletemission). The air in turn absorbs and re-radiates hotness, some of which outflows to space. Any disorder to this balance of incoming and resigning energy will disturb the climate. For instance, lesser changes in the production of energy after the Sun will affect this balance nonstop. Humans also upset climate by altering the environment of the land shells (for instance by dissipating forests for farming) and the complete emission of pollutants that affect the amount and type of particles in the atmosphere. Scientists have determined that, once all human and natural influences are considered, earth's climate balance has been changed towards heating, with the major contributor being increaseoutcome of this process and re emission of long wave back to the earth's surface increase the amount of heat energy in the earth's climatic system. Human movement is changing the amount of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere in three respective and significant methods, namely;

The process of burning fossil fuels

Carbon dioxide is one of the central conservatory gases and givers to the greenhouse effect. When fossil fuels for instance coal, oil and gas burn, they discharge greenhouse gases.

The issue of Deforestation

Deforestation is the process where forests are cut down quicker than they are substituted is a major provider to climate change. This causes 20 percent of the biosphere's carbon emissions. Deforestation marks such an enormous role to carbon emissions since trees absorb CO2 as they grow.

The pattern of Explosion in Population

As the world's populace rises, there are many individuals who want food, livestock and energy. This augmented demand clues to increased emissions. Precisely, population, income, and

economic growth could all affect the harshness of climate change impacts in relations of food security, hunger, and nutritional adequacy.

Table 1 showingthe effects of climate change on regions

S/NO	Climate Changes on Region	Effects/ Consequences
1	**Africa Region /Areas**	It involves in the change of the level of rainfall, decrease in the pattern of crop yield, degradation of land, it leads to food insecurity, reduction of water resources, high drought, desertification, serious flooding, sea level rise of salt water which distort coastal areas, poor nutrient, destruction of shelters, and challenge of national security.
2	**Asia Region / Areas**	Serious increase in drought, decrease in soil moisture, challenge of flood, vanishing forest, policy crisis.
3	**Latin America Region /Areas**	The High increase in tropical windstorm, High level of drought, flood, policy effect, exposure of coasts.

Source: Survey reports 2020.

Global Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation Strategies

Okunmadewa (2008:218) studies showed that in planning strategies for tackling the potential problems of climate change a two-prong approach should be pursued. These are (1) strategies for averting the change, and (2) strategies for mitigating the effects of the change.

Strategies for averting climate change (called preventive options) fall into three categories: (1) those for reducing the demand for fossil fuels, especially by conserving and using alternative energy source, (2) those which adopt technical solutions to collect and control carbon dioxide emissions and, (3) those which involve increasing biomass production including re-a forestation of denuded areas. Strategies for mitigating the effect of climate change include measures that protect (protective options). For example, the application of technical, engineering or structural responses and those that will help to increase man's resilience (adaptive options) to the effect such as relocation, improved water and soil management, application of new agro-technology, improved land-use policies, maintenance of food reserves and the introduction of disaster relief measures. Other adaptive strategies are those that lead to improved choices. These include measures employed for (1) environmental monitoring and early warning systems, (2) acquiring and applying improved climate data, (3) providing public information and education, and (4) investing in the transfer and use of appropriate science and technology.

Al Gore (1992) mitigating climate change involves taking actions to reduce climate change

or green house effect, some of these measures that can be taken to mitigate climate change include;

- Research into geo-engineering to produce more environmental friendly engines or machines.
- Transport and automobile industries should make cars with less carbon-dioxide emission.
- The World nuclear power operators should be encouraged to desist from activities that will continue to deplete ozone layer.
- Encourage reforestation and discourage deforestation and bush burning.
- Integration of climate issues into economic planning and management at both national and regional levels.
- Frequent campaign against climate change and increase in awareness campaigns on climate change and maintenance of environmental sustainability.
- Replace incandescent light bulbs with compact fluorescent bulbs which produce less heat (Ojemade, 2012:42).

Egbule, Agu, Neadib&Chukwuone (2011:21) found out the following adaptations of climate change, they include; Planting cover crops like melon to help conserve soil moisture; Mulching and use of organic manure; Early planting with first rain especially for crops like maize and cassava as cited in Okolie, Ossai and Eze (2013: 53).

Research Framework

This research framework employed the human security paradigm as its theoretical analysis.The framework was fully adopted by Mahbub ul Haq in 1994, during the United Nations Development Programmes under the Human Development Report.Basically, human security involves all the measures used in protecting the individuals at any point in time towards its success in the world.

According to Gomez and Gasper (2014: 2) the human security approach broadens the scope of security analysis and policy from territorial security to the security of people. The 2012 GA Resolution stresses the role of "Member States in identifying and addressing widespread and cross-cutting challenges to survival, livelihood and dignity of their people". In other words, threat(s) to – and values under threat in – people's lives are the key starting point of a human security report.

The 1994 HDR highlighted two major components of human security: 'freedom from fear' and 'freedom from want'. These freedoms, from the preamble to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, are part of the four human freedoms that President Franklin D. Roosevelt famously referred to in a speech in 1941. He was advocating a world founded on: freedom of speech and expression, freedom of worship, freedom from want and freedom from fear.2 Subsequent debate in the 1990s added the freedom 'to live in dignity' (cited in Idoniboye-Obu and Sapele (2018: 5).

In applying this framework, the theory revealed that the essentials desires of safety as per the individuals concerning an enhanced living and a purposeful humanity would be realized when there is an effective and efficient approach to human security system. However, securing the individual is essential for straight development and a basis to device the convention and the protocol actions. The human security approach is pertinent for the reason that it drives in inspiring the states globally to emphasis only on the individuals concerning an enhanced society and in opposing the effect of climate change globally. In additional, this framework disclosure the widespread threats connected to greenhouse radiations and in what ways the individuals are in anguish from the negligence of the adherence to existing laws connected to established frameworks and strategies for the global climate change adaptation in the world.

Human security approach showed the need of individuals for a secured life towards the global world. The overall goal of people in the world is to see the wellbeing of their lives in a balance and secured conditions. And this will bring globalization easy in the course of man efforts in society.

To also reveal the relevance of human security for the persistent issue like climate change in the global system. Human security is use as a foundation to understand the level of

interactions among peoples to which human could be applied as a model in determining a vision in the global system and the adoption of climate change mitigation. This shows that global climate change is human factor and its activities are surrounded by individuals that need human solution to curb it menace within the global context.

Research Methods / Techniques

The research employed purely on secondary sources in collecting the data and the methodology adopted was on qualitative approach and it uses content analysis since the study has been a global and contemporary issue that affects every individual. The design used in the study was descriptive in nature to ascertain the impact of climate change globally.

Findings / Conclusion

Findings showed that climate change has become a global issue which greatly affects globalization and that environmental humiliation, desertification caused by climate change had greatly retarded agricultural production and government policies globally. Climate change has led to many challenges across the world and these are; increased food insecurity, poor statistical analysis and implementation by government, pastoral crises in some of the states, poor funding of the institutional frameworks by the various governments.

The study also observed that several research have credited natural, human actions or together as contributing reasons of the global climate change. That is, logically, the climate goes over diverse series of in constant interval, flashing among cold and warm times. The globe has gone through numerous stages of warming and cooling above the last thousands of years. The warm time indisputably has greatly retarded the growth of agriculture and the common practice of animal husbandry. Nonetheless, the compromise between numerous researchers in the past few years recognised the reason for most important global warming to human intrusion with the climate structure and system.

However, at present it is generally established that the keyreason of the current climate change is the radiation of greenhouse gases (GHG), commonly carbon dioxide, the issue of methane, nitrous oxide in huge amounts by human events. These human events, actions comprise of the main issue of agricultural production, mechanisation, sweltering of fuels and deforestation, main wetland degradation and so on. In addition, global climate change also faces the issue of gases which respond with the ozone layer and it helps to defend the earth through the sun's emission. It was also showed that agriculture activities contribute greatly and deforestation accounts severely to the greenhouse gases emissions to global climate change. And these GHG emissions are confiscated to the real oceans, forestry and swamplands, soils NO3 and it helps to assist as carbon sinks.

Recommendations

The study recommends the following measures to curb the contemporary global climate change.

1. The paper recommends that government should provide alternative means like renewable energy, reduction of industrial carbons in tackling the menace of climate change globally.

2. There should be reduction of emission of greenhouse gases by stopping deforestation, the use of high yield and disease tolerant crops, and also crops adaptable to high level of weather conditions.

3. There should be general awareness and easy ways in accessing data on climate change effects to the public consumption

4. Government and private sectors should continue to fund effective and rigorous research on the global climate change adaptation strategies.

5. States in the international system should encourage several collaborations/partnerships on the persistence dangers of climate change

6. There should be a monitoring mechanism with a special global fund put in place for tackling global climate change.

Conflict of Interest

The entire research of this work was carried by the authors and there is no form of conflict of interest by any means. Also, all the authors made meaningful contributions extensively towards this study.

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FACTORS MILITATING AGAINST THE STUDENT'S PARTICIPATION IN SPORTS, LEISURE AND RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES IN UNIVERSITY OF BENIN

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students participation, sports, leisure, recreation, university

ABSTRACT
The study investigated the factors militating against the students of University of Benin participation in sports, leisure and recreational activities. The study contributed to literature in the area of admonishing the government on the need to finance sports, recreation and leisure. The study differs from previous related studies in terms of the location/clime in which the study was carried out which could affect the study generally. The research design adopted for the research was the descriptive survey research design. The population for this study was 41,520 students of University of Benin. The random sampling technique was used in selecting 400 students for the research. A correlation co-efficient of 0.76 was obtained using Pearson's correlation statistics. The data collected was analysed using simple percentages, tables and frequency counts. The finding from the study revealed that the time allotted for sports, recreation and leisure was not enough. It was also discovered that there were not enough facilities and equipment to carry-out the activities. It also revealed that there was no general time for students to participate in these activities. It was therefore, recommended that both the University authorities and Government at all levels should provide adequate and functional facilities and equipment for the activities to take its proper place. Also that a general day and time should be approved by the university management for these activities to take place. It was also recommended that the time should be enough for these activities.

Introduction

Most universities persuade the youths to participate in sports, leisure and recreational events all through their stay in the university and also make available a good broad range of sporting openings to furnish all levels and categories of participants needs. For instance; the University of Benin sports department openly inspires students who have a sedentary lifestyle to engage in recreational sports through the offering of a cosy non-intimidating atmosphere and an interesting and germane sports program; comprising of the Head of Department Cup (HOD's Cup), Dean's Cup, as well as Vice Chancellor's Cup. In most cases, most universities expend huge amount of funds in providing sports infrastructure used by the youths, but little is known about the variables that impact the degree of student participation in sport, recreation and leisure activities and if a wide or narrow range of sporting facilities is necessary.

In every clime, there are periods when people do not to involve in paid work, households and school work. Ojeme and Uti (2007) maintained that everyone must have time for work and leisure. It is during the leisure hours according to DPR (2003) that people especially students engage in wholesome activities of interest which their academic engagement denies them of. In other words, the students have complex choice of what to engage in during their leisure and recreational time. Thus, it has become a veritable life pursuit that can aid the student to expend their time and energy in most satisfying and refreshing manner. Agwubike (2005) stated that people need to make time for the kind of activities that will help them to recreate their mind and body. Fletcher and Sarkar (2012) showed that the hour available to individual when the disciplines of work, sleep and other basic necessities have been met are referred to as leisure time. Agwubike (2005) said that it is during leisure hours that people especially youths engage in wholesome activity of interest which their academic engagement denies them of.

The unique ability of sport to attract, influence and motivate makes it a highly operational tool for engaging and empowering youth, communities and even countries to take action to advance their health. Sports has as well proven to be a very good avenue to getting more resources in the global fight against diseases and sickness, however, this potential is only just beginning to be actualized. Although the importance of sport and recreation is on the increase in Nigeria, opportunity of participating in these activities has been under-utilized or better still de-utilized by adults and youths in Nigerian higher institutions alike. It is on this ground that there arises a need to look into factors which may be responsible for such variations.

According to Ladani (2008), tertiary institutions particularly the universities in most parts of the world, faculty members look down on sports as a non-academic activity, thereby developing a negative attitude towards sports. Negative attitude toward sports in the university setting seems common among academics with some of them discouraging students who took part in intramural and interscholastic sports. Even with the suppression, students still formed sports club and promote both intramural and inter-collegiate sports competitions. However, institutions had changed as tertiary institutions today involve and engage students in sporting activities of their various kinds, ranging from athletics, gymnastics, aquatics, games and sports to combat sports; and in some cases traditional sports. According to Omoruan (1996), the universities and other tertiary institutions have taken sports more seriously. These institutions probably due to large sum of money they get from sports fee now allocate these funds for sports development in the area of facilities, provision of equipment and supplies, for sports as well as training programs.

These facilities have not only benefitted the university communities alone, but also benefitted their host communities, thereby encouraging greater participation among students and members of the community. The provision and availability of sports infrastructure (facilities, equipment, materials and supplies) have encouraged great enthusiasm for participation in sports among students in higher institutions of learning. Today, the establishment of Nigeria University Games Association (NUGA) and Nigeria Colleges of Education Games Association (NICEGA) and Nigeria Polytechnics Games Association (NIPOGA) has offered tremendous opportunities to students of tertiary institutions to participate in a wide range of sports which the students welcome with great enthusiasm. Series of competition have been held among these institutions with credible records of performance (Omoruan, 1996).

Tertiary institutions have further created departments to handle the general administrative set-up. These offices in most cases are headed by Directors of Sports or sports coach with several sub-ordinate officers serving under these sports administrators. The officers include coaches who are specialist in various sports, staff of human kinetics and sports science department are sometimes made to work hand in hand with these sports officers in the institution; where they exist as coordinators of sports (Agwubike, 2005).

Conclusively, it is quite evident that the relevance of sports, leisure and recreation cannot be denied; yet there seems to be challenges in the area of youth participation. Moreso, Pinto and Morgan (2001) reported that many students of today are not adequately involved in regular refreshing exercise regimen; just as Amusa (1996) observed that there are some people that will not participate in spite of the availability of recreational facilities at their doorstep. This condition is nevertheless in disparity with an ideal all-inclusive recreational programme in colleges. College recreation should offer the students and youths the opportunity to successfully balance their academic pursuit with their leisureliness, activities such as will guarantee quality lifestyle. Participation in sport is always associated with Health and Wealth. Sport participation among the youth of higher institution has a number of implications on overall performance of such youth. It has been able to penetrate not only their physical welfare, but also social, cognitive and academic pursuit. The place of sport in the University of Benin, Benin City, has not been well positioned for effective participation for these and others which are not farfetched (brought from a remote time or place), reasons have led to a decline in the student level of participation in sport. Therefore, it is the focus of the study to investigate factors which influence youth participation in sport, leisure and recreational activity.

Research Question

The following research question was raised to guide the study:

What are the possible solutions to the problems or factors that are against students' participation in sports, leisure and recreation in the University of Benin?

Methodology

Population of the Study

The population of the study consisted of 41,520 University of Benin students. The distribution of the students is shown in the table that follows:

S/N	Faculties	Males	Females
1	Agriculture	708	847
2	Arts	1927	4138
3	Basic Medical Sciences	1811	1626
4	Dentistry	67	38
5	Education	2352	4398
6	Engineering	4400	673
7	Environmental Sciences	693	322
8	Law	404	585
9	Life Sciences	2004	2919
10	Management Science	1400	1888
11	Medicine	473	190
12	Pharmacy	619	488
13	Physical Sciences	2242	876
14	Social Sciences	1503	1535
15	Veterinary Medicine	31	39
16	Other services	74	250
	Sub-total	20,708	20,812
	Grand total	**41,520**	

Source: Academic Planning Unit/Division, University of Benin, Benin City (2024).

Sample and Sampling Techniques

Due to the large population, the Taro Yamane formula was used thus:

Taro Yamane formula: $n=N/(1+N(e)^2)$

n= sample size

N=population

e= the margin error (it could be 0.10, 0.05 or 0.01)

n= = =

n= 399.99 ≈ 400
Sample size = 400.

Research Instrument

The instrument selected for the study is the questionnaire. This is because the questionnaire is easy to understand and can be used to elicit information from any population whether large or small at a short period of time. The questionnaire was constructed in line with the variables of the research. The questionnaire was sub-divided into two sections; A and B. The section A comprised of the bio-data, while section B comprised of twenty-seven (27) questions.

Data Collection

The questionnaire was distributed simultaneously to the students by the researcher and collected immediately after the respondents filled them. The researcher was on ground to provide assistance to respondents where the need arises.

Method of Data Analysis

Data was analysed was analyzed using frequencies and percentages.

Results And Discussion

This dealt with the analysis of the respondents' responses.

Research Question 1: What are the possible solutions to the problems or factors that are against students' participation in sports, leisure and recreational activities?

Table 1: Percentage distribution of responses based on solution to problems or factors against students' sports participation

(RQ1)	What are the possible solutions to the problems or factors that are against students' participation in sports, leisure and recreational activities?	YES	%	NO	%
1	If government should finance sports, recreation and leisure, will youths participate?	328	82	72	18
2	Enlightening students about the benefit of sports, leisure and recreation will improve participation.	328	82	72	18

Table 1 above, shows that 328 of the respondents believe that if the government should finance recreation, leisure and sports activities, youths will participate more, while 72 of the respondents believe that even if the government should finance recreation, leisure and sports activities, youths will not still participate more. About 328 of the respondents indicated that enlightening students about the benefits of recreation and leisure will improve participation, while 72 of the respondents indicated that enlightening students about the benefits of recreation and leisure will have no positive impact on sports, leisure and recreational participation.

Discussion of Results

The responses to the questionnaire deals with level of participation in sports, recreation and leisure activities showed that youths generally love the concept of having a free time. However, there are not enough recreational facilities to which these youths can channel their quest for leisure. This makes it impossible for majority of the population to recreate on a regular basis. As a result of irregularity, many youths seem to take advantage of any opportunity they have to recreate, to have as much fun as they desire. Sadly though, not all

youths end up being satisfied at the end of each leisure activity, usually because they could not fully access all activities of interest to them due to some factors that they perceive as militating against their participation. A summary of all these views is that majority of the youths of the University of Benin are not regular in their participation in recreation and leisure activities neither do they enjoy maximum satisfaction that comes from participation in leisure. The underlying causes of this trend was also seen in their responses to the factors that they feel affect their choice and level of participation. It is also noteworthy that many youths seek the benefits that recreation brings to health, education and relationships. However, some youths still seem to be unaware of these benefits, hence view it as a waste of time that should rather be spent on academics.

Some youths feel that there is not enough time to manage recreation and leisure with other necessary life activities and work. There is also the belief that the availability of well-equipped recreational facilities affects how much people participate in recreation. Some other factors that youths envisage as influencing their participation and choice of recreation include gender, health status, peer influence, a person's career interest, wrong orientation and lack of awareness of the benefits of recreation, among other factors. Each of these factors stated above have under lying effects in one way or the other, to the choice of recreation. For example, females tend to engage more in activities that involves form and grace, against the typical choice of males, usually vigorous activities. This confirms what Agwubike (2005) said that a recreational activity for one person may be a drudgery for another. A person who also has had the wrong orientation from childhood that all day should be spent working, may also find it difficult to spend some little time for leisure. Each of this poses a threat to leisure activities among youths.

However, many youths have confirmed that a lot can be done to improve participation level in recreation among youths.

Conclusion

Based on the findings, the following conclusions were put forth: that if the government should finance sports, recreation and leisure, youths will participate. Also, the enlightenment on the benefits of sports will improve participation among the students of the University of Benin, Benin City.

Recommendations

Based on the findings, the following recommendations were made:

- The government should provide funding for sports, recreation and leisure so as to encourage youths participation.
- Students should be enlightened on the benefits of sports so as to improve their sports, recreation and leisure participation.
- In the light of the benefits of participation in sports, leisure and recreation, government at all levels, as well as the university authorities should provide adequate and functional facilities and equipment in order to encourage the students participation in sports, leisure and recreation.
- Since the lecture period of student's academic work extends to their free time for participation, the school management should make access to sports, leisure and recreation facilities and equipment throughout the day in order to encourage participation by all students.

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THE NIGERIA MILITARY AND THE FIGHT AGAINST ISLAMIC STATE`s WEST AFRICA PROVINCE (ISWAP), 2016-2022

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Conflict, Defense, ISWAP, Jihadist, Military, Terrorism

ABSTRACT
This paper critically evaluates the resilience of the Islamic State West Africa Province (ISWAP) amidst ongoing conflicts with the Nigerian military from 2016 to 2022. Utilizing Attachment Theory as a framework, the research delves into the persistence and adaptive tactics of ISWAP against military strategies. Through surveys and in-depth interviews, the study assesses the effectiveness of Nigeria's counter-insurgency efforts and identifies the challenges faced by the military and its allies. The findings from the study revealed that there were several offensives by the Nigerian military against ISWAP with the aim of neutralizing their fighters by destroying their camps and hideouts and restoring peace and security in the affected areas, certain strategies exhibit significant shortcomings, necessitating continuous refinement. The research underscores the complex, evolving nature of the ISWAP insurgency and the need for a multifaceted, adaptive approach in counterterrorism. It contributes to understanding insurgency dynamics and emphasizes the importance of regional military collaboration, particularly through the Multinational Joint Task Force (MNJTF). The study recommends the need for increase in intelligence gathering in order to identify and neutralize ISWAP's leadership and financing sources, and to collaborate with neighbouring countries of Niger, Chad, and Cameroon for better intelligence sharing, as it will help in reducing civilian casualties by improving targeting and verification processes during operations.

Introduction

The Nigerian military have been fighting with Islamic State West Africa Province terrorism since 2009, yet the insurgents have continued to conduct fatal attacks in Nigeria and the neighboring countries tenaciously. ISWAP started when Abubakar Shekau, the leader of Boko Haram, popular known as ("Jama'atAhl al-sunna li-l-Da'wawa-l-Jihad" or JAS) declared, in March of 2015, that "We announce our allegiance to the caliph, Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, and will bear and obey in times of difficulty and prosperity." Muir, Jim (2015), ("Nigeria's Boko Haram Pledges Allegiance to Islamic State." BBC News. 2016). This alliance marks the date that Boko Haram pledged allegiance to the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria, heralding a new era for the group and bringing about many new policy implications for the region. Few days after Boko Haram's allegiance, an ISIS spokesperson announced Abu Bakr Al-Baghdadi's acceptance of Boko Haram joining the caliphate, declaring the group's expansion into West Africa, coined as Islamic State's West Africa Province (Ogbogu, 2015).

Mohammed Yusuf, from Yobe State, created Boko Haram ("western education is forbidden") in 2002. From 2002 to 2009, Boko Haram was primarily focused on isolating itself from the temporal society that Yusuf and his followers believed Nigeria should be. In July of 2009, security forces clashed with Yusuf's group, leading to the deaths of hundreds of Boko Haram militants and the capture of Mohammed Yusuf. The fight ceased with the killing of Mohammed Yusuf while in the custody of the Nigerian police (Nossiter, 2009).ISWAP's origins are intertwined with the evolution of Boko Haram, a Salafi jihadist movement in Northeastern Nigeria. Following an unsuccessful uprising in 2009, Boko Haram, under the leadership of Abubakar Shekau, embarked on an insurgency against the Nigerian government. The group's aspiration to establish an Islamic state extended to neighboring regions in Cameroon, Chad, and Niger. In March 2015, seeking to elevate its international profile, Boko Haram aligned with the Islamic State (IS), becoming the "Islamic State's West Africa Province" (ISWAP). A trend began in Nigeria of increased deaths each month from 2011 until reaching a pinnacle of death and atrocities in 2014. According to the Council of Foreign Relations, deaths per month caused by Boko Haram attacks and clashes had reached 3,456 deaths in the month of March 2014 alone. Yet, Boko Haram had still not caught the eye of the West to the extent that it soon would. During the following month of April, the infamous kidnapping of 276 Chibok school girls occurred. The atrocious kidnapping from the girls' dormitories in the middle of the night, served as a tipping point for the West's involvement with Nigerian affairs. Also worth mentioning, the internationally trending #BringBackOurGirls campaign shed light and notoriety on the terrorist group across the globe. Shortly after, the United States and other NATO allies sent counterterrorism and anti-kidnapping specialists to Nigeria to assist in any way possible (Frank, 2014).

Statement of the Problem

The conflict between ISWAP and the Nigerian military has led to significant casualties and displacement of civilians. Despite military efforts, ISWAP has maintained its presence and continued its attacks in the region. The group's capacity to govern territories under its control is notable; it collects taxes, offers protection, enforces laws through its police, and even operates a Hisbah (religious police). ISWAP's approach appears to have paid dividends in terms of recruitment and support with an estimated 3,500-5,000 members, which has made the group's action violent and coercive. It has established a largely symbiotic relationship with Lake Chad's areas inhabitants (International Crisis Group, 2019). This paper thus seeks to examine the resilience of ISWAP in the fight with Nigeria Military and strategies put in place by the Nigeria military in the fight against Islamic State of West Africa Province (ISWAP) 2016-2022.

Conceptual Clarification

Concept of Terrorism

The challenge in defining terrorism arises from its complex nature and the absence of a universally accepted definition. Despite its persistent presence in global affairs, academics and policymakers struggle to agree on a concise definition. This ambiguity is highlighted by the multitude of definitions and typologies present in terrorism literature. As Walter Laqueur noted, there are "more than a hundred definitions" of terrorism, reflecting the complexity of the concept (Laqueur, Year). Noam Chomsky (2001)

distinguished between two approaches to studying terrorism: the literary and the propagandist. The former seeks an empirical understanding of terrorism as a social phenomenon, focusing on its causes and societal impacts, while the latter views terrorism as a tool for power systems to gain strategic advantages.

Ted Gurr (1989) defines terrorism as the use of unexpected violence to intimidate or coerce for political or social objectives. J.P. Gibbs (1989) considers it as "illegal violence or threatened violence" with additional criteria such as secrecy and unconventional warfare. Martha Crenshaw (1995) argues that terrorism is an activity of small groups, distinct from mass violence, emphasizing the limited number of active militants involved. Furthermore, Malden (2004) defines terrorism as asymmetric warfare, utilizing unconventional means outside the norms of political struggle within a regime.

Dugan, (2007), further see terrorism as “acts by non-state actors involving the threatened or actual use of illegal force or violence to attain a political, economic, religious, or social goal through fear, coercion, or intimidation”. In a world perceived as peaceful, an act of political violence may be considered as domestic terrorism, while the same act of violence can be considered justified by others who perceive the world to be at war.

Most definitions of terrorism converge on the notion that its primary goal is to inflict or propagate terror for politico-ideological purposes. Schmid and Jongman (1988) argue that terrorism is essentially a means to realize these objectives. This perspective assumes that the primary aim of terrorists is to incite terror, focusing on elements of intimidation, influence, and coercion.

Concept of Insurgency

Weigand (2017) opined that when insurgency is used to describe a movements or group’s unlawfulness by virtue of not being authorized by or in accordance with the law of the land, its use is neutral not matter how logically their agitation may be. However, when it is used by a state or another authority under threat, “insurgency” often also carries an implication that the rebels’ cause is illegitimate, whereas those rising up will see the authority of the state as being illegitimate; that’s the irony of the situation.

Robert and Timothy (2019) argued that insurgency is a violent against constituted authority when those taking part in the rebellion are not seen or recognized as belligerents. They also noted that not all rebellions are insurgency; and that the concept of insurgency is ambiguous.

The Islamic State West Africa Province (ISWAP)

The Islamic State West Africa Province (ISWAP) has emerged as a formidable militant group in the northeast region of Nigeria and parts of the Chad Basin countries, including Chad, Cameroon, and Niger. This group's persistent conflict with the Nigerian military since 2016 highlights a complex interplay of guerrilla tactics, propaganda, local support, and international affiliations.

ISWAP's origins are intertwined with the evolution of Boko Haram, a Salafi jihadist movement in Northeastern Nigeria. Following an unsuccessful uprising in 2009, Boko Haram, under the leadership of Abubakar Shekau, embarked on an insurgency against the Nigerian government. The group's aspiration to establish an Islamic state extended to neighboring regions in Cameroon, Chad, and Niger. In March 2015, seeking to elevate its international profile, Boko Haram aligned with the Islamic State (IS), becoming the "Islamic State's West Africa Province" (ISWAP). This affiliation, however, led to internal rifts, particularly over strategic and ideological differences. Shekau's refusal to adhere to ISIL's directives on the use of suicide bombers and the treatment of civilians resulted in his removal by ISIL's central command in August 2016. Consequently, the movement split into two factions: the Shekau-led Jama'at Ahl al-sunna li-l-Da'wawa-l-Jihad (JAS or “Boko Haram") and the pro-IS faction led by Abu Musab al-Barnawi, which retained the ISWAP name.

ISWAP has effectively utilized guerrilla warfare against the Nigerian military, employing hit-and-run attacks, ambushes, roadside bombings, and raids on military bases. This approach has enabled ISWAP to inflict significant damage while minimizing its own casualties. Alongside military tactics, ISWAP leverages propaganda to depict the Nigerian military as oppressive and position itself as a defender of Muslim interests in the region. The group has also endeavored to win local support by providing services like food, medical care, and protection, thereby establishing a support base among local populations (African Conflict and Peace Building Review 10, 2020).

The conflict between ISWAP and the Nigerian military has led to significant casualties and displacement of civilians. The group's capacity to govern territories under its control is notable; it collects taxes, offers protection, enforces laws through its police, and even operates a hisbah (religious police). By 2020, the United States Department of Defense estimated that ISWAP had between 3,500 to 5,000 fighters. The group's use of inghimasi (forlorn hope/suicide attack) shock troops and its acquisition of armored fighting vehicles (AFVs) like tanks and armored personnel carriers underscore its military strength (Department of Defense, 2020). The dynamics between ISWAP and Boko Haram have been complex and fluctuating. Initially overshadowed by Boko Haram, ISWAP gradually gained prominence, especially after the internal split.

Empirical Review of Related Literature

Nigerian Military Role in its Fight against Islamic State of West Africa Province (ISWAP)

Anderson and Mendenhall (2021) made a study titled "Conflict, Research Policy and Practice". the objective of the study was to critically analyze the Nigerian military response to ISWAP insurgency. It first debunks the current narratives of a global jihad to show that the local dynamics of an asymmetric war are more important to properly explain the resilience of the activities of IWASP. The prolongation of the hostilities, especially the structural weakness of the military. The body count of the dirty war against ISWAP reveals that the Nigerian security forces played no small role in killing civilians, hence the necessity to think about alternatives to military repression. The gap here is that the researcher has failed to use a theory to explain in detail how he carries out his interview.

Inbarga (2018) conducted research "Towards a theology of peace: A panacea to terrorism and violence" Some recalcitrant Twenty-first Century Nation-States and Non-State actors alike have been accused of designing the modus operandi to unleash mayhem on enemy Nation-States. Some have been accused of funding terrorism in the form of bioterrorism and combatant attacks on unsuspecting targets. In recent time this form of unwarranted attacks has been orchestrated by Islamic extremist groups such as Al-Qaeda, Taliban, etc., and their affiliates and splinter groups like the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) and Islamic State's West Africa Province (ISWAP) with chains of networks in some nations of the world. Consequently, the study argued that it is imperative that the Nigeria society must endeavor to maintain its socio-political and economic wellbeing in general and in the North-Eastern part which is the most affected to ensure relative peace and stability. The study adopted qualitative and explorative research design as its methodological component and secondary sources such as textbooks, journal articles, magazines, newspapers, official documents and internet materials. Considering the extent to which these terrorist groups have perpetrated public harm to the nation, the study offers strategic mechanisms, though not a unilateral approach but all-inclusive approach such that the United Nation articulated master plan should be prioritized as a take-off point to handle this perturbing evil. The gap here is that the researcher has failed to clearly examine the role of the Nigeria military in the fight Against Islamic State of West Africa Province (ISWAP).

Strategies of the Nigerian Military in the fight against Islamic State of West Africa Province (ISWAP)

Cronin (2019) in his work titled, ISWAP. Developing New Strategies to Combat Terrorism in Nigeria. The objective of the study was to examine the strategies put in place by the Nigeria military in the fight against ISWAP. According to Cronin, the objective of the terrorist was to establish Islamic rule in Nigeria through imposition of sharia law throughout the country. That insurgency is fueled by Nigeria's history, geopolitical structure, ethno-religious composition and socio-economic disparities. The researcher adopted secondary sources of data collection such as textbooks, newspapers and journal articles. To overcome its present security challenges, the Nigerian government would need to refocus its efforts on a people-centric, community-based, intelligence-driven, whole-of-government approach to better police its borders, enhance inter agency cooperation, improve the capacity of the security forces, and reform the criminal justice system. The gap here is, the researcher used only secondary sources of data without primary sources, hence, the study cannot be trusted as such his research has no empirical validity.

Carey (2020), in his research titled "The Contemporary Nature of Security; The objective of the study was to examine the strategies put in place by the Nigeria military in the fight against ISWAP. The study adopted the primary source of data such as questionnaires, interview and focus

group discussion and secondary source of data such as textbooks, Newspapers, journal articles and magazines. Carey, R. further stressed, the activities of ISWAP in the North-Eastern part of Nigeria have highlighted the need for more effective counter strategies. Nigeria's difficulties in defeating ISWAP have security ramifications that go beyond its borders, especially for West Africa. Much has been written about the origins of ISWAP. However, so far, there has been little analysis of the nature of the conflict between Nigeria and ISWAP. It is this lacuna that the study seeks to address by applying the concepts of hybrid war, compound war, fourth generation warfare and unrestricted warfare to the confrontation between the state and its Islamist challenger. The gap here is the study has failed to examine the Strategies put in place by the Nigeria military in the fight against ISWAP.

Challenges of the Nigerian Military's in its Fight against ISWAP

Aro, (2020) in his study titled "Boko Haram Insurgency in Nigeria: Its Implication and Way Forward towards Avoidance of Future Insurgency in Nigeria'' The insurgency in Northeastern Nigeria has been one of the most devastating phenomena in the country claiming thousands of lives and properties worth billions of Naira in the process. All the governmental efforts put in place so far failed to curb the menace as the threat of insurgency continues in some parts of Northeastern Nigeria. This work examined the major challenges that are responsible for the continuation of insurgency despite divergent measures taken by the government to address the problem. The data obtained was discussed and analyzed using thematic analytical interpretations to arrive at findings. The research discovered that, the major reasons or challenges that made insurgency defiant of all solutions in Northeastern Nigeria consists of corruption, conspiracy, inappropriate approach, lack of proper intelligence, hostility from the host communities, nature of Nigerian borders, politicization of security issues, religious dogmatism and lack of cooperation among the security personnel. The gap here is the study only focused on the challenges faced by the government in combating terrorism rather than the Challenges faced by the Nigeria military in the fight against ISWAP.

Adesoji, (2019), in his research; "The ISWAP uprising in Nigeria '' this study interrogates the experiences of Nigerian troops in the war against ISWAP. The study's contribution is bi-dimensional. First, it adds to the empirical literature on ISWAP by analyzing the perspectives of rank-and-file of the troops. The study finds 10 forms of corruption affecting troops. These have contributed to the inability to defeat Boko Haram/ISWAP. Second, the research adds to theoretical scholarship on civil–military relations and persistence of small wars. It challenges the bureaucratic-organizational model and the focus of civil–military relations theory on civilian control of the military. The study emphasizes the need to focus on the texture of the relationship between civilian and military leaders. The study argues that the bureaucratic-organizational model has limited relevance to militaries in the post colony and proposes a civilian–military leadership interest convergence thesis. The findings are relevant for understanding the spread of terrorism in sub-Saharan Africa and the persistence of small wars in non-Western, illiberal quasi-democratic societies. The research has no methodology and fails to address the challenges faced by the Nigeria military in the fight against Islamic state of West Africa province.

Adetula (2015). "Nigeria's response to transnational organized crime and Jihadist activities in West Africa" argued that Nigeria's inability to contain the Boko Haram insurgency can be located within the context of its homegrown systemic challenges; particularly, it's ineffectual political leadership and the politicization of its national security under the Presidency.

Why has the Nigerian military struggled with its contribution to counter insurgency, and what are the underpinnings of the contribution? This is the central question addressed by this research. Part of this difficulty is due to the nature of insurgency as irregular warfare. That the Nigerian military has struggled with its contribution to counterinsurgency therefore is not unique. What is unique, and where the research makes an original contribution to academic knowledge, are the processes that underpin the Nigerian military's own contribution to counterinsurgency, from its formative years as a professional fighting force, to date. Consequently, four premises, supported by evidential data, and with field and theory-driven analysis, underpin the thesis' research-based argumentative response to the central question. The first premise of the central argument holds that the Nigerian military's identity crisis, emergent from a hasty institutional transfer process from the British, contributed to institutional isomorphism. This is

a process whereby an organization modeled after another, in order to reduce uncertainty, limits and selectively adapt change. The Nigerian military's failure to re-interpret its internal function left it as a "coercive institution" of the state and, furthermore, left it even more internally involved than was the case during the colonial administration.

Research Methodology

This study employed a field survey research design to systematically gather information from a broad cross-section of the population relevant to the Nigerian military's fight against the Islamic State West Africa Province (ISWAP). This design was chosen due to its effectiveness in collecting extensive data within a defined subject matter and period, facilitating a comprehensive understanding of the complex dynamics at play.

The study targeted a population from the Multinational Joint Task Force Operation, 7600, Nigeria Police Force, 40, and the embassies of Chad, 130, Cameroon, 120, Niger, 170, and the Office of the National Security Adviser in Abuja, 40. The total targeted population was 8,100, derived from strategic and operational departments within these organizations. 1.

The sample size of the study was determined using Slovin's formula=/(1+(2))n=N/(1+N(e)), where N is the population size and e is the level of precision (Kotler, 2012). With a population of 8,100 and a margin of error of 0.05, the sample size calculated was 400.

Purposive non-probability sampling was employed to select individuals with specific expertise. This method was essential for engaging respondents directly involved in or knowledgeable about military operations against ISWAP.

Questionnaires were administered to carefully selected participants within the target population, which included members of the Multinational Joint Task Force, the NSA Office, and the embassies of Chad, Niger, and Cameroon in Abuja. A total of 400 questionnaires were distributed. The questionnaire was divided into two sections: Section A: Demographic information of the respondents. Section B: Closed-ended questions aligned with the research questions and objectives, utilizing a 5-point Likert scale for responses. Respondents were asked to indicate their level of agreement with statements ranging from 'Strongly Agree' to 'Indifferent.'The research employed both primary and secondary sources of data collection. The methods of data analysis were mixed of both quantitative and qualitative.

Purposive sampling technique was also employed for the selection of stakeholders for interview who have the fore knowledge of the area under study. The combination of questionnaires and interviews was chosen to capture a broad spectrum of perspectives and insights, particularly from individuals directly involved or knowledgeable about the subject matter. This mixed-methods approach allowed for a more comprehensive and multi-dimensional understanding of the Nigerian military's engagement with ISWAP.

Theoretical Framework:

The paper adopts the Attachment Theory, that was conceptualized by John Bowlby in the 1950s and later expanded by Mary Ainsworth and others, offers a psychological and evolutionary perspective on human bonding (Bowlby, 1958, 1969, 1973, 1977). This theory proposes an innate need for attachment, starting in infancy with primary caregivers and persisting throughout life. The responsiveness and sensitivity of caregivers shape the quality of attachment, influencing later social, emotional, and cognitive development.

Bowlby viewed attachment as an enduring emotional bond, fundamental to the development of trust, autonomy, and identity (Lapsley, Rice & FitzGerald, 1990). Research has extended this concept to adult relationships, including the role of attachment in religious fundamentalism (Mickelson et al., 1997; Leonard et al., 2013). This theory is instrumental in understanding how individuals may form symbolic attachments with religious figures or ideologies, providing comfort and a sense of identity.

The Islamic State West Africa Province (ISWAP), evolving from Boko Haram, represents a case where Attachment Theory can be applied to understand its members' psychological motivations and actions. Following the death of their leader, Mohammed Yusuf, in 2009, ISWAP intensified its activities, arguably in response to a perceived threat to their attachment identity. Their statement in 2011 reiterates their unwavering commitment to Islamic tenets, rejecting any form of governance that

contradicts their interpretation of Islam (Salkida, 2011). This group's strong identification with and defense of their religious beliefs align with Attachment Theory's assertions. Their actions can be viewed as efforts to maintain and defend the bond with their symbolic religious attachment figures against perceived threats, such as the Nigerian government and its allies.

Results and Discussions

Table 1: Do you think, considering the evidentiary resilience of ISWAP, the Nigerian Military Activities have succeeded in defeating ISWAP?

Opinion	No. of Responses	%
Strongly Agreed	5	1.6
Agreed	4	1.3
Strongly Disagree	208	67.9
Disagree	89	29
Indifferent	0	0
Total	**306**	**100**

Source: Field Survey, May, 2023.

Table 1.1 revealed that 5 (1.6%) of the respondents strongly agree that Nigeria military have succeeded in defeating ISWAP, 4 (1.3%) agree with the assertion, 208 (67.9%) respondents strongly disagree with the assertion, 89 (29%) disagree, while none was indifferent.

Adeyemo and Olu-Adeyemi (2018) stated that until the involvement of troops from Chad and Niger in January, the ISWAP insurgents were succeeding in their effort to establish, or consolidate, an extreme version of the 'Islamic state' in parts of north-east Nigeria. For over five years, the Nigeria military struggled to defend the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Nigeria against ISWAP with little success.

In an interview with Gen. Shiroro, asked, if Nigeria Military have succeeded in defeating ISWAP? He responded that, "Counter insurgency and counter terrorism are the combined actions taken by the government to defeat the insurgency. Nonetheless, while some of the strategies have failed to achieve its purpose, some are still work in progress. Hence, The Nigerian military took several steps to increase counter-terrorism efforts by adopting various strategies aimed at resolving terrorist activities. These include attempt at negotiation, promise of amnesty, stick and carrot approach, strategic communication and military actions among others. Also, Nigeria worked with other insurgency-affected neighbors to form and lead the Multinational Joint Task Force (MNJTF) that facilitated collaboration and coordination on counterterrorism efforts

In an interview with Maj Gen. A.K Ibrahim Commander. MNJTF, he responded that "the Nigerian military is the main organization carrying out the counter terrorism campaign of the FGN working in concert with other security agencies. Our task- the Nigerian military is to counter the criminals with a view to stopping them. The Nigerian military has played a significant role in the fight against the ISWAP, which is an offshoot of Boko Haram, a jihadist group that emerged in northeast Nigeria in the early 2000s. Since 2009, the Nigerian military has been engaged in a counterinsurgency campaign against Boko Haram, which has caused significant damage to the country's economy and society, as well as claimed tens of thousands of lives. In recent years, the Nigerian military has intensified its efforts to combat ISWAP, which has become one of the most significant security threats facing the country. The military has launched several operations against ISWAP, including Operation Lafiya Dole, which was launched in 2015 and is still ongoing. The Nigerian military has also been collaborating with other countries in the region, such as Chad, Cameroon, and Niger, to combat the threat posed by ISWAP. In 2020, for example, the military participated in a joint operation with the

Chadian military that led to the killing of over a hundred ISWAP fighters."

Table 2: To combat the ISWAP terrorist group, the Nigeria military has had a series of attacks launched Against the ISWAP by the Nigeria military.

Opinion	No. of Responses	%
Strongly Agreed	233	76.1
Agreed	67	21.8
Strongly Disagree	2	0.65
Disagree	4	1.3
Indifferent	0	0
Total	**306**	**100**

Source: Field Survey, May, 2023.

From the table 1.2, 233 (76.1%) of the respondents strongly agree that in an effort to combat the terrorist group, series of attacks have been lunched against the ISWAP by the Nigeria military, 67 (21.8%) agreed, 2 (0.65%) strongly disagree with the assertion, 4 (1.3%) disagree that in an effort to combat the terrorist group, series of attacks have been lunched against the ISWAP by the Nigeria military, while no respondents were indifferent.

On whether there were celebrated attacks by the Nigeria military and the MNJTF on the ISWAP formations and bases? Major General AK Ibrahim, the current Commander, MNJTF, N'djamena, responded: "Yes, there were several offensives by the Nigerian military against ISWAP. Some of the notable ones include:Operation Gama Aiki: This was a joint military operation launched in January 2016 by the Nigerian military and troops from neighboring countries (Chad, Niger, and Cameroon) to combat Boko Haram and ISWAP in the Lake Chad region. The operation was said to have resulted in the recapture of several towns and villages that were previously under Boko Haram and later ISWAP's control.

Operation Crackdown: This was a military operation launched in March 2016 to clear Boko Haram/ISWAP fighters from their strongholds in the Sambisa Forest. The operation involved ground troops and air support and was said to have resulted in the deaths of several Boko Haram and ISWAP fighters.

Operation Lafiya Dole: This is an ongoing military operation launched in 2015 to combat Boko Haram and later ISWAP in northeastern Nigeria. In 2016, the operation continued with ground troops conducting raids on ISWAP camps and hideouts, and airstrikes targeting their positions.

Overall, these offensives were part of the Nigerian military's efforts to defeat ISWAP and restore security in the northeastern region of Nigeria." Asked if he could give recent offensive efforts of the Nigeria military in collaboration with the MNJTF, he answered in the affirmative by saying that "in recent years, the Nigerian military has launched several offensives against ISWAP, with the aim of neutralizing their fighters, destroying their camps and hideouts, and restoring peace and security in the affected areas. Some of the notable operations include:

Operation Whirl Stroke: This was a military operation launched in June 2018 to combat armed groups, including ISWAP, in the Middle Belt region of Nigeria. The operation involved ground troops and air support and was said to have resulted in the neutralization of several ISWAP fighters and the destruction of their camps and weapons caches.

Operation Green Sweep: This was a military operation launched in October 2018 to clear ISWAP fighters from their strongholds in the Lake Chad region. The operation involved ground troops and air support and was said to have resulted in the deaths of several ISWAP fighters.

Operation Tura Takai Bango: This was a military operation launched in December 2020 to neutralize ISWAP fighters in the northeastern state of Borno. The operation involved ground troops and air support and was said to have resulted in the deaths of several ISWAP fighters and the destruction of their camps and weapons caches.

Operation Hadin Kai: This is an ongoing military operation launched in May 2021 to combat ISWAP and other armed groups in Northeastern Nigeria. The operation involves ground troops and air support and has been said to have resulted in the neutralization of several ISWAP fighters and the destruction of their camps and hideouts".

Discussion of Findings

Findings from the study showed that there were several offensives by the Nigerian military against ISWAP with the aim of neutralizing their fighters, destroying their camps and hideouts, and restoring peace and security in the affected areas, ISWAP's resilience persists. The group's ideological bonding, as explained by Attachment Theory, sheds light on its psychological motivations and enduring resistance. This resilience poses a continuous threat to the security and stability of Nigeria and the Lake Chad region. ISWAP's capability to launch attacks in many villages and cities in the northeast region of Nigeria and neighbouring countries up to 2022 underscores the challenge the Nigerian military faces.

The study also revealed that the Nigerian military has engaged in various strategies to counter ISWAP. While some of these strategies have successfully pushed the group into a defensive position, others have failed to achieve their intended outcomes. The effectiveness of these operations varies, indicating a need for continual assessment and strategy adaptation.

Conclusion

The study concludes that the fight against ISWAP in Nigeria is an ongoing effort, necessitating sustained collaboration between the Nigerian Military and neighboring countries. The findings of this research contribute to the ongoing efforts to refine and enhance the strategies employed against ISWAP. Ultimately, these efforts aim to terminate the reign of terrorism not only in Nigeria but also in the surrounding regions.

Recommendations

1. There is the need for increase in intelligence gathering in order to identify and neutralize ISWAP leadership and financing sources, and collaborate with neighboring countries of Niger, Chad, and Cameroon for better intelligence sharing, as it will help in reducing civilian casualties by improving, targeting and verification processes during operations. The Nigerian Government should tackle socio-economic issues driving individuals to join ISWAP, through initiatives in education, job creation, and community development for the reduction of ISWAP's resilience and resistance.

2. Creating an enabling environment for the enhancement and the coordination of strategy adaptation with neighbouring countries against ISWAP activities in the Lake Chad Area, would require a long-term and coordinated effort that involves a range of stakeholders, including the government, civil society, and the international community through promoting regular information sharing and joint operations.

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NIGERIAN AIRFORCE STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT AND CAPACITY IN THE FOURTH REPUBLIC, 2019-2023

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Aircraft, Airforce, Capacity, Strategic development, Nigeria

ABSTRACT
This study examines the strategic development and capacity of Nigerian Airforce (NAF) in the Fourth Republic, with particular focus from 2015 to 2023. In recent years, the nation has had to contend with threats from armed banditry, kidnapping, separatist armed organizations, and other forms of criminality in addition to terrorism in the Northeast. This situation has preoccupied the national security forces, including the Airforce which has carried out several operations to address these threats. Whereas extant literature on the Nigerian Airforce has documented the history and assessed the challenges of the force, this paper contributes to the literature by examining the trajectory of the force, in terms of strategic development and capacity, during President Buhari's administration (2015-2023) which was characterized by humongous spending on the security sector amid alarming insecurity. The paper adopted the documentary design. Data was collected from secondary sources and analyzed using the descriptive method. Findings showed that there had been monumental progress during the period under study as government effectively supported the NAF by acquiring more platforms and supervising innovation and advancement in virtually every area of the service. A strategic approach to acquisition and reactivation had allowed the NAF to accrue a substantial number of aircraft and platforms in multiple fleets, quite unmatched in previous years.

Introduction

It is undeniable that Nigeria has experienced significant unrest throughout its existence as a country, particularly in recent years. Over the past ten years, the nation has had to contend with threats from armed banditry, kidnapping, separatist armed organizations, and other forms of criminality in addition to the threat of terrorism in the North East. Throughout all of these times, the Nigerian Air Force (NAF) and other security agencies have diligently demonstrated determination to maintain the nation's sovereignty and indivisibility.A parliamentary Act in 1964 created the Nigerian Air Force (NAF), which represents the country's air division. It "exists to deter, and if deterrence fails defend the country against external and physical attack," (Dokubo in Bassey and Dokubo, 2011: 342). The NAF's cornerstone is an offensive response to counter-air operations, despite its defensive orientation. To live up to billing, therefore, it needs the necessary and sufficient troops and firepower.

Since a democracy's political leadership is responsible for overseeing its armed forces, the way it does so will undoubtedly determine the armed forces' capabilities and effectiveness. One of the most difficult and unsolvable area of public policy in Nigeria since the Civil War is the establishment of a professional defense establishment capable of meeting the challenges posed by the changing parameters of our security environment, as stated by Bassey in Bassey&Dokubo (2011:147). With its turbulent past, the NAF has seen several political figures attempt in various ways to advance and modernize it.

Several studies have been carried out in relation to the Nigerian Airforce. For instance, Yahaya (2018) appraised NAF's effective employment of airpower in asymmetric warfare operations. Blossom (2008) examined Nigerian Airforce's history, organization and roles. Omeni (2022) labouriously analyzed how the tumultuous politics of the 1960s in Nigeria, ethnicism and Army influence, shaped the formative years of the NAF. This paper in adding to extant literature primarily looks at the NAF's capabilities and strategic development in the years of President Muhammadu Buhari-led administration, 2015-2023. A brief conceptual explanation of capacity and strategic development comes first, then the evolution and development of NAF. This will be followed by NAF's situation prior to 2015, and a discussion on the strategic development and capability of the NAF under President Buhari, before the paper concludes.

Conceptual Explication

i. Strategic development

Before discussing strategic development as a whole, it is important to clarify that "development" refers to something's gradual formation or growth, whereas "strategic" implies relating to the most salient, overall aspects of something, such as a public policy, especially when it is thought through beforehand (Collins dictionary, 2022). Many authors have developed and analyzed the idea in different ways. It is, for example, "a process that organizations use to analyze their internal and external environments to determine the resources and actions they require to stay competitive and successful," according to Indeed Editorial Team (2022). It is a procedure used by an organization to decide how resources will be distributed to maximize the impact from its workforce in order to achieve its predefined goals (The Cascade team, 2022). Throughout this research, "strategic development" will refer to the considerable efforts the NAF has made to stay productive and competitive.

ii. Capacity

According to UNDP (2002), capacity is defined as "the ability to perform functions, solve problems, and set and achieve objectives." It is primarily constructed by strengthening organizational structures, improving procedures, and upgrading skill sets (Berg, 1993). In order to improve people's competency and problem-solving skills, capacity development involves optimizing people's and institutions' capacities, abilities, and performance in a sustainable way (The World Bank Group, 2003). In this study, "enhancement of capacity" refers to improving NAF's performance and capacities in order to meet its predetermined goals and objectives.

Evolution and development of NAF

The Nigerian Air Force is the air component of the country's armed forces. It takes pride in having one of Africa's most sizable and well-known air forces at the moment. In retrospect, after Nigeria participated in peacekeeping operations in the Congo and Tanganyika (now Tanzania), the idea of establishing an air force was first put forth in 1961 since the Nigerian Army Regiment was transported to and from the

operations by aircraft of foreign air forces (NAF, 2022). It appears that the Nigerian government realized at the time how critical it was to establish an air force that would strengthen the nation's military posture by actively supporting contemporary infrastructure and serving as a full complement to other armed services.In 1962, the Nigerian Air Force (NAF) was given the nod to be formed and cadet recruitment began in the same year. Eventually, as pointed out by Nigerian Finder (2020) the NAF was formally created by a statutory Act of parliament (Air Force Act of 1964) to realize four core objectives as follows:

- To achieve a full complement of the military defence system of the Federal Republic of Nigeria both in the air and on the ground.
- To ensure a fast-versatile mobility of the Armed Forces.
- To provide close support for the ground-based and sea borne forces in all phases of operations and to ensure the territorial integrity of a united Nigeria.
- To give the country the deserved prestige that is invaluable in international matters (NAF, 2022).

The Nigeria Air Force is ideally a defence-oriented force and in that regard not a strategic but a tactical air force. Its roles include the following:

a. **Air defence:** This is achieved by maintaining superiority over the air space of Nigeria through combat air patrol, point defence and interception.

b. **Counter air operations**: This is performed through retaliatory or preventive attacks against targets and installations of the adversary.

c. **Interdiction**: This is targeted against hostile forces and battlefield supply activities.

d. **Close air support**: This is carried out through concentrated air attacks against hostile forces within the Forward End of Battle Area as requested by friendly forces.

e. **Air Transport**: This gives tactical mobility for equipment and troops. It encompasses medical evacuation, movement of dignitaries, search and rescue and air combat support.

f. **Maritime operations**: This entails aerial patrol of our maritime territory for information gathering and security purposes.

g. **Air Recce**: This has to do with aerial reconnaissance mission embarked on for air intelligence gathering (Dokubo in Adams, Edet&Itam, 2021:307).

Originally, the NAF was a transport unit. The government was in talks with many friendly nations over the possibility of training Nigerian Air Force personnel in a range of specialized areas in an effort to meet the Force's manpower requirements. In 1962, the first group of cadets was enrolled to start training with the Ethiopian Air Force. While the second batch of sixteen cadets enlisted in 1963 to train with the Royal Canadian Air Force, six of them were sent to serve in the Indian Air Force. In 1963, the German Air Force was selected to provide technical support for the training of NAF troops locally, despite other countries being contacted. The German Air Force Assistance Group's admirable plans were prematurely tested by the eruption of the Nigerian civil war, just three years after it was engaged, when the NAF was still in its infancy as a fighting force. To effectively carry out the war in close cooperation with sister Services, the newly formed Air Force took on the mantle of an existing Air Force. There were not many aircraft in the NAF at this time. The war ended sooner partly because of the procurement of fighter aircraft such as the MIG 15 and 17.

After the Nigerian Civil War ended in 1970, 'the Air Force remained for a long time underdeveloped in relation to the two other Services' (Dokubo, 2008). It was necessary to reorganize NAF and modernize its equipment. NAF (2022) states that in an attempt to bolster itself, the NAF purchased further advanced aircraft types between 1981 and 1990. The purchase of new armament platforms led to the requirement for troops to receive training in the operation and maintenance of new aircraft types. The NAF rearranged the training components for all NAF trade specialities as a result. In response to the NAF's expansion over time and the requirement to execute all

international laws and treaties relating to space operations in Nigerian airspace, the Federal Government issued Decree 105 (Armed Forces Amendment Decree) on August 23, 1994.The expanded tasks included:

- Enforcing and assisting in coordinating the enforcement of international law, conventions, practices and customs ascribed and acceded to by Nigeria relating to aerial or space activities in the Nigerian airspace.
- Coordinating and enforcing all national and international air laws acceded or ascribed to by Nigeria and
- De-lineating, demarcating and coordinating all aerial surveys and security zones of the Nigerian airspace (NAF, 2022).

The Nigerian Air Force Headquarters, which formulates policy, is composed of ten staff branches. Aircraft engineering, logistics, communications and information systems, administration, standards and evaluations, air secretary, accounts and budgets, training and operations, and medical services are among them. Every Staff Branch is supervised by a Branch Chief who answers directly to the Chief of Air Staff. The Branch Chiefs have the backing of several directors and staff members. The Chief of Air Staff's office includes the Nigerian Air Force Procurement and Plans, Finance & Account, and the Coordinator Project Implementation and Monitoring Team (NAF, 2022).

According to Dawson (2017), the Policy and Plans Branch of the NAF develops, creates, and carries out its strategic policies and plans. In order to enable the prompt, accurate, and efficient employment of air power as instructed by the Chief of Air Staff to fulfill NAF mission, the Branch also creates long-term plans and policies in close collaboration with other air staff branches and commands. The Training and Operations Branch is in charge of the NAF's daily operating policies and directives. The branch is also responsible for managing all flight crew and ground training. The Logistics and Communications Staff Branch, on the other hand, is in charge of the NAF's policies on the provisioning, acquisition, and upkeep of all infrastructure and equipment. The NAF's Aircraft Engineering Branch is in charge of all matters pertaining to the design, manufacture, and maintenance of aircraft and armaments. The Administration Staff Branch is the focal point of most NAF personnel and administrative matters. It also guarantees that the NAF is run in accordance with operational policy's rules and specifications. The Standards and Evaluation Staff Branch is also responsible for promoting full-time investigation into certain areas of the Service and supervising the proper maintenance of standards in the NAF, with the goal of minimizing waste of human and material resources. The Air Secretary Branch is responsible for developing hiring, career management, and maintaining a balanced force structure for the NAF (NAF, 2022).

Undoubtedly, the Nigerian Air Force (NAF) has grown throughout time into one of the continent's most formidable and renowned professional air forces. It has actively protected Nigeria's interests, values, people, and resources from dangers both domestic and foreign. The nation has seen remarkable success in the battle against insurgency, armed robbery, kidnapping, and other criminal organizations because of the utilization of NAF's platforms. Recently, members of Boko Haram and ISWAP, along with a few of their commanders and families, surrendered to the brave soldiers of the Armed Forces of Nigeria (AFN) in the northeast. Many terrorists and armed bandits have also been eliminated as a result of the air component and surface forces' combined superior firepower and reliable airstrikes during joint operations, especially in the North West and North Central in recent years.

Pre Buhari-Era: focus on Goodluck Jonathan's government

Notably, the political administration of Goodluck Jonathan was uneasy due to the threat of terrorism in northern Nigeria, which was being led by the Islamist group, Boko Haram. The terrorist organization Boko Haram operated in both big and small cities in the northeast of the nation. To curb the rebels' ongoing activities, a variety of tactics were employed, one of which called for the provision of adequate funding for the purchase of military hardware and supplies. Then there was a sharp increase in the funds for the Ministries of Interior and Defense. Auge (2015) claims that throughout his tenure as leader, expenditures totaled approximately 4.62 trillion naira, or almost 20.7 billion euros. But, actual results didn't start to look promising until a few months before his term ended, in February 2015. Until then, there was no chance of winning because of a number of factors, including a lack

of fighting spirit among the soldiers and a lack of equipment.

Millions of dollars that were meant to go to security instead ended up in the wallets of army generals, president's allies, and other government officials, shocking everyone. This was carried out at the price of the wellbeing of military troops and the deterioration of battlefield equipment. Renowned military leaders embezzled funds from public coffers to fund their lavish lifestyles, driven by greed and a desire to amass fortune through any means necessary. Millions of money were found when the homes and accounts of the military leaders were seized.

According to Ladan-Bakin's (2016) documentation, the NAF lost a great number of its young and skilled pilots when the shoddy aircraft that the senior air force commanders had purchased began to crash because they were simply not suited for flight. Additional revelations included the discovery that money meant for the acquisition of armaments, military hardware, and the welfare of the men and women serving in the armed forces had found its way into private accounts. These funds were transferred from the account of Colonel Sambo Dasuki (rtd), the then National Security Adviser (NSA), following the EFCC's investigation and subsequent arrests. Col. Sambo Dasuki [Rtd], the office of the National Security Adviser [NSA], was given $2.1 billion to buy military hardware to combat Boko Haram's operations in the country. It appears that the funds were allocated to purchase arms and ammunition for Nigerian forces engaged in combating the insurgency in the country's unrest-plagued northeastern states.

After President Goodluck Jonathan was defeated in the 2015 presidential election, President Muhammadu Buhari took office and immediately supported an investigation of the funds allotted for military acquisition and defense spending during the previous administration.The problem first surfaced in November 2015 when President Buhari appointed a committee tasked with auditing armaments procurement since 2007 released its report detailing mismanagement and widespread fraud in the general operations of the military coordinated by the former National Security Adviser (NSA), Colonel Sambo Dasuki (Rtd). The committee's report revealed widespread fraud and mismanagement in the military's general operations. According to the report, of the 513 contracts that the Office of the NSA awarded, 53—worth an estimated $2.1 billion—were delivered without any supporting documentation. These contracts included the procurement of bombs, ammunition, and 12 helicopters, among other items. The assessment states that at the time the exercise was carried out, the purchase was not essential. The audit also established that the air force had maintained Mi-24 V/35P helicopters, C-130H aircraft, and Alpha Jets for about $75 million between September 2009 and May 2015. Widespread fraud and other irregularities in the defense procurement process were also discovered. It was found that around $22 million had been allocated for unfulfilled contracts (Ladan-Bakin, 2016).

This was achieved by skillfully using the Boko Haram crisis to disguise the request for funding for the purchase of weapons. However, the true objective was to convince the Nigerian Senate to approve the funds after deceiving the then-president Goodluck Jonathan with false information, and then to distribute the billions of dollars among a small group of people. News of Pastor Ayo Oritsejafor's plane, the then-leader of the Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN), and everyone on board being imprisoned in South Africa when it was discovered they were in possession of $9 million, had once leaked around Nigeria (Ladan-Bakin, 2016). Nigerians were told when the story initially broke that the money would be used to buy weapons to combat the threat that Boko Haram presented.

Following President Buhari's inauguration on May 29, 2015, the anti-corruption agencies promptly launched an investigation, concentrating on the suspects on the watch list of the most corrupt Nigerians, whose detention was carried out. According to investigations, the NSA office—which was more of an advisory than an operational office—was complicit in the overstatement of invoices related to the acquisition of reconditioned military aircraft that were misrepresented as being brand-new. Sadly, admirable young pilots lost their lives when the planes began to crash one after another.

This explains why there were no noticeable outcomes from military efforts against terrorists, as in the northeast, for example, terrorists controlled up to four local government areas.

Strategic development and capacity of NAF under Buhari-led administration (2015-2023)

When Buhari became Nigeria's president in 2015, the country was experiencing extreme levels of insecurity, particularly in the northeast, which was creating havoc and causing significant damage to people's lives and property. The majority of Nigerians believed that the military's response, particularly that of the NAF, fell well short of their expectations. Before President Muhammadu Buhari's administration took office in 2015, the Airman (2021) observed that the NAF was in a terrible state of disrepair due to neglect, with the bulk of its platforms grounded or in need of repair. Buhari "promised to equip and re-professionalize our armed forces to perform their constitutional responsibilities more effectively," (Usigbe, 2020).

During Buhari's tenure, the NAF had seen considerable improvements. In keeping with his promise to arm and equip the NAF and the entire AFN in order to combat terrorism, insurgency, armed banditry, and other threats, the government showed unprecedented efforts and support for the NAF by obtaining additional platforms.The Chief of Air Staff (CAS), Air Marshal OladayoAmao even pointed out that"asides former President Shagari, President Buhari is the President who has bought the most platforms for the Nigerian Air Force," (The Cable, 2023). In response, the NAF had become more driven than ever to ensure that the country regained peace and stability by collaborating with other security organizations. The NAF's acquisition and reactivation policy resulted in a substantial rise in the number of aircraft it possessed across multiple fleets. According to the latest recent count, the NAF had acquired more than 40 brand-new aircraft since 2015. Ten Super Mushshak trainers, thirteen rotary-wing combat platforms, three multirole fighter/ground attack aircraft, two Medium Altitude Long Endurance (MALE) unmanned aerial vehicles, and six A-29 Super Tucano light attack aircraft are among these aircraft. Six A-29 Super Tucano planes and six more unmanned aerial vehicles were purchased in 2021. The Service flew over 41,500 hours in combat and combat support roles during operations across the country thanks to the use of these aircraft. This is on top of the about 9,500 hours flown between August 2015 and August 2021 on non-traditional tasks such as support to Civil Authority and duties pertaining to international security (The Airman, 2022).In order to establish a safe and secure environment, the President had been highly supportive and had given the Armed Forces of Nigeria (AFN), especially the NAF, top priority.

Apart from the noticeable rise in the NAF's aircraft acquisitions throughout the period, there has been a complete transformation in terms of fleet modernization, acquisition, and reactivation. The NAF can better train its pilots and address a number of security issues thanks to the new aircraft. One of the most recent additions to the list is the A-29 Super Tucano aircraft, which was inducted into the NAF Order of Battle. By September 2021, the NAF's serviceability status of operable aircraft had increased from approximately 35% (35%) in 2015 to approximately 72% (72%) as a result of purchases, reactivations, and the establishment of a robust logistical support organization.

Additionally, the NAF was able to revive a significant number of previously grounded aircraft due to the government's dedication and unrelenting commitment. It's the best time ever for the NAF to buy and reactivate aircraft. Even more rewarding is the increased firepower these new platforms have provided to NAF operations, which have improved the force against criminal elements disrupting the peace and tranquility of Nigerians, including armed bandits, terrorists, and insurgents. It is therefore an understatement to say that the President's unusual leadership style has given the NAF more clout, enabling it to continue serving as a key enabler and decision-maker in the nation's ongoing fight against insurgency and other types of criminality. Several operating theaters across the country are currently using these platforms. The installation of these platforms has brought some sanity and normalcy to regions in the North- East and North- West that were previously devastated by terrorists and bandits. As a result, thousands of terrorists affiliated with Boko Haram and their families had handed themselves in to security services.

In 2021, NAF hired 40 additional pilots, including Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) and fixed and rotary wing aircraft pilots, to augment the Service's manpower capacity. The overall number of pilots trained over the past six years is now 173, with 155 more student pilots enrolled in flight training programs at various training facilities both nationally and abroad. Furthermore, the NAF has about 2,500 people enrolled in different training programs covering a variety of professions and occupations both domestically and outside. Along with increasing air transport commitments to internal security

operations like Operations HADIN KAI in the North East, HADARIN DAJI in the North West, DELTA SAFE in the South, WHIRL STROKE in the North Central, THUNDER STRIKE in the Kaduna-Abuja Road, and SAFE HAVEN in Jos and parts of Kaduna, the Service has also increased air interdiction, close air support, intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance (ISR) (The Airman, 2022).

Additional support equipment, such as ISR sensors, specialized weapons, and vehicles, were bought to aid in the implementation of the NAF Strategic Plan. The Service also improved human capacities necessary for the effective operation of the equipment and platforms. According to The Airman (2022), there had been a 33 percent improvement in aircraft serviceability in the last six years as a result of the corresponding rise in technical skills. Overall, the enhanced capabilities have allowed the Service to win significant tactical wins against terrorists and bandits, which is consistent with the NAF's strategic objective.

HQ NAF staff branches and Commands remain functionally organized, notwithstanding the reorganization of certain directorates and the availability of resources like the Imagery Analysis and Intelligence Fusion Centre. In addition, a brand-new Office of the Ombudsman had been set up to carry out an impartial and independent assessment of the way NAF employees' service complaints—particularly those pertaining to issues of gender—have been addressed. Additionally, the Air Warfare Center is being revived and tasked with creating and evaluating employment concepts and doctrine (The Airman, 2022).

Before 2015, the NAF's force organization consisted of just 4 Commands and 8 Headquarters Staff Branches. However, the Service fundamentally reorganized itself in order to pursue the implementation of the National Defense Policy and NAF Plan in order to successfully address internal security issues in Nigeria and to address broader national defense objectives, as mandated by the Buhari administration. In order to improve and diversify the activities of the Service, several specialist units, three Staff Branches, and two new Commands had been established in the previous few years. These strategic adjustments have left the NAF with 109 Units, 6 Commands, and 11 Staff Branches in its current force organization.

The NAF notes that the current level of funding for the force is still far below the requirement to maintain a balanced force capable of carrying out its roles effectively, but it has acknowledged that the Buhari-led government had made a conscious effort to increase budgetary allocations, which is quite remarkable compared to previous governments. In the last six years, the extra allocation of funds has allowed for the purchase of forty-three aircraft and the revival of twenty platforms that had been inactive. In order to enhance operational effectiveness, more platforms are required for the appropriate implementation of government and service policies.

Under Buhari's leadership, the NAF had persisted in retraining and training personnel across all specializations both domestically and abroad. Since February 2021, the NAF has actually flown 63 new pilots who have successfully completed a range of domestic and international pilot training programmes. Along the same line, a great deal of officers, airmen, and airwomen are finishing their training in other countries, such as South Africa, India, Belgium, Egypt, and Pakistan. Furthermore, hundreds of employees in various professions are receiving local training in spite of severe financial limitations. In a similar vein, by increasing training and equipment, the NAF has significantly enhanced the operational capabilities of its Regiment and SF. There have also been significant capacity increases in the fields of education, administration, information and communication technology (ICT), aviation engineering and technical education, and medical professional training.

The NAF has stepped up its recruitment drive in an effort to address the many problems with the country's internal security. Over the course of the preceding year, the Service graduated 2,530 more recruits from the Military Training Centre in Kaduna. In an additional effort to enhance military welfare for effective and efficient service delivery, the NAF sent ten Senior Non-Commissioned Officers, ranking Air Warrant Officer and Master Warrant Officer, to the United Kingdom for a special four-part international pre-retirement training. The annual range classification exercise was recently brought back by the NAF to all of its units around the country in an attempt to raise its soldiers' proficiency with weapons, professionalism, and marksmanship.

The Aircraft Engineering Branch has worked hard under Buhari's leadership to secure many foreign training places for NAF engineers. After completing the training, the aviation maintenance staff's proficiency grew, improving the NAF platforms' aircraft serviceability status. According to Airman (2022), in-house maintenance and training on aircraft batteries at 107 Air Maritime Group, training for aircraft engineers on PT-6A engine rigging for King Air 350 aircraft in the United States, training for five NAF aircraft engineers on DO-228 aircraft engine rigging in Germany, and the establishment of a "Train the Trainer Course" for thirteen engineers at the Nigerian College of Aviation Technology, Zaria, were among the trainings undertaken by the Branch. Other accomplishments include running the Master Technician Course at Flight Safety International in Wichita, USA, training with Ukrainian Technical Team in Advance Maintenance on the Mi-35P Helicopter at 115 Special Operations Group in Port Huron, conducting the Avionics Components Repair Course at Central Avionics Overhaul and Calibration Centre, and running the NAF Type-rating Course training of 453 aircraft engineering personnel on 13 aircraft types in the NAF.

Furthermore, as The Airman(2022) points out, major advancements in the upkeep of platform and equipment reliability were also made possible by creative maintenance approaches and logistics support systems. ATR 42 Maritime Patrol Aircraft (MPA) (NAF 930) was successfully brought back into service after an air accident damaged its engine, propeller, and flaps. Another was the C-130H aircraft (NAF 918) that had 55% of its in-country Periodic Depot Maintenance (PDM) completed, 3 x L39 ZA at Aerovodochody Czech that had 95% of its overhaul/avionics upgrade completed, and the ongoing PDM of ATR. Other examples include maintaining the NAF fleet's average daily aircraft serviceability at 75 and successfully repairing the King Air 350i (NAF 202) and CH-3A RPA (NAF 104) aircraft, as well as assembling two Wing Loong II Unmanned Combat Aerial Vehicles at the 109 Combat Reconnaissance Group, Yola. The NAF platforms were certainly better equipped to support and maintain counterterrorism and counterinsurgency operations—including those that were part of Operations HadarinDajji, Thunder Strike, Hadin Kai, and Gama Aiki, among others—thanks to these initiatives.

The NAF had prioritized meeting the health and well-being needs of its employees and their dependents while President Buhari was in office. This is because the NAF understands that people are its most significant resource and that keeping a healthy workforce is essential for combat readiness. In the light of the COVID19 pandemic, which had significantly caused a reduction in the amount of time that patients and doctors spent in person, the NAF leadership took into consideration the potential of Information Communication Technology and established a NAF Telemedicine portal in an effort to reduce the significant amount of foreign exchange spent on medical tourism. The site, the first of its kind created by the Armed Forces of Nigeria, removes barriers to healthcare provided by distance, enabling everyone to obtain affordable and efficient medical treatment without having to see a doctor in person. The West African College of Physicians granted permission to the NAF to operate a family medicine residency training program at the 661 NAF Hospital in Ikeja. This remarkable achievement took place eighteen years after the Hospital was granted authorization by the Nigerian Medical and Dental Council to train house officers. The Hospital became the first and only in the NAF to be accredited for postgraduate medical professional training.

Furthermore, the first successful minimally invasive procedure, or laparoscopic surgery, at the 063 NAF Hospital in Abuja was performed on a 54-year-old patient who had gall bladder stones. The National Board for Technical Education authorized the commencement of the National Diploma in Nursing Training program at the NAF College of Nursing Sciences (NAFCONS), Kaduna. Consequently, candidates for admission to NAFCONS may now be eligible to enroll in ND General Nursing by passing the JAMB-administered University Matriculation Examination. The International Organization for Standardization (ISO) 15189:2012 awarded the 661 NAF Hospital Laboratory inIkeja a certificate of accreditation in recognition of their excellent service delivery and quality management systems (The Airman, 2022).

In reaction to the distinct coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak, the NAF flew several government officials, apparatus, and medical supplies. The Service also ensured that its liquefied oxygen (LOX) factory was running twenty-four hours a day to sustain uninterrupted production and supply to Isolation Centers across the country. The Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and other donor partners like Team Europe, the German Government, United Nations Development Programme &Deutsche

GesellschaftFurInternationaleZusammenarbeit (GIZ)supplied around 4000 kilograms of COVID-19 medical relief supplies in 2021, which were airlifted by the NAF. The emergency supplies were airlifted from NnamdiAzikiwe International Airport to the 14 member countries of ECOWAS.

The NAF has made significant investments in research and development over the past year in order to build previously unheard-of capabilities to address both ongoing and potential future security concerns and to improve its operational viability. These efforts had been made possible by increased funding made available by the Buhari administration. These breakthroughs were enabled by the Air Force Research and Development Center. Among the R&D innovations documented were the production and deployment of 30.1mm rocket to 271 NAF Detachment, Birnin-Gwari for operational use, the refurbishment of unserviceable rocket launchers and BMGs backloaded from operations, and the test- firing of locally produced 18-tube rocket launchers for A-jet aircraft. Other modifications include putting an electrical firing system on a Geisha 23mm pintle mount, converting a PUS 38DM into an intervalometer, rearranging electrical flanges on a DEFA gun that are incompatible, and mounting a 6-tube 68mm SNEB rocket launcher on an Agusta 109 Power Helicopter to boost firepower (The Airman, 2022).

Improvements were also made to the Tsaigumi UAV's generating system installation, the C130H nose radome repair, and the PGM prototype fabrication. Furthermore, during this period, the Tsaigumi engine exhaust system modification, flight testing, the modification of the Tsaigumi UAV wing, the 2,000 MATRA 155 rocket launcher heat shields, the blank shooting adaptor for the CAK 103 rifle, and the prototype 57mm C-5 rocket were all being worked on (The Airman, 2022). Without a doubt, these developments have enhanced NAF operations and significantly decreased the organization's over-reliance on external sources, allowing the nation to save money on foreign exchange.

From the foregoing, it is clear that the NAF had advanced and upgraded significantly during Buhari's administration. Buhari's government showed enormous commitment to acquire platforms and other necessary equipment for the NAF. With a record forty platforms acquired since 2015 and counting, the NAF is now much more confident than ever to take on terrorists and outlaws head-on. The NAF has been more proactive than ever under the Buhari government, even though there is still much to be done to bring about the desired peace, security, and stability in the nation.

Conclusion

This paper examined NAF strategic development and capacity during President Muhammadu Buhari's government, which lasted from 2015 to 2023. This period had seen a major improvement in the NAF's fortunes, which is a stark contrast to the previous situation where most of the funds intended for the purchase of brand-new platforms and other logistics were wantonly diverted. In keeping with its promise to arm and equip the NAF and the entire AFN to combat terrorism, insurgency, armed banditry, and other threats, the government had shown its support for the NAF by acquiring more platforms and supervising innovation and advancement in nearly every area of the service. A strategic approach to acquisition and reactivation had allowed the NAF to acquire a substantial number of aircraft in multiple fleets. In response, the NAF showed greater resolve and commitment towards ensuring that the country regains peace and stability while collaborating with other security organizations.

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Appraisal of Impact and Utilization of Woman Empowerment Programmes on Poverty Alleviation in the Central Senatorial District of Cross River State, Nigeria

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ABSTRACT
This study evaluates the utilization and impact of women empowerment programs on poverty alleviation in the Central Senatorial District of Cross River State, Nigeria. It assesses the implementation and effectiveness of these programs in enhancing the socio-economic conditions of women in the region, where poverty is prevalent, especially among women who have historically faced marginalization in accessing resources, education, and economic opportunities. The empowerment programs, including vocational training, microfinance schemes, entrepreneurship development, and educational initiatives, aim to improve women's economic independence. Findings indicate that while some programs have positively impacted income generation and living standards, significant challenges persist. These challenges include inadequate funding, cultural barriers, and limited market access for women entrepreneurs. Additionally, the sustainability of these initiatives is often compromised by inconsistent policy implementation and a lack of ongoing support from both governmental and non-governmental organizations. The study highlights the need for a holistic approach to women's empowerment, addressing the root causes of poverty and ensuring continuous access to resources and opportunities for lasting economic independence. Recommendations include increased funding, improved monitoring and evaluation mechanisms, and greater community involvement to ensure that empowerment programs are responsive to the specific needs of women in the Central Senatorial District. Ultimately, while women empowerment programs hold promise for poverty alleviation, their success depends on sustained efforts, strategic planning, and a comprehensive approach to tackling the broader socio-economic challenges facing women in the region.

Introduction

Poverty level is among the major determinants of the degree of economic growth and development, and welfare of people in a country. Yet, the high poverty rate is one of the major challenges facing the world today. While both men and women suffer poverty, gender discrimination means that women have far fewer resources to cope thus, vulnerable to sexual exploitation including trafficking (Mukaila et al., 2022). This prompted the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to put eradication of extreme poverty and ensure gender equity and empowerment of all women and girls as some of its Sustainable Development Goals (SDG).

Although poverty has reduced in many developed countries, poverty level in developing nations like Nigeria is on the rise. Poverty is a state of being in which a person lacks the income or other means of support to reliably meet their basic personal needs, such as food, shelter, and clothing (World Bank, 2022). Inequality, in terms of income and opportunities, remains high and has adversely affected poverty reduction. The lack of job opportunities is at the core of the high poverty levels. Poverty undermines the survival, productivity, health, livelihood, and wellbeing. It further reduces their contribution to households' needs, purchasing power, thereby denying people access to quality education and basic needs (Boudet, et.al, 2018).

Similarly, state governments in Nigeria have also continued to float various poverty alleviation programmes such as providing access to credit facilities like loans and grants, skills acquisition or entrepreneurial trainings with starter-packs, scholarships, among others (Aroge, 2016). These programmes are mostly targeted at the women and youth populations in the various constituencies, irrespective of the location, whether in the rural or urban communities, age-range or educational attainment (which mostly stems from the benefactor's prerogative of choice of beneficiaries). However, the extent to which these poverty programmes have impacted poverty reduction remains a matter of concern to researchers given the high poverty level reported among women in Nigeria especially women in rural areas.

The present study seeks to appraise the utilization and impact of women empowerment programmes on poverty alleviation in the central senatorial district of Cross River State, Nigeria. The available skills acquisition programmes shall be identified to ascertain their fit or adequacy for women empowerment. The effort to empower women and attain the goal of poverty reduction can achieve the desired outcomes once the determinants of empowerment utilization and impact are established.

Statement of the Problem

Women are vital to societal development, contributing significantly to stability, progress, and the long-term growth of nations. They fulfill diverse roles, including as mothers, caregivers, farmers, educators, entrepreneurs, and teachers. Globally, women make up 43% of the agricultural labor force, with this figure reaching as high as 70% in some countries (Omini&Ofem, 2023). In Nigeria, women are particularly crucial, accounting for 65% of agricultural production, with the majority being rural small-scale farmers (Bello et al., 2021). Despite their critical contributions, women worldwide endure various forms of abuse, discrimination, marginalization, and deliberate denial of rights, leading to extreme poverty, deprivation, and social exclusion (Rabiul et al., 2018; Omang et al., 2020).

In Nigeria, women constitute over 60% of the poorest population (Onwuka et al., 2019). Out of the 53 million adult women in Nigeria, 6 million (12%) have no formal education, 23 million (44%) are business owners, 33 million (61%) reside in rural areas, and 17 million (32%) are dependents, significantly underrepresented in formal wage employment, with only 49.3% labor force participation compared to 63.8% for men. Educational attainment for women is also low, with a female literacy rate of 51% compared to 71.3% for men (Nnana et al., 2024).

Although previous studies have explored these relationships, there is still a gap in understanding how age differences, educational attainment, and employment status influence the utilization and impact of empowerment programs on poverty alleviation. It is argued that empowerment programs affect women differently, but the reasons for these variations in impact and utilization remain underexplored. This study focuses on how age, educational attainment, and employment status impact the effectiveness of empowerment programs in reducing poverty among women in the Central Senatorial District of Cross River State, highlighting the need to consider age-related

factors as women's empowerment varies across different life stages.

Literature Review

Impact of Empowerment Programmes on Alleviating Poverty among Women

On the impact of empowerment programme on alleviating poverty among women, (Alese, 2013) carried out a study on women and poverty alleviation programmes in Nigeria, The NAPEP approach. The study did an empirical assessment of the Capacity Acquisition Programme in Ibadan North Local Government Area of Oyo State. Stratified and simple random sampling techniques were used to select 256 women who participated in NAPEP Capacity Acquisition Programme in year 2008. The study showed that the national poverty eradication capacity acquisition programme influenced women's economic empowerment negatively because NAPEP did not provide credit facilities to the beneficiaries.

In a related study carried out by Modi et al. (2014), on the impact of microfinance services on women empowerment in the rural areas of North Gujarat Region, Gujarat State. A sample of 205 respondents was used for the study. The study adopted structured questionnaire by using a non-probabilistic convenience sampling technique. The results indicate that four of the five factors (i.e. socio-economic status up gradation, autonomy for life choices, women position in the family/society and positive approach towards child development) have significant impact on rural women empowerment towards poverty alleviation. The findings of the study are likely to be important to microfinance institutions, government and NGOs in designing policy to empower rural women socially and economically. This study makes the valuable contribution by providing a base to the microfinance institutions for strengthening and expanding their support to rural poor women. That is to say that, as long as the women have access to micro-finance or micro-credit facilities, it will go a long way in empowering rural women socially and economically. The study did not point out whether the social up gradation came as refundable loans or as non-refundable grants for empowerment. The study did not, also, specify the age range of the women in question, as well as, whether they were married or unmarried women.

Furthermore, the level of domestic violence has shown decline after women participation in Agaseke Project. Hence, participation in the Agaseke Project has positive impacts on improving the women's basic needs, at the household level and community as well. However, the study did not point out the position and reaction of the men to the improved income of their trained women in the community.

Education and Utilization of Empowerment Programmesamong Women

Fapohunda (2011) examined the place of higher education as a means of women empowerment in Nigeria. The paper adopted a descriptive survey method. Data was collected from interviews, previous studies in this area as well as journals, textbooks, seminar papers, magazines, bulletins, newspapers, and periodicals. The findings indicate that as the level of education gets higher, the number of female are lower and it was revealed in the study that educations is a significant tools that exposes the woman to gain access to empowerment opportunities, it was also witnessed in the study that women with better educational qualifications were more empowered compared to their counter parts with lower educational statuses. The findings indicate that education is a necessary tool that enhances the utilization of empowerment opportunities. The study however did not consider the societal influence on the education of women and did not make appropriate recommendations on how to overcome the barriers of the society and enhance women education.

The most used means of accessing information by the women was the radio and television, and person-to-person communication either by word of mouth or by telephone. The NGOs were discovered to be slowly but steadily gaining ground in educating the women and creating awareness among them of their potentials to do better, to be empowered, and to stand up for their rights and themselves anywhere. Constraints faced by the NGOs were mostly funding and getting enough materials, equipment, and other media needed to further empower women. They were found to be a great source of inspiration to the women especially in the rural or less urban parts of the country. Gendered information was provided in the documentation units of the NGOs and efforts were ongoing in a few of them to translate some relevant materials to local languages. The

findings in this study indicated the relevance of educating women through the provision of information and teaching women on the best ways to access empowerment opportunities.

Prospects of Wage Employment in Women Empowerment Programmes on Poverty Alleviating

Taiwo et al. (2016) examined, among others, the impact of financing women entrepreneurs and employment generation among these groups within the Nigerian state. The used also employed survey research design with use of focus group Discussion and in-depth interview guide to elicit information from 200 study participants. The study revealed that empowering women through financing women entrepreneurs has incremental effects on employment generations and their efforts also results in multiple employment generations through improvement in their business activities, thereby increasing the numbers of self-employed individuals in the country. It was also raised in the study that Women are becoming increasingly important in the socio-economic development of both developed and developing economies. This is because they account for a significant percentage of the operators of Small and Medium Scale Enterprises (SMEs) in virtually all aspects of the globe. Despite these success stories emanating from these economies, the Nigerian case have not been encouraging. The Nigerian women have for decades engaged in survivalist activities due to little or no encouragement from the government and the organized private sectors. The study findings have successfully linked the importance empowering women on employment generations in any given economy of the work. The study however failed specifically names the specific empowerment programmes and their differences in the contributions to employment creations.

Nnana et al. (2024) examined the impact of women entrepreneurs in national development, using Taraba state as study. Descriptive and ANOVA f-statistics were employed to analyze the data as well as test the raised hypothesis. Findings from study revealed that the women entrepreneurs who seize opportunities have better control over the affairs of their businesses which implies that capability of women entrepreneurs does affect their financial control. It was also revealed in the study that women who had adequate empowerment opportunities and translated it into businesses such as the establishment of hair dressing saloons, clothing making stores, food restaurants, provisions stores among others were able to create employment opportunities for other people who work for them and it impacted positively on the lives of the communities. Thus, women entrepreneurs were advised to acquire the necessary knowledge needed to access good networks to enhance their employment creation opportunities.

Conceptual Reviews

The goal of the conceptual review is to categorise and describe concepts relevant to the study or topic and outline the relationship between them including relevant theories and empirical reviews. Under this heading, concepts of women empowerment, poverty, empowerment utilisation and the hypothesised relationships were reviewed.

The Concept of Women Empowerment

Women empowerment is essential for addressing the unequal positions and statuses that women face in many societies. It is a multidimensional process that involves awareness, capacity building, participation, decision-making, and control, which are crucial for sustainable economic growth and poverty reduction. Empowerment enables women to acquire knowledge, overcome challenges, and access resources. It involves multiple domains: personal (knowledge, education, autonomy), relational (attitudes, norms, household decision-making), and environmental (social and political structures). Social empowerment strengthens women's roles in society, while educational empowerment equips them with knowledge and confidence. Economic empowerment allows women to access jobs and resources, political empowerment ensures their participation in decision-making, and psychological empowerment helps them overcome barriers and assert their independence.

Women Empowerment in Nigeria

An increase in women's economic empowerment can increase women's bargaining power within their household, increase their participation in economic activities and improve their livelihood (Nnana et al., 2024s). The SDGs 5 and 8 renewed the global commitment to gender equality and women empowerment; including women's economic empowerment, as

a major human right and development goal. Despite evidence that empowering women can result in benefits for societies at large, and, Africa entered the new African Women's decade on Financial and Economic Inclusion of African Women 2020-2030 progress on gender equality and women's empowerment particularly in Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) has been far too slow and will require concerted efforts to achieve (Ofem et al., 2024)

According to EFInA's Access to financial services in Nigeria (A2F) 2020 survey, women in Nigeria are underrepresented in formal wage employment requiring higher education & specialized skills and overrepresented in vulnerable/informal employment. The majority of women in Nigeria lack access to healthcare, education, water and sanitation, financial services, and Information and Communication Technology (ICT), all of which are necessary for economic growth. The traditional involvement of Nigerian women in subsistence-level activities essentially means they are historically equipped with entrepreneurial skills, know-how, and experience that can be leveraged for inclusive growth and lasting national prosperity. Nigeria's future growth prospect is therefore irrevocably tied to the status of its women and its ability to adequately leverage their considerable economic potential.

In Nigeria, several women empowerment programmes (like the Agricultural Credit Guarantee Scheme (ACGS), National Poverty Eradication Programme (NAPEP) have proven to be effective in the lives of the beneficiaries, especially, in the agricultural and industrial sectors, mostly as entrepreneurs. The women are able to contribute meaningfully to the development of their various communities by utilizing these programmes effectively and efficiently (Nnana& Lilian, 2024). Generally, several factors have been identified as affecting the process of women's all-round empowerment, and these factors encompass the psychological make-up of the individual woman and the social, economic, educational and political realities that make up the external environment.

The Concept of Utilization

Utilization is the action of using something, i.e., making practical and effective use of it. Put simply; the term refers to the use of something or the process of using it effectively. Observations show that certain factors that hinder women from utilizing women empowerment programmes include men's perceptions or bias of women's participation in development programmes (Dako-Gyeke et al., 2013; Rabiul et al., 2018), culture and location (Kurtiş et al., 2016), non-availability of employment opportunities, among others. While, factors that hinder women empowerment programmes from alleviating poverty include low levels of education, lack of interest to information, poor job opportunities, discrimination, and socio-cultural barriers (Fapohunda, 2012; Nnana et al., 2023). Due to their ignorance and low level of education women lack adequate information about the available women empowerment programmes that would improve their quality of life in the community and this will result in frustration and transfer of anger to their children, who may not be properly fed and given adequate education (Adebayo, 2011). Garuba (2009) went further to state that lack of adult education is capable of making the attainment of objectives of poverty eradication programmes difficult and the poverty situation will constantly be on the increase.

Uwantege andMbabazi (2015) conducted a study to assess the impact of women economic empowerment projects on their socio-economic development, considering Agaseke Project as a case study. This research was conducted in 3 districts of Kigali namely: Kicukiro, Nyarugenge and Gasabo District. The researcher used both qualitative and quantitative methods to obtain a reliable data. In addition, structured questionnaires were administered to the respondents. Findings from the study showed that the Agaseke Project plays a significant role in the socio-economic development of women through the provision of various supports to women, particularly to the poor, and enabled women to be self-employed. Consequently, women have managed to increase their incomes as well as improving their socio-economic conditions. Furthermore, the level of domestic violence has shown decline after women participation in Agaseke Project. Hence, participation in the Agaseke Project has positive impacts on improving the women's basic needs, at the household level and community as well.

The Concept of Poverty Alleviation

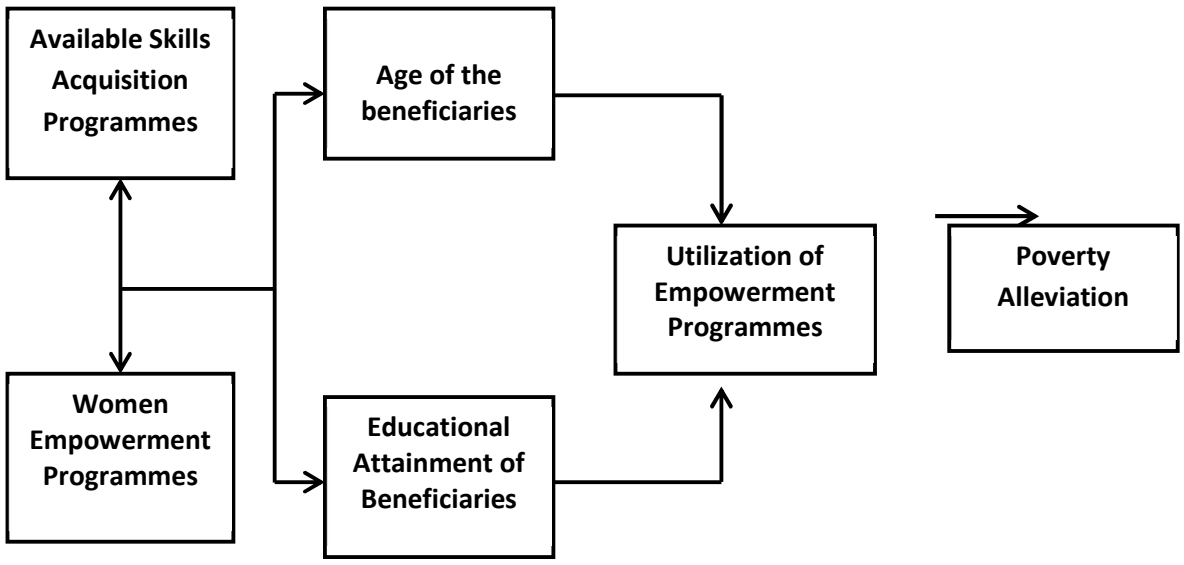
Poverty can be defined as a state where one lacks access to basic needs such as food, clothing and shelter. It is also used to describe a person whose living conditions prevent them from being

able to acquire education, seek medical help, secure a stable job, and participate in recreational activities due to a lack of money (Omini & Ofem, 2023). Poverty entails more than the lack of income and productive resources to ensure sustainable livelihoods. Its manifestations include hunger and malnutrition, limited access to education and other basic services, social discrimination and exclusion as well as 71 the lack of participation in decision-making (United Nations, 2022). There are two concepts of poverty in economics. They are absolute poverty and relative poverty. Absolute Poverty is a situation where a person's income or consumption expenditure is so low that he cannot live at minimum subsistence level, he is said to be absolutely poor. Relative poverty concept indicates inequalities of income. It is concept used to imply that the people of low-income groups are relatively poor as compared to the people whose incomes are high (Nnana et al., 2023). All actions to improve the quality of life for those people currently living in poverty are referred to as poverty alleviation.

Poverty alleviation is a set of measures, both economic and humanitarian, that are intended to permanently lift people out of poverty (Nnana, 2023). Poverty alleviation is accompanied by a number of positive social impacts. These include improved access to food (that results in higher nutritional and health levels), improved access to education (due to higher income levels and ability to pay for fees and supplies), and improved employment opportunities (Nnana et al., 2024). There are numerous causes of for which there is concern for poverty alleviation. They include; inequality and marginalization, conflict, hunger, malnutrition, and stunting, poor healthcare systems, little or no access to clean water, sanitation, and hygiene, climate change, lack of education, poor public works and infrastructure (Concerned Worldwide, 2020; Nnana et al., 2023).

Conceptual Framework

Fig.1: Conceptual Framework



Theoretical Framework

The study will utilize the participatory model and social learning theory as its theoretical framework, despite considering other relevant theories. These two theories are chosen for their emphasis on different aspects of learning and involvement. The participatory model, proposed by Fiorino and Bowles in 2001, focuses on the importance of women actively participating in the planning, execution, and implementation of empowerment programs. This involvement is essential for achieving comprehensive empowerment and development, as it encourages women to engage in the structural processes of these programs. This approach is supported by Guimaraes (2009), who suggests that women's participation in empowerment programs increases their acceptance and confidence in government decisions, thus enhancing the programs' impact on their lives. Therefore, achieving a balance in policies and strategies for women's empowerment and community development is crucial.

The social learning theory, developed by Albert Bandura in 1977, complements this by emphasizing the role of observational learning. Bandura posits that learning is significantly facilitated by observing others, as people form ideas about how behaviors are performed and later use this information to guide their actions. Bandura's theory suggests that new behaviors, attitudes, and information are acquired by watching and listening to others, whether through direct observation, media, or social interactions. This theory underlines the importance of socialization in exposing individuals to various poverty alleviation strategies and effectively utilizing them. The fundamental principle of this theory is that new behaviors are learned through observation and modeling, as well as through direct experience.

Methodology

The study was conducted in the Central Senatorial District of Cross River State, Nigeria, encompassing six local government areas: Abi, Boki, Etung, Ikom, Obubra, and Yakurr. The district, home to various ethnic groups such as Agbo, Bahumono, Yako, Mbembe, and Ejagham, spans approximately 200,000 square meters and is predominantly Christian, with some followers of African Traditional Religion. The local economy relies on subsistence farming, fishing, logging, trading, and civil service, and the area is known for its peaceful, hospitable residents and notable tourist attractions like the Cross River National Park and Drill Ranch. The study targeted women involved in empowerment programs designed to alleviate poverty in the district. Proportional and purposive sampling techniques were used to select respondents from urban and rural communities within the six LGAs, with two communities chosen from each LGA, resulting in a total of twelve communities. Each community had 52 respondents, totaling 624 participants.

Data collection involved both primary and secondary methods. Primary data was obtained through questionnaires, key informant interviews, and focus group discussions, covering aspects such as socio-demographic information, skills acquisition, social impacts, education, employment, and access to credit. Secondary data from textbooks, journal articles, and online resources was used to supplement and validate the findings through data triangulation.

Data Analysis

The Statistical Package for Social Science (SPSS) was used to code and analyze the processed responses from the questionnaires distributed. Descriptive statistics was used to answer research questions one and six. The ANOVA test was used to test research questions two and three while multiple regression was used to test hypotheses four and five to answer research questions four and five.

Characteristics of the Respondents

Since there was no missing data from the categorical and continuous variables, descriptive analysis was conducted to determine the statistical distribution of the respondents. Results of the descriptive analysis from table 4 revealed that majority of the respondents were between the ages of 27-35(52%) while 19.9% were between the ages of 36-45years. Women between the ages of 46years and above constitute only 10.5% of the respondents. The results also revealed that 237 (38.7%) of the women that responded to the questionnaires have a first school leaving certificate (FSLC) as their highest qualification. Another 106 (17.3%) women have SSCE as their highest qualification with only few attaining higher educational qualifications. Further results indicates that 398 (65%) of the women are married with 152 (24%) single while a few of the women have lost their spouses 62 (10.1%). Most of the women that

participated in the survey lived in the rural areas 460 (75.2%) while 152 (24.8) live in the urban areas. See table 2

Table 1: Respondents Socio-Demographic characteristics

Respondents Socio-Demographic Variables		Frequency N=612	Percentage (%)
Age Range	18-226	108	17.6
	27-35	318	52.0
	36-45	122	19.9
	46 & Above	64	10.5
Educational Qualification	FSLC	106	17.3
	SSCE	237	38.7
	ND	68	11.1
	NCE	83	13.6
	B.Sc. & Above	53	8.7
Marital Status	Married	398	65.0
	Single	152	24.8
	Widowed	62	10.1
Place of Resident	Urban Area	152	24.8
	Rural Area	460	75.2

Source: Field Survey, 2022

Preliminary analyses were conducted to ensure that the assumptions for multiple linear regression were met, including checking for outliers, normality, multicollinearity, and homogeneity of variances. Outliers were identified using a boxplot and adjusted through Windsorizing. Normality was confirmed through a histogram and P-P plot, indicating an asymmetrical bell curve. Linearity was assessed using scatterplots, which showed a positive linear relationship between variables. Finally, the Levene test confirmed that the homogeneity of variances assumption was not violated, as the p-value was greater than 0.05.

Model Evaluation

Since all the assumptions for multiple regression and paired sampled test of normality, absence of outliers, linearity and multicollinearity were not violated, multiple regression was run to evaluate the goodness of fit of the regression model with data. Cohen (1988) suggested a criteria for assessing effect size with the R^2 Values (0.500 – 0.138 as Large); (0.109 – 0.059 as Medium); (0.038 – 0.000 as Small). Based on statistical index, the R value of 0.544 for model 1 indicates that empowerment utilization is significant predictors of poverty alleviation (Cohen, 1998). The value of R-squared at 0.296 coefficient of determination indicates that approximately 29.6 percent of the total variance in poverty alleviation was explained by empowerment utilisation and empowerment in wage employment. Similarly, the examination of the ANOVA results indicate that all the independent variables significantly predict the dependent variable df = 2,373, F=78.347, P = 0.000 < 0.05 suggesting that the regression model is a good fit with data. See table 3.

Table 2: Test of Model fit

Model Summary[b]

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate	Sig.
1.	.544[a]	.296	.292	6.058	0.000

a. Predictors: Empowerment Utilisation,

b. Dependent Variable: Poverty Alleviation

Available Skill Acquisition Programmes

The table shows the distribution of various skill acquisition programmes available in the Central Senatorial District of Cross River State. The most prevalent programme is Fashion Designing and Tailoring, with 132 participants, which constitutes 21.57% of the total. This indicates that fashion designing and tailoring is the most popular choice among the available skills.

Hair Dressing is also a significant programme, with 102 participants, making up 16.67% of the total. This shows a strong interest in hairdressing as a vocational skill. Catering, or the Restaurant Business, follows closely with 118 participants, accounting for 19.28% of the responses, highlighting its importance as a skill acquisition opportunity.

The Production of Detergents is another notable programme, with 82 participants representing 13.40% of the total. Poultry Farming is similarly significant, with 80 participants, which is 13.07% of the total. This indicates a substantial interest in agricultural skills.

Livestock Farming has a moderate level of participation, with 44 participants, making up 7.19% of the total. Basic Education, although essential, has the lowest level of interest among the skills listed, with 33 participants, or 5.39%.

The programmes with the least participation are Making of Beds and Wires and Production of Cheese, with only 11 (1.80%) and 10 (1.63%) participants respectively. This indicates minimal interest in these particular skills.

Table 3: Available skill acquisition programmes

Available skills acquisition programmes	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Fashion Designing and Tailoring skills	132	21.57
Hair dressing	102	16.67
Production of detergents	82	13.40
Making of beds and wires	11	1.80
Production of cheese	10	1.63
Catering (Restaurant business)	118	19.28
Livestock farming	44	7.19
Poultry farming	80	13.07
Basic education	33	5.39

Source: Field Survey, 2023

To further gain insights, the women were requested to identify their most reliable source of income. Majority of the women confirmed that farming and trading were their most reliable source of income with 194(31.7%) earning their living in farming and 126 (20.6%) surviving on trading. Some of the women earn a living with handcraft 102 (16.7) and very few of the women earning a living with wage employment 58 (13.4%). Some of the women depend on support

from family members 58(9.5%) and government support 50 (8.2%). Support from government and family members are seemingly insignificant and may not be sufficient to alleviate poverty among women in the senatorial district. See table 5

Table 4: Sources of Income

Most Reliable source of income	Frequency	Percentage
Trading	126	20.6
Farming	194	31.7
Wage Employment	82	13.4
Handicraft	102	16.7
Support from family members	58	9.5
Support from government	50	8.2

In Boki Local Government Area, interviews with community women leaders highlighted the impact of infrastructure and financial support on women's empowerment. A 39-year-old leader from Orimekpan noted that improved road networks and bridge repairs, facilitated by the Cross River State government and the Niger Delta Development Commission, have significantly eased the transportation of farm products, enhancing the local economy. Farmers and traders benefit from quicker and more efficient access to markets.Another leader, a 53-year-old from Imabana, discussed the benefits of micro-credit facilities provided by the Imabana community bank. Access to low-interest loans has enabled women to start businesses, such as restaurants, which have improved their financial stability and supported their families' educational needs. She advocated for continued and increased support from both government and non-governmental organizations.

For the hypotheses test, Hypothesis 1 (H1) explored whether educational level affects the utilization of empowerment programmes. Hypothesis 2 (H2) examined differences in programme use between older and younger women, while Hypothesis 3 (H3) assessed the impact of programme utilization on poverty alleviation. ANOVA was used for H1 and H2 to compare categorical variables with continuous outcomes, while multiple regression was applied for H3. Results indicated a significant impact of education level on programme utilization, with an F-value of 11.523 and a p-value less than 0.05, confirming that education significantly influences how women engage with empowerment programmes.

Table 5: Test for the mean difference of women educational attainment and empowerment utilization

ANOVA

	Sum of Squares	Df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
Between Groups	1213.672	5	242.734	11.523	.000
Within Groups	12744.364	605	21.065		
Total	13958.036	610			

Dependent Variable: Empowerment Utilization

Although ANOVA reveals significant differences between groups, it does not specify the exact patterns of these differences. To address this, pairwise comparisons are used to determine which specific means differ and by how much. The Tukey Honestly Significant Difference (HSD) test is a common method for this type of analysis.

A post hoc Tukey's HSD Test was conducted to explore these differences further. The results showed that the mean utilization of empowerment programmes was significantly higher among women with the First School Leaving Certificate (FSLC) compared to those with the Senior Secondary Certificate Examination (SSCE), National Diploma (ND), and National Certificate in Education (NCE). The differences were statistically significant, with p-values less than 0.05. However, there was no significant difference in programme utilization between women with FSLC and those with a Bachelor's degree (B.Sc. & above).

Overall, women with FSLC had a higher mean utilization of empowerment programmes (mean difference of 3.31) compared to women with B.Sc. and above (mean difference of 2.87). Thus, the null hypothesis is rejected, indicating a significant difference in programme utilization between women with different educational levels.

Table 6: Post-hoc Test (Tukey HSD Multiple Comparisons)

(I) Educational Qualification	(J) Educational Qualification	Mean Difference (I-J)	Std. Error	P-value	95% Confidence Interval	
					LCI	UCI
FSLC	SSCE	3.31*	.54	.000	1.78	4.85
	ND	1.95*	.63	.026	.14	3.76
	NCE	2.75*	.59	.000	1.08	4.43
	B.Sc. & Above	.44	.70	.988	-1.55	2.44
	No Formal Education	2.92*	.64	.000	1.08	4.76
SSCE	FSLC	-3.31*	.54	.000	-4.85	-1.78
	ND	-1.36	.71	.396	-3.40	.68
	NCE	-.56	.67	.962	-2.48	1.36
	B.Sc. & Above	-2.87*	.77	.003	-5.08	-.66
	No Formal Education	-.39	.72	.995	-2.46	1.68
ND	FSLC	-1.95*	.63	.026	-3.76	-.14
	SSCE	1.36	.71	.396	-.68	3.40
	NCE	.80	.75	.893	-1.34	2.95
	B.Sc. & Above	-1.50	.84	.473	-3.91	.90
	No Formal Education	.97	.80	.826	-1.30	3.25
NCE	FSLC	-2.75*	.59	.000	-4.43	-1.08
	SSCE	.56	.67	.962	-1.36	2.48

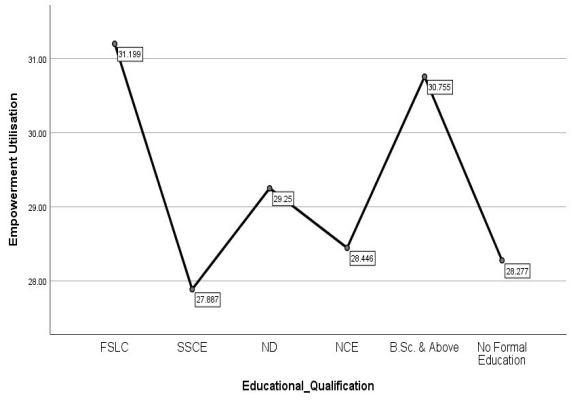
	ND	-.80	.75	.893	-2.95	1.34
	B.Sc. & Above	-2.31*	.81	.050	-4.62	-.00
	No Formal Education	.17	.76	1.00	-2.00	2.34
B.Sc. & Above	FSLC	-.44	.70	.988	-2.44	1.55
	SSCE	2.87*	.77	.003	.66	5.08
	ND	1.50	.84	.473	-.90	3.91
	NCE	2.31*	.81	.050	.00	4.62
	No Formal Education	2.48*	.85	.042	.05	4.91
No Formal Education	FSLC	-2.92*	.65	.000	-4.76	-1.09
	SSCE	.390	.72	.995	-1.68	2.46
	ND	-.97	.80	.826	-3.25	1.30
	NCE	-.17	.76	1.00	-2.34	2.00
	B.Sc. & Above	-2.48*	.85	.042	-4.91	-.05

*. The mean difference is significant at the 0.05 level.

Dependent Variable: Empowerment Utilization

To further confirm the mean difference, one-way ANOVA generated a mean plot showing the mean difference in the utilization of empowerment programmes. The mean plot shows women with FSLC having 31.199 mean closely followed by women with B.Sc. and above having 30.755 mean of empowerment utilization.

Figure 1: ANOVA Mean Plot



Dependent Variable: Empowerment Utilization

A post hoc test was conducted using the Tukey's HSD Test for multiple comparisons. The result in table 4.6 found that the mean value of empowerment utilization was significantly different between women in the age range of 18-26 compared to women within the age range of 27-35 with a P-value = 0.000 and Confidence Interval (LCI=.18, UCI=3.86), 18-26 and 36-45 (P-value = 0.001, CI (LCI=1.71, UCI= 3.89), 18-26 and 46years & above (P-value = 0.00, Confidence Interval (LCI=1.67, UCI=5.48). This suggests that women between the age ranges between 18-26years significantly utilize the empowerment programmes compared to other age ranges. We therefore reject the null hypothesis and conclude that there is a significant mean difference in the utilization of empowerment of empowerment programmes between younger women than other women. See table 9

Table 7: Tukey's HSD Multiple Comparisons Test

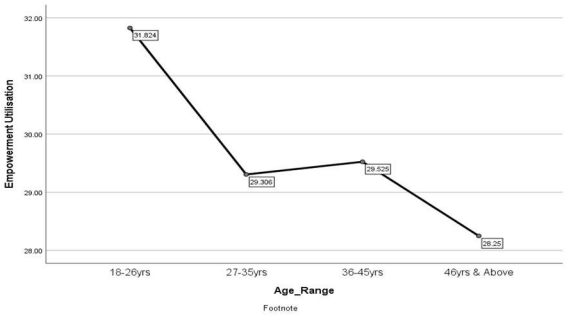
(I) Age Range	(J) Age Range	Mean Difference (I-J)	Std. Error	Sig.	95% Confidence Interval	
					LCI	UCI
18-26yrs	27-35yrs	2.52*	.52	.000	1.18	3.86
	36-45yrs	2.30*	.62	.001	.71	3.89
	46yrs & Above	3.57*	.74	.000	1.67	5.48
27-35yrs	18-26yrs	-2.52*	.52	.000	-3.86	-1.18
	36-45yrs	-0.22	.50	.972	-1.50	1.07
	46yrs & Above	1.06	.64	.353	-.60	2.71
36-45yrs	18-26yrs	-2.30*	.62	.001	-3.89	-.71
	27-35yrs	0.22	.50	.972	-1.07	1.50
	46yrs & Above	1.27	.72	.291	-.59	3.13
46yrs & Above	18-26yrs	-3.57*	.74	.000	-5.48	-1.67
	27-35yrs	-1.06	.64	.353	-2.71	.60
	36-45yrs	-1.27	.72	.291	-3.13	.59

*. The mean difference is significant at the 0.05 level.

Dependent Variable: Empowerment Utilization

To further confirm the mean difference, one-way ANOVA generated a means plot showing the means differences in the utilization of empowerment programmes. The mean plot shows women within the age range of 18-26years having 31.824 mean which is significantly different from women within the age of 36-45years having 29.525 mean of empowerment utilisation.

Figure 2: ANOVA Mean Plot



The follow-up focus group discussions confirmed that the utilization of empowerment programs has a positive impact on poverty reduction. A participant, a 38-year-old mother from Bendeghe community, shared her experience with local programs like the "Sharp Sharp" loan scheme and the "Save the Children" skills development initiative. She received a loan of one hundred thousand naira, which helped her establish a successful small business. Over ten years, this business has allowed her to support her family, educate her siblings, and improve her living conditions, underscoring the effectiveness of these programs in reducing poverty.

Regarding additional ways to enhance financial empowerment, a one-sample t-test was performed to evaluate various financing alternatives. The results showed that all suggested alternatives were significant, with government grants being the most preferred option by women in the Central Senatorial

District. Grants had the highest mean difference of 3.508, followed by low-interest loans from commercial banks with a mean difference of 3.440, indicating their significant role in empowering women financially.

Table 8: Financial Empowerment Alternatives

	T	Df	Sig.	Mean Difference	95% Confidence Interval of the Difference LCIUCI	
Women need low interest loan from commercial banks to reduce the rate of poverty	105.86	611	.000	3.440	3.375	3.503
Women need free interest loan from government banks to reduce the rate of poverty	101.62	611	.000	3.286	3.222	3.349
Women need loan from non-governmental organizations to reduce the rate of poverty	106.93	611	.000	3.387	3.325	3.450
Women need loan from co-operative societies to reduce the poverty rate	105.38	611	.000	3.315	3.254	3.377
Women need grant from the government to reduce the poverty rate	120.12	611	.000	3.508	3.451	3.566

Conclusions

Empowering women is pivotal in eradicating poverty, enhancing food security and health, increasing productivity, and reducing income and gender disparities. When women are empowered, they gain the skills and resources needed to improve their income, support their families, access quality education, pursue their goals, and positively influence their communities.

Despite the ambitious objectives of women empowerment programs and the substantial investments made, many women continue to experience severe poverty. This indicates a need to reassess and refine the approach to women empowerment. Rather than solely focusing on financial support, there should be a greater emphasis on advancing skill acquisition and fostering value re-orientation. While education is essential for women's empowerment, continual skill development—through upskilling and reskilling—is crucial for enhancing their earning potential and reducing reliance on government aid.

The findings of this study highlight that for women empowerment programs to effectively contribute to poverty alleviation, it is imperative to improve the utilization of these programs. Enhanced implementation strategies are necessary to maximize their impact.

Recommendations

Based on the findings and conclusions, the following recommendations are proposed:

i. It is crucial to provide rural women with access to affordable credit, offering convenient repayment plans. This would support their financial stability and business growth.

ii. Enhancing women's education is essential in combating poverty, as educated women are key drivers of development. Efforts should be made to improve educational opportunities for women.

iii. Expanding women's access to agricultural land can boost their production levels. Increased agricultural output will improve farm income and help reduce poverty rates among women.

iv. Encouraging lifelong skills training for women is important for their self-sufficiency. Revitalizing existing but inactive skill acquisition centers will provide women with valuable skills for economic independence.

v. Government and development partners should reconsider and refine policies related to women's empowerment. It is important to recognize that simply providing funding is not a complete solution for increasing women's participation in entrepreneurship and productive investments.

vi. It is essential to address nepotism and political influences, which hinder the effectiveness of women's empowerment programs. Ensuring fair and transparent processes will enhance the impact of these initiatives.

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GENDER DISCRIMINATION AND WOMEN EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES IN CALABAR, CROSS RIVER STATE

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ABSTRACT
This study was carried out to examine gender discrimination and women employment opportunities in Calabar, Cross River State. The specific objectives of the study were to: examine the relationship between educational status and women's employment opportunities in Calabar, Cross River State; access the relationship between age and women's employment opportunities in Calabar, Cross River State, and identify the relationship between marital status and women's employment opportunities in Calabar, Cross River State. Relevant literature were reviewed in line with the topic under study. The structural functionalism and feminist perspective formed the theoretical framework for this study. The study adopted survey research design where research questionnaire was used as the main instrument of data collection. The questionnaire was designed in closed ended questions and administered to the respondents. 400 questionnaires were administered and retrieved for analysis. Simple random and purposive sampling techniques were used to sample respondents for the study. Chi-square statistical tool was used to analyze hypotheses at 0.05 level of significance. After the analysis of data, the null hypotheses were rejected. The findings revealed that; there is a significant relationship between female genital mutilation and psychological development of the girl child, there is a significant relationship between educational status, age, marital status and women's employment opportunities in Calabar. Based on the findings of the study, it was recommended amongst others that: Government should provide equal opportunities in education and also within the workforce which will accelerate a woman's career. The significance of equality should start from the classroom by teaching children that gender discrimination is not right. If girls are offered equal opportunities both academically and, in their careers, they will grow up to enter the workplace assured that their talents and abilities will not be overlooked.

Introduction

Gender discrimination in society is a stigma that has generated a lot of interest and literature for decades now. According to Husu (2017), gender discrimination is a type of disequilibrium that is based on gender of the individual. Usually women are treated differently and unequally to men, especially in their careers and economic pursuits, which results in naivety associated with low esteem and loss of confidence in societal astute. The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, Article 5 on Gender Equality states, "Gender equality is not only a fundamental human right, but a necessary foundation for a peaceful and sustainable world". The magnitude to which this occurs varies from country to country and cuts across the social strata (Eke, 2017 cited in Nnana, Okafor& Lilian, 2024).

According to Kitch (2015), "throughout history, women have faced intense discrimination from lack of legal rights and very little independence from their husbands to being thought to have inferior brains". While people are born either male or female, they acquire some traits including how they interact with the opposite sex within households, communities, schools and workplaces. Women are always at the receiving end as they are oppressed and marginalized. They are regarded as subordinates to men. Egarami (2019) noted that females constitute over 50 percent of the world in terms of population. Inspite of this number, women are at a disadvantaged side and enjoy veryfew privileges and rights relative to men. These poor global records of women's status are worst in the continent of Africa. In Nigeria, the situation is not different, as the discrimination of women in favour of men can be traced right to the period of colonialism. In Nigeria, women were deprived of any official input into governance, as against what was operated in the pre-colonial era. Women were disenfranchised and deprived from governance, which they were a part of before the advent of colonialism. Colonialism, in effect denied women access to a level playing field as it transferred to Nigeria the gender discrimination that was the norm in the Western world then. It also imposed on a society, which had created a certain amount of space for women, a situation of non-involvement and the ability of women to complement the efforts of the men in the society.

The workplace has sometimes been referred to as an inhospitable place for women due to the multiple forms of gender discrimination present (Abrams, 2019 cited in Nnana,Tangban, Willie & Rita 2023). Some examples of how workplace discrimination negatively affects women's earnings and opportunities are the gender wage gap, e.g. the dearth of women in leadership (Eagly and Carli, 2017), and the longer time required for women (vs. men) to advance in their careers (Blau and DeVaro, 2017). In other words, gender discrimination contributes to women's lower socio-economic status. Importantly, such discrimination against women largely can be attributed to human resources (HR) policies and HR-related decision-making. Furthermore, when employees interact with organizational decision makers during HR practices, or when they are told the outcomes of HR-related decisions, they mayexperience personal discrimination in the form of sexist comments. Both the objective disadvantages of lower pay, status, and opportunities at work, and the subjective experiences of being stigmatized, affect women's psychological and physical stress, mental and physical health, job satisfaction and organizational commitment, and ultimately, their performance (Borrel et al., 2018).

Gender discrimination in Nigerian society can be divided into two categories: explicit and implicit discriminations. Explicit conscious discrimination refers to individuals' awareness of their prejudices in the form of their thoughts, feelings, and attitudes, which can be translated into physical, verbal, and psychological harassment or through exclusionary practices. Implicit discrimination is more subtle as one may not be aware of their own prejudices and can be in contradiction with their beliefs and value system. As such, implicit discrimination can seep through one's action and behavior without the person realizing it (Cohen & Huffman, 2013 cited in Nnana, Eno-obong, Anyang, Cecilia & Beauty, 2023). This may affect the assessment, decision-making, and relationship between the superior and subordinates in the employment process.

One of the basic rights women have is not to be discriminated against in the workforce. Unfortunately, however, reality does not always comply with the law and even in Nigeria, women

continue to be discriminated against in manifold ways, especially in the civil service. The first problem which women encounter is a lack of access to the labour market. The main reason for all these problems is discrimination against women. Thecivil service employment rate of women is lower and their unemployment rate higher than that of men - although there are strong regional variations. In general, far more women than men work in part-time jobs (not only of their own choosing) and many women are overqualified for the work they do (Egarami, 2019 cited in Nnana, Ugal, Omini&Nsan, 2024). In addition, many women are what the International Labour Organization (ILO) calls "discouraged" workers: workers who are not included in the unemployment statistics of their country because they do not actively seek work although they do want to work because they feel that no work is available to them or they face discrimination or structural, social or cultural barriers. In most cases, women pay a gender penalty as actual or potential mothers. Many employers wrongly fear the cost and hassle motherhood may entail. Some fear the low educational status of most women, and to some point their income level. In fact, according to recent ILO research, the additional cost of hiring a woman is less than 1% of the monthly gross earnings of women employees. But women are not only discriminated against for economic reasons - they are mainly discriminated against because of stereotyping and misguided preconceptions of women's roles and abilities, commitment and leadership style (Abrams, 2019). Nigeria in her commitment to gender equality enshrined the principal of non-discrimination in section 2 of the 1999 constitution of the federal republic of Nigeria. Despite her commitment to the principle of non-discrimination, the country falls short of desired result of giving male and females' equal opportunities to advance socially, educationally, politically and economically. Arising from the above, the research finding aims to examine the impactof gender discrimination on women employment opportunity in Calabar, Cross River State, Nigeria.

Statement of the Problem

Gender discrimination is a complex phenomenon that can be seen in organizational structures, processes, and practices. For women, some of the most harmful gender discriminations are enacted within human resources practices. This is because human resources practices (i.e., policies, decision-making, and their enactment) affect the hiring, training, pay, and promotion of women. Nigeria has a long patriarchal structure directly restricts women's availability for wage work and indirectly condition the term of employment for those who enter civil service (Robert, 2016). This patriarchal nature of relationship between men and women in the society was substantiated and justified by men quoting some verses from the Holy Bible that Eve was extracted from Adams' rib as proof of men superiority over women. This was used in most occasions with some sort of links with other cultural factors to make the women in the society to accept their position as divine providence (Robert, 2016 cited in Nnana, Ojiho, Nsan & Onen, 2024). It was further observed that women in the civil service are characterized by limited and insecure employment opportunities and marked substandard wages, poor working condition, unstable hours and disadvantageous employment contracts. Women are predominantly employed in low wage jobs or extremely small-scale ventures which shunt them into segregated reputation and repetitions of manual production.

Gender discrimination is the inclination to favour a candidate due to gender prejudice. It is a huge issue in employment processes especially in Calabar, Cross River State and can sadly affect all stages of the recruitment process. Historically, employment for corporate positions has been notoriously male favoured. In most government parastatals in Calabar, it is evident that when presented with equal-performing candidates, men were 1.5 times more likely to be employed than women. In the same study, it was discovered that women are more likely than men to be asked about children and childcare responsibilities. In most cases, women pay a gender penalty as actual or potential mothers. Many employers wrongly fear the cost and hassle motherhood may entail. Furthermore, the additional cost of employing a woman is less than 1% of the monthly gross earnings of women employees. But women are not only discriminated against for economic reasons - they are mainly discriminated against because of stereotyping and misguided preconceptions of women's roles and abilities, commitment and leadership style. A lack of diversity within an employing team means employers share similar personality traits or backgrounds which can lead to coinciding viewpoints. This means that women are likely to all agree on what makes the 'perfect hire' and will share similar visions when assessing job applications. Similarity bias means

employing someone similar to yourself. Humans have a tendency to like being surrounded by people who think just like them. In employment, this means if the hiring team is predominately made up of males it's likely they will unconsciously favour a male candidate over a female. However, this leads to an echo chamber in hiring decisions that contribute to gender bias that overlooks the opportunity to employ high-quality talent in the civil service.

Despite some progress made over the last few decades in increasing women's labour force participation and narrowing gender gaps in wages, gender discrimination and women employment opportunity still remains an elusive goal. While millions of women have become successful entrepreneurs, women are still grossly underrepresented. In particular, women continue to form a large majority of the working poor, earn less income, and are more often affected by long-term unemployment than men. This is due to women's socio-economic disadvantages caused by gender-based discrimination and their double roles of being a worker and a care taker for the society. Women often have less access to productive resources, education, and skills development and labour market opportunities than men in many societies. Largely, this is because of persistent social norms ascribing gender roles, which are often slow to change. Furthermore, women continue to undertake most of unpaid carework, which has become an increasing challenge in their efforts to engage in productive work, both in subsistence agriculture and market economy.

It has been stressed over time and space, and within the historical conjectures of the Cross River State Civil Service that female gender had suffered untold subordination and discrimination. While in an ideal setting, the state supposed to guarantee the protection of female gender and accord them equal right and opportunities with the malecounterparts, such an ideal condition rarely exists in human societies, especially in aspect of crucial and sustainable participation in policy making, strategic plan and implementation. According to a report by on "staff screening and verification of local government Areas, 2015" in Cross River State, out of two thousand two hundred and twenty-three (2,223) civil servants at the local government area, the male gender constituted about 65% of the total population of civil servants in the workforce. Suffice it is to note that the determinants of gender discrimination to some extent are culture, religion, educational, marital and income level, which combine to shape gender imbalance in any society or region of the world. The central agony in the discrimination is the orchestration or uplift of men over women in the society, which glorifies one as superior and another as inferior; hence, the quest for a study of this sort. '

Literature Review

Gender discrimination is unequal or disadvantageous treatment of an individual or group of individuals based on gender. Abas (2019) defined gender discrimination as treating an individual differently based upon his/her gender in academia or extracurricular activities, academic programs, discipline, class assignments given in a classroom, class enrolment, physical education, grading, and/or athletics. According to Bernama (2017), gender discrimination refers to any situation where a person is denied an opportunity or misjudged solely on the basis of their sex. Gender discrimination is any unequal treatment based on gender and may also be referred to as sexism. Gender discrimination occurs when a person shows a prejudice towards another that would 'not occur had they been the opposite sex.

On the other hand, Kadiresan, et al, (2015), sees gender discrimination as any unequal treatment, including privilege and priority, on the basis of gender. Gender -equality is discrimination on the basis of sex or gender causing one sex or gender to be untimely privileged or prioritized over another. Lim (2019), noted that Gender equality 3 a fundamental human right and that right is violated by gender based discrimination. Gender disparity starts in childhood and are right now limiting the lifelong potential of children around the world - disproportionately affecting girls. Abd-Mutalib, et al.,2018), noted that discrimination based on gender (or sex) is a common civil rights violation that takes many forms, including sexual harassment, pregnancy discrimination, and unequal pay for women who do the same jobs as men. Gender discrimination is fueled by sexism, which is prejudice based on sex or gender. In most countries, sexism devalues women and femininity and privileges men and masculinity. Because gender relates to how someone feels, rather than their biological characteristics, anyone who identifies with a gender that their society deems less valuable can experience gender discrimination. This includes trans and other gender-expansive people (Abd-Mutalib, Yahya &Shaari, 2018). They further

described gender discrimination to include the follows:

Workplace gender discrimination: Gender discrimination in the workplace is a widely written issue in the literature. However, there are many strands to it. Scholars have been writing about gender discrimination from an economic perspective (i.e., Oster, 1975), a sociological perspective (i.e., Bielby& Baron, 2013; Cohen & Huffman, 2016; Charles, 2017), and a law and governance perspective (MercatBruns, 2016). Based on the literature, gender discrimination at work, can refer to labor market discrimination, gender-based wage discrimination, or even sexual harassment at the workplace. This issue is not unique to Malaysia as research has been done in other parts of the world. Bielby and Baron (2013), for example, used data from 290 economic establishments in California from the years 1964 to 1979 to test whether different gender traits and turnover costs arethe reasons for gender segregation within mixed occupations. It was found that gender discrimination does exist in the workplace, especially among men and women who hold the same occupation but work in different establishments or have different job titles within the same organization. However, there are no efficient or rational differences in skills and turnover costs. Charles (2017) argued that employer-based discrimination against women is unstable. Nevertheless, discrimination in the workplace is ongoing and prevalent because of employee discrimination. In other words, employers segregate workers based on gender due to discriminatory attitudes held by male employees. It was discovered that by minimizing women in the workplace, employers could maximize male workers' productivity. This finding-is similar to findings by Fusch, et al., (2015). From observations made within the United States army,' it was concluded that sexual harassment happened because men felt threatened by women's presence in the barracks. In a cross-national survey, Charles (2017) found that while the gender gap in institutions such as education and the labor market has indeed narrowed, the trajectory differs between vertical (hierarchical) and horizontal (inter-occupation) discrimination. Developed countries have more women in managerial positions, which is following modernization theory. However, there is still gender segregation across different occupations. Based on neo-institutionalism, Charles (2017) argued that the state plays a vital role in addressing gender discrimination in the workplace. Since some states are more conservative (North African countries) than others (Scandinavian countries), females still find themselves working in different occupations than males, despite

Educational status and women's employment opportunities: Tallburi (2015) defines education as "instrument per-excellence for effective national development as well as a dynamic instrument of change; it is also the basis for the improvements of status of women", hence educating a man means educating a man and educating a woman means educating a generation. Moreover, when education is provided to women they act as "a Home minister, Health minister, Finance minister and Defense minister in the house", therefore education intelligibly changes the girls and women's lives for better since education reduces poverty, assists to create the role models in the communities, and provides great employment opportunities and most importantly cultivating leaders (Talburi, 2015). Employment can be defined as the state or condition to have paid work. Sen (2019), argue that by the help of employment many other income generating activities and events women's economic position improves & strengthens women's status within the family and society. Through the deep study of literature, it is found that there is list of barriers which have created hurdles and will definitely create in the future to women's employment opportunities. Education builds strong societies, is a "widely accepted humanitarian obligation" and an internationally mandated human right (van Hooff, Jenny, 2018). Receiving a quality education uneducated population has a direct effect on the labor market and country's ability to shift from an agrarian to industrial economy. However, a stagnant labor market, particularly for women, directly impacts country's poverty. Today, people lacking with higher education skills face ahigher risk of poverty and poor employment options which in turn, contribute to social and economic inequality and marginalization in (UNESCO, 2010)

Kadiresan and Javed (2015) while studying the Effect of Female Education onFamily Size in Pakistan in Quetta City state that the value of women's education hasalways been accepted throughout the world, since it improves women earning abilityand also empowers them in taking decisions about family size, and household

decisions,have freedom to choose husband and increase opportunities for working in distinctposition in the country. A women who is educated delay marriages, can use methods offamily planning, tends to having small family, undergoes in motherhood late whichresults in population reduction that helps the families to control expenses, attains betterhealth, gets education facilities which decreases child labor in the third World country such as Pakistan. Women's education is observed as a prominent tool for the women'semployment (Robert, 2012 cited in Omini&Ofem, 2023). Participation in the civil service is an effective strategy forstrengthening the empowerment of women and her bargaining power both within andoutside the home (Agarwal, 2014). In addition, Sen (2019) claim that by employmentand income-generating activities, economic position of women improves which thenleads to a well treatment she received from her household.

According to OECD's 2017 "The Pursuit of Gender Equality: An Uphill Battle", it showed that despite decades of progress, women are still much less likely than men to engage in paid work and, when they do work, are less likely to progress in their careers or become business owners, more likely to work shorter hours, and end up stuck inprecarious, low-status jobs. Women with low levels of education suffer a double disadvantage. Gender discrimination in the civil service exist across all levels of education, but tend to be widest among men and women with low levels of education. On average across OECD countries, the gender employment gap among men and women with low educational attainment stands at 19.5 percentage points, more than double the gap among highly-educated men and women (8.5 percentage points). This pattern holds across almost all OECD countries, though there are exceptions. For example, in Korea, where highly educated women's options to return to well-paid regular employment after a period out of the workforce to provide care to young children or dependent relatives are limited. Rather than taking up low-paid non-regular employment, many well-educated Korean women do not return to the labour force if they can afford to do so. Education correlates with wages, and less-educated women generally earn less than both highly-educated women and less-educated men. Childcare' fees further reduce the attractiveness of labour force participation, and for many less-educated women with low wages it does not always pay (or pay much) to be in work.

Friedman and Jennifer (2014) suggests that fewer opportunities within the labor market may, in fact, contribute to women's unequal treatment will causes parents to have lower aspirations for daughters. It also reinforces the idea that women have less need for services such as higher education if there is no place for them outside home. In many world societies, traditional patriarchy influencing the way in which both men and womenpositions of authority and power, many resources and opportunities are automatically given to them e.g. decisions related to financial and family matters, on and employment etc. (Eke, 2017). Though, women are becoming more prominent, yet they are increasingly fighting long-standing prejudices.

Age and women's employment opportunities: It is undeniable that several forms of discrimination exist in the labour market despite extant national and international laws. In Nigeria, factors like ethnicity, religion, gender, marital status, disability and age and are major prejudices that influence employment even when the educational and professional requirements are excellent. Among the several prejudices that affect the chances of employment, ageism-is one that has become widespread and almost accepted as a norm. Ageism is a significant issue affecting employment opportunities in Nigeria, particularly for older workers. It is also a societal problem that is deeply entrenched in Nigeria. The concept "Ageism" is seen as the stereotyping, prejudice or discrimination based on a person's age. It is a vicious cycle that stifles innovation, restricts social progress and denies employers the full right of their workforce (Husu, 2017). Many women (both the aged and youth) in Nigeria, have faced discrimination in one way or the other in the labour marketas a result of their age. The effects of ageism on Nigerian employment manifest in two ways. It is important to state that; ageism does not affect the aged ones only, but also affects the youths. Therefore,the first is how ageism affects the aged group of women and the second is how young women are marginalized.

According to Onabekum (2021), one of the key ways that ageism affects women's employment opportunities is through mandatory retirement ages. Employers often have predetermined retirement ages, which tend to be between 60 and 65 years old. This can mean that older workers are forced into retirement before they are ready, thereby creating financial and

employment uncertainty for women. Many retirees in Nigeria are challenged to make ends meet because they are cut off from their primary source of monetary support, especially women who were not married, which often results in poverty for them. Moreover, ageism limits employment opportunities for women too. Employers frequently view older,, female workers as being less productive or technologically incompetent than younger workers. Some employers assume that older women are not set in their ways, are inflexible, and are unlikely to adapt to changing job requirements. As a result, they lose the opportunity to fully utilize the years of knowledge, experience and skill that younger workers bring to the workplace. In turn, older workers are unable to leverage their contributions to society in ways that can improve the Nigerian economy (Onabekum, 2021).

Ho (2020) on the other hand buttressed that there are several other ways that ageism manifests in Nigerian workplaces. One of them is the fear that older workers will outlast their younger colleagues, who are more likely to adapt to technological changes. Meanwhile, the total number of unemployed females stood at 10.61 million (35.2%) relative to 12.58 million unemployed males (31.8). This shows that more females in the working population in Nigeria are either unable or unwilling to work as at the reference period (NBS, 2021).

Marital status and women's employment opportunities: Around the world, finding a job is much tougher for women than it is for men. When women are employed, they tend to work in low-quality jobs in vulnerable conditions, and there is little improvement forecast in the near future. The current global labour force participation rate for women is just under 47%. For men, it's 72%. (ILO, 2017). That's a difference of 25 percentage points, with some regions facing a gap of more than 50 percentage points. Women who want to work have a harder time finding a job than men. This problem is particularly marked in Northern Africa and the Arab States, where unemployment rates for women exceed 20%. While vulnerable employment is widespread for both women andmen, women tend to be overrepresented in certain types of Vulnerable jobs: men are more likely to be working in own-account employment while women are more likely to be helping out in their households or in their relatives' businesses. Gender roles and the pressures to conform to these roles for women vary across regions, religions and households. One way the. pressure to conform manifests itself is through marital status. For instance, in developed and emerging economies, women who have a spouse or a partner are less likely to berates between women and men in developed countries are relatively small. Women even register lower unemployment rates than men in Eastern Europe and North America. Conversely, in regions such as the Arab States and Northern Africa, - female unemployment rates are still twice as large as men's, with prevailing social norms continuing to obstruct women's participation in paid employment. Another example of these differences is that the gap in employment participation rates between men and women is narrowing in developing and developed countries while it continues to widen in emerging countries. However, this may be a reflection of the fact that a growing number of young women in these countries have joined formal education, which delays their entry to the labour market.

Theoretical Framework

(i) Structural Functionalism

The major proponent of this theory is Talcott Parsons (1951). Structuralfunctionalism or simply functionalism attributes to social systems is the characteristics of commitments, agreements, cohesion, consensus, solidarity, integration, persistence, cooperation, reciprocity, and stability. Structural functionalism has implication to the present study since the functionalist theory attributes to social system where women are part and parcel of. Their participation in development projects especially at the rural level contribute positively to the operation or functioning of the system as a whole.

Each society has certain needs in that there are a number of activities that must be carried out for social life to survive and develop. Goods and services must be produced and attributed in order for people to survive, there must be some administration of justice, a political system must exist, andsome family structure must operate so as to provide a means to reproduce the population and maintain social life on a daily basis. In the structural functional model, individuals carry out each of these tasks in various institutions and roles that are consistent with the structures and norms of the society. The functionalist sees any specific social factor,

occurrence or change as necessary to the survival of the system on the principle of functional interaction (Ottong, 2006).

Since society is composed of different parts, and the proper operation of these part is necessary to the smooth operation of society as a whole, this theory is relevant in that women participation in rural development is essential. In relation to' this theory, women essentially are agents of change where they play key roles in running households and make major contributions both at home and the society at large. As posit by the functionalist, "change in any part of the structure could affect the other". Thus, this theory is essential in placing women as part and parcel of the employment beneficiaries in the civil service structure of Cross River State.

(ii) The feminist perspective

This theory was propounded by Margaret Sanger (1966). In sociology, social stratification occurs when differences lead to greater status, power or privilege for some groups over others. Simply put, it is a system by which society ranks categories of people like the women in a low hierarchy status. Members of society are socially stratified to many levels, including socioeconomic status, race, class, ethnicity, religion, ability status and gender. Gender stratification occurs when gender differences gives man greater privilege and in turn they use it to discriminate women as a result of their socioeconomic status. Feminist theory is the extension or feminism into theoretical or philosophical discourse. It aims to understand the nature of gender inequality and discrimination, and examines women's social role, experiences, and interest, while generally providing a critique of social relations, much of feminist theory also focus on analysing gender inequality and the promotion of women's right to high socioeconomic status and as well to fight against gender discrimination amongst women. The salient conceptual explanation of feminist theory to the present study is that, feminist theory seeks to promote the legal socio-economic status of women as equal and undifferentiated from that of men in order to develop the required capacity to fight against gender discrimination to any level as ascertained by Mary Wollstonecraft (1792).

Feminist theory thus also uses the conflict approach to examine the reinforcement of gender roles and equalities. Conflict theory posits that stratification is dysfunctional and harmful in society, with inequality and discrimination perpetrated because it benefits the men/powerful and rich at the expense of women/the poor. Therefore, various discrimination do not act independently on women but as a result of men high level of their socioeconomic status that gives them the edge to oppress the women in all ramification and this theory attempt to look for alternative of arresting the problem of gender discrimination to the apex.

Methodology

A research design is a structural framework for conducting research. Its methods are essential part of the research because they determine to a large extent which analyse the outcome to expect from the study. When a design is badly done, it could lead to margin error in the result generated (Levin, 2015). This study employed a cross sectional design to assess gender discrimination and women employment opportunities in Calabar, Cross River State, Nigeria. Furthermore, a cross-section design is a study that is conducted within a short period of time. This method will assist the researcher to study the characteristics of interest (experiences and perception of people about socioeconomic factors and gender discrimination) at a particular point in time.

The area of study is Calabar Metropolis in Cross River State. Calabar metropolis comprises of Calabar Municipal and Calabar South Local Government Areas. Calabar Metropolis is the capital city of Cross River state, Nigeria. The city is adjacent to the Calabar and great Kwa rivers and creeks of the cross river (from its hinterland). Calabar is often described as the tourism capital of Nigeria. Administratively, the city is divided into Calabar municipal and Calabar south local Government Areas. It has an area of 406 square kilometres (157sq ml). The population of Calabar South is 191,515, while that of Calabar Municipality is 183,681 (Nigeria Bureau of Statistics, 2023).

Calabar metropolis is characterized by two distinct seasons - the rainy season and the dry season. During the rainy season, Calabar metropolis is characterized by very high rainfalls coupled with a relatively low temperature ranging between 25°C and 31°C. However, during the dry seasons the temperature increased to about 31 °C and 35°C with very little amount of rainfall. Also, between the months of December and early February, the area

experiences average cold weather, known as 'the Harmattan period'. The people of Calabar metropolis have a rich cultural heritage and are famous for display of Ekpe Masquerade, as well as other tradition events like the Abang Dance (Ekombi), Nnabo, etc. Prominent among the annual festivals celebrated in the area is the Christmas festival which comes up every 25th of December. The main occupation of the people is fishing, however majority of the people are now into business and civil service. The people communicate in the Efik language as well as the English language and Pidgin English.

The population of the study consisted of parents, guardians and children from different communities in Calabar Metropolis. According to the Nigeria Bureau of Statistics (NBS, 2023), the population of Calabar South is 191,515, while that of Calabar Municipality is 183,681. These figures constitute the population of the study. Calabar Municipality is made up of eleven political wards, while Calabar South comprises of 12 political wards (Wikipedia.com, 2021). The total population of Calabar Metropolis is 375,196 (NBS, 2023).To achieve the sample size for this study, the Taro Yamane (1967) formula for calculating sample size was adopted. This is a simplified formula for calculating sample size at 95 percent confidence level. This is expressed as;

$$n = \frac{N}{1 + N(e)^2}$$

n = Sample size

N = Population size

e = Tolerable error (level of significance) = 0.05

1 = Constant Substituting for the formula:

$$n = \frac{375,196}{1 + 375,196\ (0.05)^2}$$

$$n = \frac{375,196}{1 + 375,196\ (0.0025)}$$

$$n = \frac{375,196}{1 + 937.99}$$

$$n = \frac{375,196}{938.99}$$

n = 399.5

n = 400

Thus, the sample size for the study comprised of 400 respondents.

This study adopted the simple random and purposive sampling technique.

The main instrument for data collection in this study was the questionnaire. Tables and simple percentage were used to present the data, while the chi-square statistical tool was used to test the significance of the stated hypotheses at 0.05 level of significance. Chi-square (x^2) formula is represented as;

$$X^2 = \frac{(O - E)^2}{E}$$

Where:

X^2 = Chi square

Z = Summation

O = Observed frequency

E = Expected frequency

Findings

This aspect of the study is concerned with the presentation of data gotten from

the field. Simple percentage was used to present the demographic data and chi-square statistical tool for the hypotheses.

Table 1: demographic data of respondents

Sex	Frequency	Percentage %
Males	211	53
Females	189	47
Total	400	100
Age Group		
15-20	87	22
21 -26	150	38
27-32	106	27
33-38	34	9
39 and above	23	6
Total	400	100
Occupation		
Trader	34	9
Student	220	55
Civil servant	42	10.5
Fishermen	8	2
Others	96	24
Total	400	100
Marital Status		
Single	290	73
Married	68	17
Divorced	25	6
Widow	15	4
Widower	2	0.5
Total	400	100
Educational qualification		
Primary	64	16

Secondary	. 130	33
Tertiary	206	52
Total	400	100

Source: Field Survey, (2024)

The table above shows that out of 400 respondents, 211 (53%) were males while 189 (47%) were females. Thus, the male respondents dominated the study populations. The table also shows that out of 400 respondents, 87(22%) respondents are 15 - 20 years, 150 (38%) respondents are 21 - 26 years,106 (27%) respondents are 27 - 32 years, 34 (9%) respondents are 33-38 years, 23 (6%) respondents are 39 years and above. The age group of 21-26 was more in the study due to the fact that they were more available in the course of the study.

The table above indicated that out of 400 respondents, 34 (9%) are traders, 220 (55%) are students, 42 (10.5%) are civil servants, 8 (2%) are fishermen while 96 (24%) fall under other occupation. This indicated that students were more in the study.

The table above shows that out of 400 respondents, 290 (73%) were single, 68 (17%) were married, 25 (6%) were divorced, .15 (4 %) were widows while 2 (0.5%) were widowers. Single and married persons are more in the study as a result of their direct experience of poverty in the study area. The table above shows that out of 400 respondents, 64 (16%) have primary education, 130 (33%) had secondary education while 206 (52%) had tertiary education. Respondents who were in had tertiary education were more in the study in that they are well exposed to the subject under study.

Table 2: Respondents view to question 8 on the questionnaire under hypothesis one

Response	No. of respondents	Percentage %
Yes	234	59
No	156	39
No idea	10	2.5
Total	400	100

Source: Field Survey, (2024)

The table above shows that the view of respondents whether poverty can be reduced if employmentopportunities are provided. Out of 400 respondents, 234 (59%) agreed to the question, 156 (36%) disagree, while 10 (2.5%) indicated that they have no knowledge about the question.

Table 3: Respondents view to question 14 on the questionnaire under hypothesis two

Response	**No. of respondents**	**Percentage %**
Yes	201	50
No	185	41
No idea	34	9
Total	400	100

Source: Field Survey, (2024)

Test of Hypotheses:

In the course of this study some hypotheses were formulated. These hypotheses

were tested so as to accept or reject them. The hypotheses shall be tested using the chi-square (X2) statistical analysis.

Hypothesis One

H0: The is no significant relationship between women's educational status and their employment opportunities in Calabar, Cross River State.

To test this hypothesis, the chi-square statistical tool was used at 0.05 level of significance

Contigency Table

Cell	0	e	o-e	$(o-e)^2$	$(0 - e)^2$ **e**
1	107	45.27	0.27	0.0729	1.6
2	70	51.73	0.27	0.0729	1/4
3	75	14.93	2.07	4.2849	1.3
4	69	17.07	2.07	4.2849	1.3
5	56	9.8	1.8	3.24	0.3
6	32	11.2	1.8	3.24	0.3
					$X^{2=}$ 6.2

Therefore $X^2 = 6.2$

Degree of freedom

(Df)-

(C-l)(r-l)

(3-1) (2-1)

2x1=2

Df=2

Table value = 5.99

4.2 < 5.99.

Decision Rule

Accept null hypothesis if X^2 calculated value is less than the table value otherwise accept the alternate hypothesis. The measure of difference between the observed and expected frequencies is given by the. The calculated value x^2 is 6.2 and the table value is 5.99 at 0.05 level of significance with 2 degree of freedom. Since the calculated x^2 is greater than the table value and bearing in mind our decision rule, we reject the null hypothesisand accept the alternate hypothesis, stating that there is a significant relationship between women's educational status and their employment opportunities in Calabar.

Hypothesis Two

H0: The is no significant relationship between women's age and their employment opportunities in Calabar, Cross River State.

To test this hypothesis, the chi-square statistical tool was used at 0.05 level of significance

(c-1) (r-1)

(3-1) (2-1)

2X1=2

Df=2

Cell	0	e	(o-e)	(o-e)2	(0 - e)2 e
1	98	53.67	1.33	1.7689	2.03
2	87	61.33	1.33	1.7689	0.03
3	64	9.8	1.8	3.24	1.033'
4	71	11.2	1.8	3.24	1.03
5	63	6.5	0.5	0.22	1.04
6	17	7.47	0.5	0.25	1.03
					X^2 = 0.76

ThereforeX^2=0.76

Table value = 5.99

Level of significance = 0.05

0.76 < 5.99

Decision Rule

Accept null hypothesis if chi-square,calculated value is less than the table value at 0.05 level of significance, otherwise accept the alternate hypothesis. The measure of difference between the observed and expected frequencies is given by the formula. The calculation shows that the X^2 calculated value is 6.193 and is greater than the table value of 5.99 at 0.05 level of significance. Since the X^2 calculated value is greater than the table value, we accept the alternative hypothesis and thus reject the null hypothesis.

Discussion of findings

From the analysis of hypothesis one, it was revealed that there is a significant relationship between women's educational status and their employment opportunities in Calabar, Cross River State. To further buttress this hypothesis finding, OECD report (2017) showed that education correlates with wages, and less-educated women generally earn less than both highly-educated women and less-educated men. Childcare fees further reduce the attractiveness of labour force, participation, and for many less-educatedwomen with low wages it does not always pay (or pay much) to be in work. On average across OECD countries, the gender employment gap among men and women with low educational attainment stands at 19.5 percentage points, more than double the gap among highly-educated men andwomen (8.5 percentage points). This pattern holds across almost all OECD countries, though there are exceptions. Cohen & Huffman (2016) on the other hand also supported that education builds strong societies, is a "widely accepted humanitarian obligation" and an internationally mandated human right. Receiving a quality education is more than a human rights issue; an uneducated population has a direct effect on the labor market and country's ability to shift from an agrarian to industrial economy. However, a stagnant labor market, particularly for women, directly impacts country's development and put family institution at the verge of poverty.

Hypothesis two testing revealed a significant relationship between women's age and their employment opportunities in Calabar. This is in accordance to the assertion of Darlington (2022) that the distributing women in the working

population by their age groups, women within the age bracket of 15-24 years were the largest, accounting for 30% (18.48 million) of the total women in the working population. Women within 25-34 years followed closely with about 17.98 million being in the working population, while 12.79 million women in the working population were within the age bracket of 35-44 years. The numbers however started to drop significantly in the older age ranges as only 7.94 million women in the working population were between 45-54 years of age.Similarly, women in the working population between 55-64 years stood at 4.43 million as of Q4 2020.

Conclusion

Gender differences between men and women have been given historically as the basis for discrimination against women. Gender discrimination turns the job seekers and employees' emotionally brittle, simple peace loving people transform into paranoid and suspicious, fearful and angry individuals. Elimination of gender discrimination is crucial for the satisfaction and motivation, commitment and enthusiasm and for protecting the constitutional rights of the women. Discrimination in employment must be discouraged through the enactment of various legislations and by effective and efficient enforcement mechanisms. The fundamental human rights enshrined by the constitution will only be of utmost advantage to humanity when the main source of sustainability which is employment has not been hindered. Time has come for Nigerian as a nation to reinforceits fight against discrimination in work places to adopt and implement policies that will totally eradicate it. This can only be achieved with the involvement of the human right organizations, labour organizations, social workers and other non-governmental organisations who should also take it as a challenge. Legal services should be free and available to those who cannot afford one in order to help people in the society seek legal redress. By allowing employment discrimination to continue existing in the society the end result is an increase in poverty, inequality, disutility and other impacts which are legion.

Recommendations

Based on the findings of the study, the following recommendations are made:

i. Government should provide equal opportunities in education and also within the workforce which will accelerate a woman's career. The significance of equality should start from the classroom by teaching children that gender discrimination is not right. If girls are offered equal opportunities both academically and in their careers, they will grow up to enter the workplace assured that their talents and abilities will not be overlooked.

ii. Organizations, firms and company should create a flexible environment for women to contribute effectively at work while having time for the family, irrespective of their age variation.

iii. The government should create a full and decent productive employment opportunities for both single and married women, and access to finance, as well as provision of social protection.

iv. States should employ more social workers in administrative panels in employment legislations to investigate reports of discrimination against women in the public service, punish and provide redress to women who are subjected to discrimination in employment.

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MIGRATION IN WEST AFRICA: AN ANALYSIS OF PULL AND PUSH FACTORS

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KEYWORDS
Net Migration, Wage Rate, Unemployment, Fixed Effects, Policy

ABSTRACT
The purpose of this paper is to analyze the factors that influence net migration in West Africa. Panel data on variables like net migration, wage rate, and unemployment in four selected West African countries (Nigeria, Ghana, Sierra Leonne and Senegal), spanning a period of twenty-five years (1997-2021) were collected from secondary sources like the World Bank, and analyzed using the fixed effects model with cluster- robust standard errors. The results of the study revealed that GDP per capita has a negative but non-significant effect on net migration ($p > 0.05$). Wage rate has a positive but non-significant effect on net migration ($p > 0.05$). The effect of unemployment on net migration is negative and statistically significant ($p < 0.05$). The study recommends that the government and policy makers should create more jobs and also increase wages in other to discourage emigration and to attract human capital into the affected countries, thereby increasing net migration. The work is original because unlike most studies that were country-specific, this study made use of panel data collected on four African countries (Nigeria, Ghana, Sierra-Leone and Senegal). The study also employed the fixed effects model with cluster robust standard errors.

Introduction

Migration has become a very important subject of discussion in recent times. Ita (2020) noted that emigration is still a significant issue in West African countries. The movement of people within the West African sub-region is a long-standing phenomenon that primarily occurs within the region. More than seventy percent (70%) of migrants thought to be from the sub region are officially recognized as residents of other West African nations (UNDESA, 2018). West African countries have been experiencing the issue of both regular and irregular emigration.

Net migration is the net total of migrants during the period, that is, the number of immigrants minus the number of emigrants, including both citizens and non-citizens. (World Bank, 2024). More individuals moving in than leaving the country is known as positive net migration, and it might be a sign that people believe the economy offers better opportunity for personal growth or employment. This immigration wave may help create a competent

and varied labor force, which is good for the economy.

A thorough analysis of the factors that influence net migration dynamics, that is the drivers of migration in West Africa is of paramount importance. This is because the condition of net migration has serious implications for the labour market, human capital formation and human capital accumulation.

Kuhnt (2019) distinguishes three groups of these drivers: macro-level, meso-level, and micro-stage drivers. Drivers at the Meso-level include things like technology, smuggling, information, and migrating lifestyle; drivers at the Micro-level are things like age, character, traits, and education. On the other hand, macro-stage variables include things like financial opportunities, state welfare, conflicts, and management and policies pertaining to migration.

The unemployment situation in Africa has been a pressing issue. According to International Labour Organization - ILO (2024), more than seventy (70) million youths in Africa are unemployed, and are not in education or training. Moreover, most unemployed young people want to work but are unable to do so.

If these issues are not addressed, there will be increase in both regular and irregular migration from West Africa to Europe and other regions in search of better economic conditions, thus, leading to negative net migration. This can result to human capital flight and brain drain, as many health workers and other skilled workers have been leaving the country. While certain studies have reviewed the problem of emigration (Okunade & Awosusi (2023)), other researchers (Oni, et al. (2024),Adebayo & Akinyemi, (2022)) focused on individual countries.

This study is unique in the sense that it employed panel data estimation technique, specifically, the fixed effects model with robust standard errors.

Statement of the Problem

Economic factors such as unemployment and low level of wages have been persistent in West African countries. Various studies have addressed economic factors as drivers of migration. However, the labour market factors have not been thoroughly examined in the aspect of their effects on net migration balance and dynamics. This study will focus on economic factors in the labour market such as unemployment and wage rate and their effects on net migration balance in West African countries. Therefore, the main objective of this study is to analyze the effect of GDP per capita, wage rate, unemployment and the net migration in four West African countries (Nigeria, Ghana, Sierra Leonne and Senegal) from 1997 to 2021.

Conceptual Clarification

Net Migration

Net migration can be defined as the net total of migrants during a particular period, that is, the number of immigrants minus the number of emigrants, which includes both citizens and non-citizens. (World Bank, 2024). When there are more individuals moving in than leaving the country, there is positive net migration. This is likely to happen when people believe the economy offers better opportunity for personal growth or employment. However, when the number of people leaving is greater the number of people coming, in, there is negative net migration. This may occur because of poor economic conditions.

Theoretical Framework

The Neo-classical Theory of Migration

Neoclassical theory of migration analyzes migration movements from the economic perspective. Scholars that originally developed this theory used it to explain migration in the process of economic development and this could be found in the works of Hicks (2011), Lewis (1954), and Akande (2020). These studies confirm the notion that migration takes place as a result of difference in wages across markets or countries that emerge from specific stages of labour market stress.

The geographical variations in labor supply and demand form the basis of the neoclassical migration theory. The microeconomic theory of decision-making, which operates under the idea that people move to locations with the highest expected net monetary returns on their human capital, is the basis of this macroeconomic approach (Todaro, 1976).

This study is unique and different from other studies in its application of the neoclassical theory. By analyzing macroeconomic variables

such as unemployment, wage rate and GDP per capita for a period of twenty-five (25) years in more than one Western African country. Thus, he study adapts the neoclassical theory in an innovative manner.

Empirical Review

A number of studies analysed the various factors that drive migration. Some of these studies are reviewed below:

Lanati & Thiele (2023) investigated the relationship between income per capita and emigration to OECD countries. Panel regression was employed. The results indicated that there is universal negative association between income per capita and emigration. The result is in consonance with Olubiyi (2021) which used Generalized Method of Moments (GMM) to identify the drivers of emigration in each skill. The results revealed that economic size, income differentials and remittances play positive and important role in the case of emigration of high skill labour while income differentials and population are significant in driving emigration of low skill workers.

Nishimura & Czaika, (2023) examined the influence of structural drivers on both internal and international migration. Meta-analysis was employed. The results revealed that indicators such as income or GDP, education, migrant networks, gender, age, and family characteristics are the most scrutinized factors shaping migration patterns. The drivers exhibited statistical significance about 50% of the time.

Barnett and Nam (2023) investigated the international migration network and its changes from 1990-2017. The study employed Multiple regression quadratic assignment procedure. The results revealed that the network of antecedent factors such as colonial history, political stability, economic differences, language, transnational interactions, geography, student flows, trends, internet flows and remittance constituted approximately 11% of the migration network distribution when chain migration was excluded and 16.5% when it was included.

Okunade and Awosusi, O.E. (2023). investigated the endogenous and exogenous variables responsible for 'japa syndrome' in Nigeria. Thematic analytic framework was used. The results revealed that the various responsible for emigration include: study as a means to an end, lingering security issues, easy access to jobs, declining economic condition, career projection, migration delusion and obsession, exhaustion, and the quest for a secured future.

Nobahar (2021) investigated the relationship between unemployment and net immigration. The study revealed that unemployment has a negative direct effect and a positive spatial spillover effect on net migration; implying that however increasing unemployment in a city can decrease the net migration in that city, the net migration in the nearby cities will rise.

Iqbal, et al (2021) which used Logistic Regression to examine the current trend and determinants of migration intentions in China. The results indicated that Higher wages outside China and low wages within China are considered as the top reasons to leave China.

Onah,, et al. (2022). investigated the factors associated with the emigration of physicians from Nigeria. The study employed multiple regression analysis. The results of the study revealed that the reasons for emigration include poor remuneration, rise in insecurity and inadequate diagnostic facilities. This is in consonance with the results of Adebayo, A. & Akinyemi, O.O. (2022) which employed mixed method to assess the factors that influence emigration intention of the doctors in Nigeria. The results revealed that the main factors in receiving countries that propelled resident doctors from Nigeria to emigrate include better working and living conditions, good salary, and the opportunity for career advancement in destination countries.

Most of the above-mentioned studies were country specific. However this study makes use of panel data on four West African countries, over: Nigeria, Ghana, Sierra-Leonne and Senegal).It also employs the fixed effects model with cluster robust standard errors. The net migration patterns are analyzed in this paper using a fixed effects model, which accounts for time-invariant characteristics within certain areas or nations. It looks at immigration and emigration at the same time, in contrast to many studies that only look at one or the other, providing a thorough understanding of how economic factors affect net migration as a whole. With strong standard errors and a strict methodology, it reduces data variability and biases. It covers different countries, in contrast to single-country studies, offering a more comprehensive view of migration patterns in

various economic circumstances. Through an examination of push and pull factors such as Gross Domestic Product (GDP) per capita, wage rates, and unemployment, this study offers fresh perspectives on the intricate dynamics propelling worldwide population shifts.

Methodology

The final model used in this study is the fixed effects model with cluster – robust standard errors. However, in order to select the best model, the panel least squares method was employed in analyzing the Pooled OLS Model, Random Effect Model and Within-groups Fixed Effects Model.

$Y_{it} = \beta_0 + \beta_1 x_{it} + \varepsilon_{it}$ ……i (Pooled OLS Model)

$y_{it} = \beta_0 + \beta_1 x_{1it} + \beta_2 x_{2it} + \lambda_i + u_i$……2 (Random Effect Model)

$y_{it} - \overline{y}_i = \beta_1(x_{1it} - \overline{x}_{1i}) + \beta_k(x_{kit} - \overline{x}_{ki}) + \mu_{it} - \overline{\mu}_{it}$……3 (Within-groups Fixed Effects Model)

The three models were estimated and the fixed effects model with cluster-robust standard errors was chosen. Moreover, it was This is because use of fixed effects model controls for time-invariant unobserved factors (For example, cultural and institutional differences between the various Sub-Saharan countries), providing more robust estimates of the effects of wage rate, unemployment and GDP per capita on net migration.

Results and Discussion

Table 1. Results of Panel Data Analysis. Dependent Variable: NETMIG

	Pooled OLS	**Random Effect**	**Fixed Effect**	**Fixed Effects Model with Cluster-Robust Standard Errors**
Constant	19778.12 (0.85)	19778.12 (0.99)	1089118.00 (5.15)***	1089118 (4.83)**
LNGDPPCAP	2901.19 (1.53)	2901.185 (1.77)	-135819.00 (-3.11)***	-135819 (-2.13)
LNWAGR	-2746.03 (-2.67)***	-2746.03 (-3.11)***	95218.44 (1.08)	95218.44 (0.81)
LNUNEMP	-31304.14 (-2.44)***	-31304.14 (-2.84)***	-42236.19 (-3.63)***	-42236.19 (-4.43)**
Breusch-Pagan LM test	-	38.13 (0.0000)***	-	-
Hausman Test	-	-	36.48 (0.0000)**	-
Observations	100	100	100	100
Multicollinearity (vif)	-	-	1.39	-

Heteroskedasticity ($_{x}^{2}$ – stat)	-	-	1579.21 (0.0000)***	-
Serial Correlation (F-Stat)	-	-	199.430 (0.0008)***	-
R-squared	-	-	-	60%
P value (F statistic)	-	-	-	0.0215**

Figures in the parenthesis are t-statistics, expect for Breusch-Pagan LM test, Hausman test, Heteroskedasticity and Serial Correlation tests, which are p-values.

** and *** indicate the respective 5% and 1% significance levels, respectively.

Source: Author's Computation (2024).

Table 1 presents the summary of the pooled OLS Model, Random Effects Model (RE), Fixed Effects Model (FE) Model, and the Fixed Effects Model with Cluster-Robust Standard Errors Model estimations. The results of the Breusch Pagan LM test revealed that Random effects model was more efficient than fixed effects model ($p < 0.05$).

The results of the Hausman test revealed that Fixed effect model was more efficient. The heteroscedasticity and serial correlation tests indicate that Robust OLS Model with fixed effects is the most appropriate model. Therefore, this model will be interpreted.

The results of the Fixed Effects Model with Cluster Robust Standard Error Regression indicate that GDP per capita has a negative but non-significant effect on net migration ($p > 0.05$). The presence of a negative coefficient indicates that as GDP per capita rises, net migration declines. This implies that a higher GDP per capita could be linked to a decrease in the number of individuals relocating to the region. The absence of significance ($p > 0.05$) indicates that there is insufficient evidence to confirm that the connection between GDP per capita and net migration differs from zero. Simply put, fluctuations in GDP per capita cannot consistently forecast changes in net migration within this specific model. Despite the negative coefficient, the lack of statistical significance implies that other variables might have a greater impact on determining net migration patterns. Elements like job opportunities, housing expenses, standard of living, and demographic shifts may have a more substantial influence on migration decisions than GDP per capita by itself.

Wage rate has a positive but non-significant effect on net migration. This result is in consonance with that of Iqbal, et al (2021), Onah, et al. (2022), Olubiyi(2021), and Adebayo and Akinyemi (2022).This is also in agreement with Pissarides and Mcmaster (1990) which asserted that if there is an increase in a region's relative wage, the gain from moving out decreases and the gain from moving in increases, therefore, the net migration of the region increases.

The impact of unemployment on net migration is statistically significant ($p < 0.05$). The inverse correlation indicates that an increase in unemployment leads to a decrease in net migration. This result is in consonance with that of Okunade (2023) and Nobahar, et al. (2021). Elevated unemployment levels usually result in reduced job prospects, which in turn discourage migration to those areas. Individuals are generally disinclined to relocate to regions with high unemployment unless they have specific motives, such as family connections or other non-economic considerations.

Thrust of the Work

The thrust of this work hinges on the fact that the study's consideration of time-invariant features within countries, that is, the study's

econometric method—which employs fixed effects models with robust standard errors—addresses the limitations of earlier migration studies. This methodological choice enables a precise estimation of the influence of economic variables on net migration while controlling for unobserved heterogeneity. The results highlight the significance of methodological accuracy in analyzing migration dynamics, which have great influence on policy recommendations and theoretical interpretations.

This study advances quite a number of disciplines, particularly Development Economics, International Economics, International Relations, Political science, and Political Economy, by means of the econometric analysis of variables that have effect on net migration in West African countries.

This work emphasizes the need to create jobs in order to retain human capital. It strengthens development economics by showing how unemployment drives migration. The results suggest concentrating on economic stability and creation of jobs. This insight helps in the creation of effective policies that aim at stabilizing economies and discouraging emigration. The result of this is the achievement of sustainable development.

The research contributes to the field of international economics by examining the effect of wage rates and unemployment on migration, which are pivotal to the understanding of labor mobility. The results indicate that wage differentials and opportunities for employment are major drivers of migration decisions. These results are in consonance with the neoclassical theory of migration. They also indicate the importance of a better understanding of how wage and employment conditions interrelate with migration patterns.

In the context of international relations, the findings of this research are relevant in the aspect of as examining regional migration trends and their effects on inter-country relations within West Africa. High emigration rates and their connection with unemployment and wage rates can alter bilateral and multilateral relations, as nations contend with the issues of brain drain and shortages in labour supply. The study highlights the significance of cooperative regional policies to manage migration efficiently and promote stability.

The focus of this study on the economic drivers of migration offers significant contribution to political economy and political science. It analyzes the significance of economic policy in determining migration outcomes and highlights the need for political motivation to tackle unemployment and wage disparities. By proving that unemployment significantly discourages migration, this investigation suggests that policy interventions directed at reducing unemployment could play a key role in managing migration flows and enhancing regional stability.

This study crossed the borders of discipline by linking econometric analysis with Political economy, Political Science, International Relations, International Economics and Development Economics. It stresses the need for an all-encompassing resolution to address economic, political, social, and regional and international issues that are driving migration in West Africa. It challenges prevailing schools of thought and provides useful policy recommendations.

Conclusion and Recommendations

The results of this study indicate a strong relationship between net migration trends and economic considerations. Greater GDP per capita tends to reduce net migration, indicating that lower amounts of population movement may occur in areas with stronger economies. On the other hand, higher wages have a positive relationship with higher net migration, suggesting that economic opportunities attract migrants. Higher levels of unemployment also discourage people from migrating to West African nations, highlighting the implication of employment availability in influencing migration decisions.

Policy makers should create and implement policies that will enable them to effectively control migration and stimulate the development of the economy. First, when it comes to wage policies, governments must take into account measures that encourage fair wage growth across all industries. This could entail encouraging industries to pay competitive rates in order to draw in skilled workers and establishing minimum wage rules that take into account local economic situations.

The aim of employment policies should be to reduce unemployment rates by encouraging entrepreneurship, implementing job creation

initiatives, and offering vocational training programs. Investments in agriculture and infrastructural projects can generate long-term job opportunities, stabilizing domestic economies and attracting prospective immigrants.

In conclusion, incorporating these recommendations into all-inclusive policy frameworks can influence economic variables to encourage human capital acquisition, control the dynamics of migration, and boost sustainable development for the mutual benefit of sending and receiving countries and regions.

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INTERNALLY GENERATED REVENUE (IGR) AND CORRUPTION IN NIGERIA: A FOCUS ON TAXES AND RATES

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KEYWORDS
Internally Generated Revenue, Corruption, Tax Collection, Property Rates, Public Finance, Nigeria, Bribery, Embezzlement, Revenue Administration, Governance

ABSTRACT
This study investigates the pervasive impact of corruption on Internally Generated Revenue (IGR) in Nigeria, focusing specifically on the collection and administration of taxes and property rates. Utilizing a quantitative research design, data were collected through a structured questionnaire administered to 162 respondents in Edo State, representing various demographics and socioeconomic backgrounds. The analysis reveals a significant negative correlation between corruption and tax collection efficiency, evidenced by a correlation coefficient of -0.65. The findings indicate that high levels of bribery, embezzlement, and misappropriation of funds among tax and revenue officials substantially hinder effective revenue generation, thereby limiting the financial resources available for public services and infrastructural development. Moreover, the study highlights that corruption not only constrains revenue collection but also erodes public trust in government institutions, leading to a diminished perception of the efficacy and reliability of public services. This erosion of trust has far-reaching implications for governance and accountability in Nigeria, as citizens become increasingly disillusioned with their government's ability to manage resources effectively. To address these challenges, the study emphasizes the urgent need for enhanced transparency, robust accountability mechanisms, and the strengthening of institutional frameworks to combat corruption effectively. Policymakers are urged to implement reforms aimed at improving revenue administration and ensuring that collected taxes and rates are utilized for the public good. By contributing valuable insights to the existing literature on public finance management, this research serves as a critical resource for policymakers and stakeholders seeking to enhance revenue generation while curbing corrupt practices in Nigeria.

Introduction

Internally Generated Revenue (IGR) in Nigeria is essential for ensuring the financial independence of state and local governments. It consists of revenues collected within the jurisdiction of states, separate from federal allocations, enabling them to fund local projects and initiatives independently. Taxes and rates are among the most significant components of IGR. Taxes encompass personal income taxes, company taxes, consumption taxes, and other forms of statutory contributions, while rates include levies on properties and charges on services provided by local authorities. Together, these components provide the financial resources necessary for delivering essential public services and driving infrastructural development within states (Ogunleye & Owolabi, 2022). However, despite their importance, the efficient collection and utilization of IGR in Nigeria face significant challenges due to pervasive corruption within revenue administration. Corruption manifests in various ways, including bribery, misappropriation of funds, and embezzlement by revenue officials (Adedeji, 2023). These corrupt practices not only limit the volume of revenue collected but also erode public trust in government institutions. Citizens are less willing to comply with tax obligations when there is a perception that funds collected are not being properly utilized or are diverted for personal gains by officials (Eze & Nwosu, 2023). Consequently, corruption significantly hinders the effectiveness of public services, as the funds meant for local projects and infrastructural development are mismanaged or lost to corrupt practices. This problem is further compounded by the lack of transparency and accountability in the revenue collection process. Many state and local governments struggle to maintain accurate records of tax and rate collections, which creates opportunities for officials to manipulate revenue figures or engage in illicit activities (Ayodele & Akanbi, 2024). As a result, the success of IGR as a tool for achieving financial autonomy and fostering sustainable development in Nigeria depends largely on addressing corruption and establishing robust systems that ensure accountability and transparency in revenue administration. In Nigeria, the effectiveness of Internally Generated Revenue (IGR) in achieving sustainable development is severely impeded by corrupt practices within the revenue administration system. Taxes and rates serve as the primary sources of revenue generation for state and local governments. However, persistent issues such as lack of transparency, poor accountability, and inefficient systems significantly contribute to substantial revenue leakages (Okeke & Onuoha, 2023). Revenue administration often suffers from corrupt practices like bribery, embezzlement, and misappropriation of collected funds by officials. This corruption not only limits the volume of revenue collected but also affects the effective utilization of the generated revenue, thereby hindering infrastructural development and public service delivery.Moreover, the lack of transparency in revenue collection creates room for corrupt officials to manipulate tax records and divert collected funds for personal gain, reducing the funds available for development projects (Adekunle & Adebayo, 2022). Inefficient systems for monitoring and auditing tax and rate collections further exacerbate this problem. Poor accountability and weak enforcement mechanisms lead to substantial losses in potential revenue, which affects the financial autonomy of state and local governments and undermines public confidence in government institutions (Umeh & Olatunji, 2024). Citizens are often reluctant to comply with tax obligations when they believe that collected funds are not being used for their intended purposes.

This problem highlights the urgent need to investigate how corruption influences the collection and utilization of taxes and rates, and to identify effective strategies for improving revenue administration in Nigeria. Addressing these challenges is crucial to enhancing revenue collection efficiency, fostering accountability, and ensuring that IGR effectively contributes to sustainable development at state and local levels (Bello & Ikenna, 2023). Identifying these issues and implementing corrective measures can help to create a more transparent, accountable, and efficient revenue collection system in Nigeria.

Research Questions

1. How does corruption affect the collection of taxes in Nigeria?
2. What impact does corruption have on the administration of property rates in Nigeria?
3. How can the accountability and transparency of tax and rate collection systems be improved in Nigeria?

Literature Review

Taxes

Taxes are compulsory contributions imposed by governments on individuals, businesses, and organizations to generate revenue for public expenditure and infrastructure development. In Nigeria, taxes serve as a primary source of Internally Generated Revenue (IGR) and include several types such as personal income taxes, corporate taxes, value-added taxes (VAT), and consumption taxes (Oladele & Okafor, 2023). These taxes are essential for state and local governments to achieve financial independence and deliver public services like healthcare, education, and infrastructure. The successful collection of taxes requires an efficient and transparent system that ensures compliance and minimizes opportunities for tax evasion. However, the efficiency of tax collection in Nigeria is significantly compromised by corrupt practices. Corruption within the tax administration process fosters evasion and weakens revenue collection efforts (Ibrahim & Abdul, 2023). Officials involved in tax administration sometimes engage in bribery, accepting illicit payments from taxpayers to underreport taxable incomes or reduce tax liabilities. This practice not only leads to substantial revenue losses but also creates an environment in which tax evasion becomes normalized among individuals and businesses (Adamu & Musa, 2022). Moreover, mismanagement of collected funds due to corruption reduces the effectiveness of taxes as a tool for achieving development objectives. The misappropriation of tax revenues by officials undermines public trust and discourages voluntary tax compliance. Citizens and businesses are less likely to meet their tax obligations when they perceive that tax revenues are being diverted for personal gain rather than being utilized for public good (Ayo & Oyeniran, 2024). This erosion of public trust, coupled with inadequate accountability mechanisms, results in substantial revenue leakages and limits the capacity of state and local governments to achieve sustainable development. Therefore, addressing corruption in tax collection is crucial to enhancing the efficiency of IGR and improving public service delivery in Nigeria. Establishing transparent, accountable, and automated tax administration systems could help reduce the prevalence of corrupt practices and increase the revenue generated from taxes.

Rates

Rates are levies imposed by local authorities on properties and assets, typically calculated based on the assessed value of these properties. They serve as a significant source of Internally Generated Revenue (IGR) for local governments in Nigeria, providing essential funding for community-based projects such as road construction, waste management, water supply, and other local development initiatives (Adedeji & Folayan, 2023). Rates play a crucial role in enabling local governments to achieve financial autonomy and undertake infrastructural development projects that directly benefit local communities. Despite the importance of rates in sustaining local government functions, their collection is often plagued by corrupt practices. Corruption within revenue administration, especially in the collection of rates, leads to issues such as embezzlement, diversion of collected funds, and extortion of property owners (Ekanem & Olajide, 2023). Revenue officials sometimes collude with property owners to undervalue properties in exchange for bribes or misappropriate collected funds without proper accounting. These practices significantly diminish the amount of revenue collected and reduce the effectiveness of rates as a reliable source of public funding. The implications of corruption in the collection of rates are far-reaching. It directly affects the quality of public services and local infrastructure development, as funds that are meant for projects are siphoned off by corrupt officials (Okeke & Ibezim, 2024). When local authorities cannot effectively collect and utilize rates, communities suffer from inadequate services, deteriorating infrastructure, and poor living conditions. Additionally, property owners become disincentivized to comply with payment obligations due to perceived misuse of funds, which further exacerbates revenue leakages. To address these challenges, local authorities must adopt more transparent and accountable systems for rate collection. This can involve establishing automated property assessment and rate payment systems that reduce opportunities for manipulation and corruption (Bello & Salami, 2023). Implementing strong internal control mechanisms and regular audits could also help ensure that collected funds are accurately accounted for and utilized for their intended purposes, thereby improving the efficiency of revenue administration and fostering sustainable local development.

Internally Generated Revenue (IGR) and Corruption

Internally Generated Revenue (IGR) is crucial for the financial sustainability of state and local governments in Nigeria. It encompasses various revenue streams, primarily taxes and rates collected from individuals and businesses within their jurisdictions. IGR is vital for funding public services, infrastructure projects, and other essential governmental functions that directly impact citizens' quality of life. However, the efficacy of IGR in Nigeria is severely undermined by widespread corruption within revenue administration. Corruption manifests in multiple ways, including bribery, embezzlement, and fraudulent activities among tax and revenue officials. These corrupt practices create significant barriers to efficient revenue collection, as they lead to substantial revenue leakages. For instance, tax officials may engage in collusion with taxpayers to facilitate tax evasion, thereby reducing the overall tax base. A study by Ekanem & Olajide (2023) highlighted that over 75% of property owners believed corruption among local officials impeded the proper collection of property rates, resulting in lost revenue that could have been used for community development projects. Moreover, the negative correlation between corruption and tax collection efficiency further illustrates the detrimental impact of corrupt practices. The correlation coefficient of -0.65 indicates that as corruption increases, the efficiency of IGR collection decreases. This dynamic not only affects the volume of revenue generated but also erodes public trust in governmental institutions. Citizens become disillusioned when they perceive tax officials as corrupt, leading to increased tax evasion and a general reluctance to comply with tax obligations. Addressing corruption is, therefore, imperative for improving IGR in Nigeria. Implementing transparent systems, promoting accountability, and establishing independent oversight bodies are essential steps toward creating an environment where efficient revenue collection can flourish. Without these measures, the cycle of corruption will continue to inhibit the potential of IGR, ultimately hindering economic growth and development across the country. Ensuring the integrity of the revenue collection process is essential not only for increasing IGR but also for restoring public confidence in government institutions and fostering sustainable development.

Theoretical Framework

This study adopts the **Public Choice Theory**, which posits that government officials, similar to individuals operating within the market, are primarily motivated by self-interest. Developed by economists such as James Buchanan and Gordon Tullock, this theory argues that politicians and bureaucrats are driven by the desire to maximize their utility, often prioritizing personal gains over the public good (Buchanan & Tullock, 1962). In the context of Internally Generated Revenue (IGR), Public Choice Theory provides a valuable lens through which to examine the behavior of revenue officials and the dynamics of revenue collection in Nigeria. Within this framework, the actions of government officials can be understood as a series of decisions aimed at maximizing their own benefits, whether through financial incentives, power, or job security. For instance, tax collectors may engage in corrupt practices, such as bribery or embezzlement, to enhance their personal wealth or job performance metrics, while neglecting the responsibility to collect and utilize taxes and rates for the welfare of the public (Meyer & Dutta, 2023). This self-interested behavior often leads to the prioritization of personal or political interests over the efficient administration of public funds. Moreover, the Public Choice Theory underscores the importance of institutional frameworks and accountability mechanisms in curbing corrupt practices. When the incentives for corrupt behavior are high and the likelihood of detection is low, officials may feel emboldened to engage in malfeasance (Tullock, 2005). This situation highlights the necessity for robust regulatory systems, transparent processes, and effective checks and balances to minimize opportunities for corruption and ensure that revenue collection processes align with public welfare objectives. Ultimately, by applying Public Choice Theory to the study of IGR in Nigeria, this research aims to elucidate the underlying motivations that drive corrupt practices in tax and rate collection. Understanding these dynamics is essential for formulating strategies to enhance transparency, accountability, and efficiency in revenue administration, thereby ensuring that IGR can effectively contribute to sustainable development and public service delivery. Addressing these theoretical implications is crucial for creating an environment where the interests of officials align more closely with the needs of the public, fostering trust and improving the overall effectiveness of government revenue systems.

Empirical Review

Previous studies have explored the relationship between corruption and revenue administration in Nigeria. Adeniji & Folayan (2023) examined a study on "Corruption and Tax Revenue Generation in Nigeria," utilizing a quantitative approach with a structured questionnaire distributed to 150 tax officials across several states, selected through stratified random sampling. Their findings revealed a significant negative correlation between corruption and tax revenue generation, with over 60% of respondents indicating that corrupt practices among tax officials result in substantial revenue losses. The authors concluded that enhancing transparency and implementing stricter accountability measures are crucial for improving the efficiency of tax collection in Nigeria.

Ibrahim & Abdul (2023) conducted a qualitative study titled "Impact of Corruption on Local Government Revenue Generation: Evidence from Selected Local Authorities in Nigeria," which involved in-depth interviews with local government officials, tax collectors, and community members. Their research unveiled widespread corruption practices such as bribery and embezzlement, leading to a notable decline in the quality of local services. The authors recommended establishing independent audit committees to oversee local revenue collection processes, thereby fostering accountability and trust in local governance.

Ekanem & Olajide (2023) conducted a mixed-methods study titled "The Role of Corruption in Diminishing IGR: A Case Study of Property Rates in Nigeria," which combined surveys with 200 property owners and focus group discussions. Their results indicated that 75% of property owners believed corruption among local authorities severely impacted the efficient collection of property rates. The study concluded that implementing automated property assessment systems could reduce human interference and corruption, thereby improving revenue generation from property rates.

Okeke & Ibezim (2024) examined the study "Corruption in Revenue Administration: Analyzing the Tax Compliance Behavior of Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) in Nigeria," employing a survey design with a sample of 180 SMEs from various sectors. The study revealed that 70% of respondents engaged in tax evasion due to fears of corruption among tax officials. The authors concluded that fostering a culture of compliance through awareness campaigns emphasizing the importance of tax contributions could mitigate the adverse effects of corruption on tax revenue.

Bello & Salami (2023) investigated the case study "Transparency and Accountability in Local Government Revenue Collection: Implications for IGR in Nigeria" through interviews and document analysis across three local governments in Nigeria. They found that a lack of transparency in revenue collection processes allowed corruption to flourish, diminishing local governments' potential for IGR. The study highlighted the importance of implementing e-governance solutions to enhance transparency and trust, concluding that such measures could significantly improve revenue collection efficiency.

Ayo & Oyeniran (2024) focused their research on "Assessing the Impact of Corruption on Tax Collection Efficiency: Perspectives from Tax Administrators in Nigeria," gathering the views of tax administrators through a questionnaire distributed to 100 tax officials. The study found that 80% of respondents believed corruption significantly hindered their ability to collect taxes effectively. The authors recommended comprehensive training programs for tax officials to strengthen ethical standards and reduce corruption in tax administration, emphasizing the need to cultivate a culture of integrity within tax offices to enhance revenue collection efficiency.

Methodology

The study is focused on Edo State, Nigeria, examining corruption's impact on IGR collection with specific attention to taxes and property rates. The population comprises revenue officials, taxpayers, and residents of Edo State. The estimated population size is 1,200. A sample size of 162 respondents was determined using Taro Yamane's formula. The study adopts a descriptive survey design, which allows for the collection of quantitative data on the relationship between corruption and IGR. Data were collected using a structured questionnaire designed to measure respondents' perceptions of corruption and its effects on tax and rate collection. The questionnaires were administered through face-to-face distribution to revenue officials, residents, and business owners in Edo State. Data were analyzed using descriptive statistics (mean, standard deviation)

and inferential statistics (Pearson correlation analysis) to assess the relationship between corruption, taxes, and rates.

Data Analysis

Table 1: Demographic Characteristics of Respondents

Demographic Variable	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Gender		
Male	100	61.7%
Female	62	38.3%
Age Group		
18-25 years	45	27.8%
26-35 years	68	42.0%
36-45 years	30	18.5%
46 years and above	19	11.7%

Source: *Field Survey (2024)*

Table 1 presents the demographic characteristics of the respondents involved in the study, providing valuable insights into the composition of the sample population. The data reveals that the majority of respondents were male, accounting for 61.7% of the total, while females constituted 38.3%. This gender distribution suggests a predominance of male participation, which may reflect broader societal trends or occupational demographics within the context of tax administration and revenue collection in Edo State. Understanding the gender dynamics is essential for interpreting the perspectives and experiences shared by respondents regarding corruption and Internally Generated Revenue (IGR). The age group distribution indicates a youthful demographic among the respondents, with individuals aged 26-35 years representing the largest segment at 42.0%. This is followed by the 18-25 years group at 27.8%, while the older age groups, 36-45 years and 46 years and above, accounted for 18.5% and 11.7%, respectively. The predominance of younger respondents highlights a potential generational shift in attitudes toward tax compliance and corruption. Younger individuals may have different perceptions and experiences concerning government practices compared to older generations, which could influence their responses regarding IGR and corruption. Additionally, the significant representation of younger respondents may suggest that the workforce in tax administration and revenue collection is becoming increasingly youthful. This shift could have implications for the implementation of innovative strategies to combat corruption, as younger employees might be more receptive to adopting technology-driven solutions and reforms aimed at enhancing transparency and accountability in revenue generation processes. Overall, the demographic characteristics presented in Table 1 provide a foundational understanding of the sample population, allowing for a more nuanced interpretation of the findings. Recognizing the gender and age distribution of respondents is crucial for tailoring anti-corruption initiatives and fostering an inclusive approach to improving IGR collection. Furthermore, engaging younger individuals in discussions and strategies related to revenue administration may lead to more effective solutions in addressing the challenges posed by corruption in Nigeria.

Table 2: Corruption's Impact on Rates Administration

Statements	Mean	Std. Dev.
Corruption leads to embezzlement	4.52	0.76
Bribery in rate collection	4.28	0.68
Misappropriation of rate funds	4.34	0.72

Source: *Field Survey (2024)*

Table 2 illustrates the respondents' perceptions regarding the impact of corruption on rates administration, with three key statements evaluated based on their mean scores and standard deviations. The findings highlight significant concerns surrounding corruption in the collection and management of rates, which are essential for Internally Generated Revenue (IGR). The statement "Corruption leads to embezzlement" received the highest mean score of **4.52**, accompanied by a standard deviation of **0.76**. This indicates a strong consensus among respondents that embezzlement is a prevalent consequence of corrupt practices in rates administration. The high mean score suggests that many participants believe that funds collected through rates are frequently misappropriated by officials for personal gain, leading to substantial revenue losses for local governments. Such embezzlement not only diminishes the resources available for community development projects

but also undermines public trust in the integrity of revenue collection systems. The second statement, "Bribery in rate collection," garnered a mean score of **4.28** and a standard deviation of **0.68**. This finding reflects a widespread acknowledgment of bribery as a common practice in the administration of rates. The relatively high mean score indicates that respondents perceive bribery as a significant impediment to effective rates collection. When officials solicit bribes, it not only distorts the fairness of the rate collection process but also discourages compliance among honest taxpayers. This culture of bribery can lead to a vicious cycle of corruption, where taxpayers feel compelled to engage in corrupt practices to avoid punitive measures, further exacerbating the issue.

Lastly, the statement "Misappropriation of rate funds" received a mean score of **4.34** with a standard deviation of **0.72**. This result further emphasizes the respondents' concerns about the management of collected funds. The significant perception of misappropriation indicates that many respondents believe that even when funds are collected, they are often diverted away from their intended purposes, such as funding local infrastructure or public services. This misallocation not only affects the quality of public services but also diminishes the accountability of revenue officials. The findings presented in Table 2 indicate a clear and pressing concern regarding the impact of corruption on rates administration. The high mean scores across all statements highlight the pervasive nature of corruption—specifically embezzlement, bribery, and misappropriation—in the revenue collection process. Addressing these issues is crucial for enhancing the efficiency and integrity of rates administration, which is vital for increasing Internally Generated Revenue and ensuring sustainable development at the local government level. By implementing robust anti-corruption measures and promoting transparency in the management of rate funds, governments can restore public trust and improve the effectiveness of their revenue systems.

Correlation Analysis

The correlation analysis aimed to examine the relationship between corruption and tax collection efficiency. A sample of tax administrators and officials was surveyed, with a focus on their perceptions regarding the impact of corruption on the effectiveness of tax revenue collection. The statistical method used to analyze the relationship between these two variables was Pearson's correlation coefficient. The analysis revealed a correlation coefficient of **-0.65**, indicating a significant negative relationship between corruption and tax collection efficiency. This suggests that as the level of corruption increases within tax administration, the efficiency of tax collection correspondingly decreases. The negative value of the correlation coefficient implies that higher incidences of corrupt practices, such as bribery, embezzlement, and mismanagement of funds, adversely affect the ability of tax officials to perform their duties effectively. To better illustrate these findings, the following table summarizes the correlation results, showcasing the variables involved and the statistical significance of their relationship:

Table 3: Correlation Analysis between Corruption and Tax Collection Efficiency

Variable	Corruption	Tax Collection Efficiency	Correlation Coefficient (r)	Significance (p-value)
Corruption	1.00	-	-	-
Tax Collection Efficiency	-0.65	1.00	-	0.01

Source: *SPSS v23*

From the table, it is evident that the correlation coefficient of **-0.65** between corruption and tax collection efficiency is statistically significant, with a p-value of **0.01**. This p-value indicates a high level of confidence in the results, suggesting that the observed negative relationship is unlikely to have occurred by chance. In conclusion, the findings from this correlation analysis underscore the critical impact of corruption on the effectiveness of tax collection in Nigeria. Addressing corrupt practices within tax administration is essential for enhancing revenue generation and achieving greater financial independence for state and local governments. The results highlight the urgent need for implementing robust anti-corruption measures and promoting transparency and accountability within tax collection processes to improve overall efficiency.

Discussion of Findings

The findings from this study highlight a profound relationship between corruption and the collection of taxes and the administration of property rates in Edo State. The data indicates that high levels of bribery and embezzlement among tax and revenue officials pose significant barriers to effective revenue collection. This aligns with previous research that underscores the detrimental impact of corrupt practices on public financial management (Adeniji & Folayan, 2023). Corruption manifests in various forms, including bribery, where tax officials solicit payments to bypass standard procedures, and embezzlement, where collected funds are misappropriated for personal gain. Such practices not only lead to substantial revenue losses but also erode public trust in government institutions. When citizens perceive tax officials as corrupt, their willingness to comply with tax regulations diminishes, further exacerbating the challenges of achieving efficient revenue generation. The analysis reveals a correlation coefficient of **-0.65** between corruption and tax collection efficiency, indicating a significant negative relationship. This suggests that as corruption increases, the effectiveness of Internally Generated Revenue (IGR) collection declines correspondingly. The implications of this finding are critical for policymakers. It signals an urgent need for comprehensive reforms aimed at curbing corruption within tax administration to bolster revenue collection efficiency. Moreover, the detrimental effects of corruption extend beyond mere revenue figures; they impact the overall quality of public services. Funds that should be allocated for infrastructure development, healthcare, and education are often siphoned off, leaving communities underserved. This cycle perpetuates poverty and inequality, undermining sustainable development goals. Furthermore, the study's findings emphasize the importance of transparency and accountability mechanisms in revenue administration. Implementing e-governance solutions, independent audits, and robust reporting systems can help mitigate corruption. By fostering a culture of integrity and professionalism within tax agencies, the government can enhance tax compliance and improve public trust in the revenue system.

In conclusion, addressing corruption is not merely an administrative challenge but a critical factor for enhancing the financial independence of state and local governments in Edo State. The evidence presented in this study underscores the necessity for concerted efforts to combat corrupt practices, which are fundamental to improving the efficiency of tax collection and the overall performance of the revenue system. By prioritizing anti-corruption measures, the state can create a more conducive environment for effective IGR generation, ultimately contributing to sustainable economic growth and development.

Summary

This study investigated the impact of corruption on Internally Generated Revenue (IGR) in Nigeria, specifically examining the roles of taxes and property rates. The findings reveal that corruption significantly hampers revenue collection efforts and diminishes public trust in governmental institutions. Notably, the study identified several critical areas where corrupt practices, such as bribery, embezzlement, and misappropriation of funds, adversely affect the effective administration of taxes and property rates. These corrupt activities not only lead to substantial revenue leakages but also compromise the quality of public services that are essential for community development. By highlighting the detrimental effects of corruption on IGR, the study underscores the urgent need for reforms aimed at enhancing transparency, accountability, and efficiency in revenue collection processes. Addressing these challenges is crucial for fostering sustainable economic growth and restoring public confidence in the governance of tax and revenue systems in Nigeria.

Conclusion

Corruption continues to be a significant barrier to the effective collection of Internally Generated Revenue (IGR) in Nigeria. This study clearly established that various corrupt practices, including bribery and embezzlement, severely hinder the collection of taxes and property rates, resulting in substantial revenue losses for state and local governments. The implications of these findings are profound, as the erosion of public trust in government institutions undermines the overall effectiveness of revenue systems and diminishes the quality of public services available to citizens. To effectively combat corruption and improve IGR, it is essential to enhance transparency in revenue collection processes, enforce strict accountability measures for officials involved in tax and rate administration, and strengthen institutional frameworks that govern these activities. By implementing comprehensive reforms aimed at promoting integrity and efficiency in IGR collection, Nigerian governments can restore public confidence, optimize revenue generation, and ultimately contribute to sustainable development within their jurisdictions.

Recommendations

1. **Strengthen Anti-Corruption Measures**: Establish independent monitoring bodies to oversee tax and rate collection processes.
2. **Enhance Transparency in Revenue Administration**: Implement digitalized revenue collection systems to reduce human interaction and limit opportunities for bribery.
3. **Public Awareness Campaigns**: Educate citizens on their rights and responsibilities, and promote transparency in revenue utilization.
4. **Capacity Building for Revenue Officials**: Regular training should be conducted for revenue officials on ethical standards and best practices in revenue administration.

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Globalization, Security and Governance Challenges in Nigeria

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ABSTRACT
The study focused on the nature of the challenges and opportunities the process of globalization imposes on the development of the security sector of the Nigerian state. Security challenges such as insurgency and political agitations relying on terrorism were studied in the context of a globalized world. The Instrumental Theory of Insecurity was adopted as the theoretical framework guiding the study. Secondary sources of data were used relying on content analyses and the literary critical method for analyses of the data. The study found that residual authoritarian constructs still pervade Nigerian society and as such the peaceful processing of conflicts have not been adequately prioritized as policy across the country. It also found that the inability of the Nigerian state to deliver on material development aspirations of citizens exposes the country to global terrorist actors who highjack the difficulties of governance to pursue their own ends. This study contributes to knowledge in a number of ways, including by attempting to pinpoint the prominent role that violent non-state actors in play on the global stage in subverting the governments by reenacting the narratives surrounding violent extremism with ethnic and religious overtones in an effort d to benefit economically and politically from the outcomes. That is a defining attribute of terrorist organizations that are active in Nigeria with their international links. The study also shows that the international system has been successful in establishing substitute routes for supply chains and communication that circumvent the legal exchange route for the transfer of illegal goods and money between nations, compromising the ability of those nations to survive. The study therefore recommended that Nigeria need to be at the forefront of promoting the establishment of a strong economic bloc among African nations with the goal of curbing the explosive trend of globalization toward the proliferation of weapons and other types of transnational crimes.

Also, Nigerian state should prioritize good and inclusive government to reorient citizen loyalties, mechanisms oriented towards the peaceful processing of conflicts and seriously engage in delivering on economic development for its citizens through adopting modern economic practices and enforcing global best practice protocols for public institutions within the state.

Introduction

As with most postcolonial African countries, Nigeria has had a painful and tortuous political history. The country has spent 29 years under authoritarian military regimes and 33years have so far been under constitutional civilian governments since independence from Britain in 1960. This has made the political process in Nigeria remain prone to authoritarian tendencies and activities that seek to constrict political spaces through which citizens express themselves and legitimately engage in partisan politics. Some authoritarian attitudes in the political process in the country include the use of governmental institutions to unfairly punish political opponents, the conscious refusal to be accountable to the electorate by public office holders, activities that prevent citizens from exercising their rights to challenge their government as well as activities that prevent the growth of civic consciousness and the emergence of a vibrant civil society through the use of the institutions of the state.

Needless to say, there are practically no benefits with regards to security and governance for a society that suffers from chronic political instability and persistent policy changes on a rather short to medium term basis. It remains disorganized and where most of its regimes and governments are authoritarian, accountability and good governance become scarce commodities. The social impact of a combination of political instability and authoritarian rule is a militarized populace and this has been the hallmark of Nigeria's experience since her post-independence era from 1960. In the light of these, a lot of effort has been directed at reversing the persistent nature of the emergence politically unstable regimes in Nigeria.

While resisting military rule and perceived marginalization by the Nigerian State, some political actors resorted to militarized ethnic, clan and other primordial identities to shore up their resistance. They used ethnic based organizations like MOSOP (Movement for the Survival of Ogoni People) the OPC (Odua People Congress) to reduce the legitimacy of the Nigerian state and government in the eyes of members from such ethnic groups. With the inception of the Fourth Republic in 1999, other groups using ethnic, cultic and religious sentiments have proliferated and have relied on a systematic attempt to impose authoritarian control over people and territories for instance the Movement for the Actualization of the Sovereign State of Biafra (MASSOB) as well the Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB), the Egbesu cultic group which was central to the organization of the Niger Delta militants and the most vociferous in this regard has been the Boko Haram and Islamic State of West Africa Province (ISWAP) insurgency in parts of Northern Nigeria whose ideology is rooted in militant Islamist traditions (Uzoma R. 2004).

Our study contributes to our knowledge in a number of ways, identifying and typifying the crucial role that globalization plays in the international system, which has exacerbated the security situation worldwide, with Africa bearing a disproportionate amount of the burden. Samuel M and Wafula O. (2007), in their work; The African Union: Challenges of globalization, security, and governance, did a comprehensive examination of the work of the African Union (AU), with special emphasis on its capacity to meet the challenges of building and sustaining governance institutions and security mechanisms. They demonstrate how only with strategic leadership can Africa—and the AU in particular—address the difficulties of establishing and maintaining security and governance frameworks. Important solutions for resolving the challenges faced by African leaders are examined, along with discussions and critiques of current leadership in Africa.

The study however, did less in paying attention the role and actions of Violent-Non-State-Actors (VNSA's), which have the support of

the global system and strong State actors, this is quite significant in the understanding of international dimensions of conflicts in Africa fuelled by globalization. These actors turn a blind eye to the ways in which these organizations are establishing a substitute social and economic pathway for local terrorist and ethnic militia groups to survive, thereby fostering a thriving black market that fuels terrorism across the continent. They neglect to question the impotence of African leaders who are unable to face the complexity of issues brought about by these terrorists' operations, which undermine their countries' ability to survive and grow politically and economically. Our Study aligns with work of Manu et al (2000); they asserted that globalization has expanded under a variety of guises, and that as its effects on citizens' living conditions worsen, it encourages uprisings by violent non-state actors (VNSAs), who are typified as insurgents. This was particularly true in the years following the Cold War and continued after the Soviet Union's collapse and subsequent disintegrations in 1991. Africa has the highest rate of violence and the biggest share of violence risk worldwide in comparison to other continents; this risk is having an impact on the continent, particularly Nigeria. Given the complexity of these issues, our paper examines how globalization has continued to exacerbate Nigeria's security and governance problems and calls for a new strategy to address the country's concerns about losing its identity and cooperating with other countries within the international system.

Objectives of the Study

The objectives of the study are

i. To assess the impact of globalization on the level of insecurity and governance in Nigeria.

ii. To assess the nature of the challenges to governance of the security sector in the context of globalization

iii. To make recommendations on the policy frameworks that can best address the existing problems in the security structure through the governance process despite challenges imposed by globalization.

Methodology

In the course of this study we relied on secondary sources of data. These were essential to guiding our ability to generate a correct understanding of the nature of the relationship between the variables of the study. The insights already developed by a wide variety of scholars, statesmen and actors in security operations as well as others who have gained experience as participants in the processes that form the framework of the problems that make up our study area was vital to the study.

These sources of data are made up of already written published, unpublished, detailed and summarized documents that have a bearing on our area of study. In this regard, remote and proximate issues relating to our study that can improve our insight with regards to our work that have been captured in a variety of literary forms and over an extended period were consulted and studied in depth. We relied on content analyses of the given texts and the literary critical approach as methods guiding our analyses.

Theoretical Framework

Theoretical Frameworks adopted for this paper is the Instrumental Theory of Insecurity. This is associated with scholars such as Edward Mickolus (1976), Richard Betts (1982), and Martha Crenshaw (1985). It is premised on the assertion that terrorist acts are a deliberate choice by a political actor and that organizations behave in ways that enhance their probabilities of achieving collective values, which involve radical changes in political and social conditions (Crenshaw, 1985:13). Here, terrorism is interpreted as a response to external stimuli, particularly government actions thus are directed at the process of governance itself. The major thrust or basic assumption of this theory is that violence is intentional.

Terrorism is a means to a political end. Schelling (1966) suggests that terrorism is one form of violent coercion, a bargaining process based on the power to hurt and intimidate as a substitute for the use of overt military force. As such it is similar to other strategies based on the power to hurt rather than conventional military strength. Within this context, terrorism is meant to produce a change in the government's political position, not the destruction of military potential. The theory also submits that non-state

organizations using terrorism is assumed to act on the basis of calculation of the benefit or value to be gained from an action, the cost of the attempt and of its failure, the consequences of inaction, or the probability of success. According to Betts (1982), violent actions may occur for several reasons; the value sought for is overwhelmingly important; costs of trying are low; the status quo is intolerable; or the probability of succeeding (even at high cost) is high. Thus, violent groups may act out of anticipation of reward or out of desperation, in response to opportunity or to threat. This strategic perspective, according to Betts (1982), is a conceptual foundation for the analysis of surprise attacks. Thus, he concludes that violence is par excellence a strategy of surprise, necessary for small groups who must thereby compensate for weakness in numbers and destructive capability.

Conceptual Clarifications

Globalization

Globalization is the favorite trap-concept of journalists and politicians. The term has also become the key idea for the practice and theory of the business, but also came in academic debates. Unfortunately, what people want to express or define by globalization is often confusing. Globalization is usually used as a handy form to describe the spread of communication production and connection technologies throughout the world. Most often, the term globalization is used in a confusing manner with respect to the efforts of IMF, World Bank and the institutions to create a free global market for goods and services. This political project otherwise significant (and potentially harmful for many poorer nations) is in fact designed to develop and exploit more complex processes (Larsson 2001). Globalization in terms of connectivity across the entire world of the economic and cultural life increased throughout the centuries. Yet many believe that the current situation is a fundamentally different order from what it was before. The communication and the exchange rate, the complexity and size of the networks involved, the volume of trade, the interaction and the risk give a strange force to the label "globalization". With the increase of economic interconnection, the political changes have deepened - the poorer "peripheral" countries became more dependent of the “central" economies, such as U.S., where capital and technical expertise tend to be blocked (Gray, 2000). There was also a shift of power, far away from nation states and, as some argue, from multinational corporations. We have seen the growth and globalization of the "brand" It is not just large corporations operating in several different countries - they also have developed and brought on the market products that can be sold packing as well as in Washington. Brands like Coca-Cola, Nike and many others have become part of the life of a very large number of people.

Globalization involves spreading of ideas, practices and technologies, and it is little more than internationalization and universalization. It is not simply the modernization or westernization. Certainly it is much more than market liberalization (Hutton & Giddens, 2001). The challenge of understanding security and risk in terms of conventional divisions between internal and external threats has been highlighted by discussions of globalization. This is because the state system's unique porosity encourages the consideration of social, physical, and environmental threats that cross national boundaries rather than those that remain within countries or cause issues between them (Held et’ all 1999). In actuality, globalization not only changes the scope and potential for intra- and international conflicts, but also creates new kinds of threats and insecurities as transnational flows of people, money, technology, and ideas increase and penetrate established institutions. Additionally, it redefines the roles and powers of social actors often involved in security provision and administration, particularly the state, and set a new agenda for managing security challenges.

Security

The concept of security has mostly been discussed and examined in political and international relations theory, with discussions typically centering on state-to-state conflicts and their effects. The security of the state, its sovereignty, and its borders could be viewed as deciding the security of everyone because, from the standpoint of liberal ideology and conventional political science, the state has been the very incarnation of community and collective identity. Security was perceived in connection to the concerns of "national sovereignty" and "national interests," particularly during the tumultuous bipolarity of the Cold War. But since the late 1980s, as a multi-polar world order has emerged, conversations have taken unexpected turns, challenging conventional wisdom regarding state sovereignty, interests, and security. Security was perceived in connection to the concerns of "national sovereignty" and

"national interests," particularly during the tumultuous bipolarity of the Cold War. (Shapiro et al. 1996). The military's defense of the country's borders and institutions is no longer viewed as being the primary means of ensuring its security. Rather, the preservation of social order on a national and international level along with environmental management is portrayed as essential activities for the replication of security.

Concurrently, the terms "security" and "risk," which go hand in hand, have become commonplace in various domains of social and cultural philosophy. Current research on risk and security shows how, in late modernity, human existence and social structure concurrently produce and effect damages, losses, anxieties, and worries, also known as "threats to security" or "insecurity." Some of these works assume that danger and insecurity are more prevalent in high-tech, globalized living and approach risk and insecurity as ontological issues. Additional research focuses on the discourses surrounding risk and security, including criminal activity and the personal use of security, examining the public agenda, policy concerns, and the ways and reasons that security appears to be taking up more and more people's time (Beck 1992; Hope and Sparks 2000; O'Malley 2000; Loader 1999). Some of the traditional social science concerns, such as solidarity, justice, and welfare, are occasionally overshadowed by risk and security.

Governance

Current theories of the state in sociology and political science have noted a shift in state rule patterns, especially in the previous few decades, pointing to a shift from "government" to "governance." That is, from the acceptance of a multilevel, transnational governance system made up of numerous diverse, interacting members of a network with partially overlapping and segmented domains; to a model of a supreme and sovereign state government that hierarchically organizes the rule of society. This literature claims that there are numerous internal and external threats to state sovereignty that have an impact on both state authority and sovereignty (Pierre, ed., 2000).

First, the state no longer has much of its historical power to control the national economy as a result of the growing worldwide financial market deregulation and the resulting volatility of global capital. Furthermore, the state's power to control political and social life within its borders has been altered or even undermined by the quickly growing transnational policy networks that involve state workers, academics, and consultants (Pierre 2000:). Second, new social force constellations have emerged domestically to challenge the state: the state's information monopoly is under threat from the emergence of the "information society," which has emerged as a result of the decline of industrial society, which has left no stable configuration of interests and interest organizations. Lastly, there has been an increasing trend to see the state as a cause of societal issues, including subpar economic performance, rather than as a remedy. This point of view has resulted in deregulation, as well as the accountability and even the empowerment of non-state sectors, such as NGOs, private businesses, and organizations. Regarding "external sovereignty," it appears that a "global polity" or anarchic hybrids of imperialism and regional integration are taking shape (Held, 1999; Jackson, 2000). Regarding "internal sovereignty," the destabilization or erosion of traditional bases of authority through decentralization and the empowerment of non-state actors within national territory have put the central state's formerly uncontested areas of responsibility under increasing pressure (Higgott and Ougaard, 2001).

In summary, the transition from government to governance has resulted in a decentering of authority: more polyarchical, deterritorialized public and private networks of governance, ranging from the local to the global level, have complemented, challenged, and in some cases even completely replaced the hierarchical, territorially bound patterns of nation-state government (Duffield 1998; Kaldor 2000). Modern societies have been inextricably linked to actors outside of their borders since they were first constructed by national institutions of the market and political systems with a national mandate that were coextensive with the nation-state's territory.

The Impact of Globalization on Insecurity and Governance in Nigeria

Nigeria’s security challenges with regards to the Boko Haram Islamic sect revolves around the beliefs of the sect that politics in Northern Nigeria has been seized by a group of corrupt, false elites and thus it seeks to wage a war against them, and the Federal Republic of Nigeria generally, to create a “pure” Islamic state ruled by Sharia law. Since August 2011 Boko Haram has planted bombs almost weekly in

public places or in worship centers in Nigeria's north east region in particular and the north in general. The group has also broadened its targets to include setting fire on schools. In March 2012, some twelve public schools in Maiduguri were burned down during the night, and as many as 10,000 pupils were forced out of education (Walker, 2012).

The multiplication of actors in international relations is one of the major trends in the development of contemporary international politics. This has climaxed in the twenty-first century. These actors are classified into state and non-state actors. Among the non-state actors in international politics of concern to this study are international terrorist groups otherwise called "Violent Non-State Actors" (VNSA) (Williams, 2008). All non-state actors in international politics whether violent or not, have some features and characteristics in common that enable them to initiate, participate and, often, influence the outcome of international relations. One of such characteristics is that they espouse and promote ideas, beliefs and courses of action whose impacts cut across several independent and sovereign states. Thus, they range from international movements with shared ideologies to religious movements spread across the globe to ethnic groups involved in various struggles such as the Ogonis of Nigeria and native Indians of the Amazon Forest or the Boko Haram insurgent group in the northern part of Nigeria or the Al-Qaeda terrorist networks, these movements have become recognized and are increasingly gaining global relevance and significance.

A number of scholars (Williams, 2008; Negroponte, 2006; Ampatuam, 2003) have successfully established a nexus between the emergence and prevalence of modern international terrorism and globalization especially since the twenty – first century. According to Williams (2008), although terrorism has a long historical background, an important factor in the understanding of the rise of VNSAs, over the last few decades is globalization. Williams submits that not only has globalization challenged individual state's capacity to manage economic affairs, it has provided facilitators and force multipliers for VNSAs. According to him, global flow of arms, for example is no longer under the exclusive control of nation-states.

Illicit arm dealers have become transnational players and have contributed to a diffusion of military power that has provided VNSAs with weapon capabilities that allow them to challenge government forces. In a similar vein, globalization has allowed Violent Non-State Actors to develop transnational social capital and to create alliance and generate support outside their immediate area of operations. Globalization, along with the rise of illicit global economy has also provided funding opportunities for Violent Non-State Actors and other terrorist groups generally. In 2006, John Negroponte, then Director of U.S. National Intelligence wrote that "The 21st century is less dangerous than the 20th century in certain respects, but more dangerous in others. Globalization, particularly of technologies that can be used to produce weapons of mass destruction (WMD), has led to the spread of jihadist movements, and of course, the horrific events of September 11, 2001" (Negroponte, 2006:1, 2).

In addition, Ampatuam (2003) submits that while globalization has brought unprecedented development and progress to people, it has also unleashed negative aspects such as "facilitating international terrorism and other forms of transnational crimes." According to him, transnational terrorism is a global phenomenon which is seen as one of the most destructive. The September 11, 2001 attacks on the United States of America illustrate the lethality of this threat. In Nigeria, globalization has facilitated the prevalence of terrorism and violent groups such as the Boko Haram and the many militant groups in the Niger Delta region. This is evident in the method and means of their funding, supply of logistics and weapon system, training, coordination and flow of information of the groups. For instance, the security operatives in Nigeria have established a link between the Boko Haram and the many terrorist groups that are directly or otherwise engaging in the current political and security crises in the West African state of Mali, namely the Islamist Ansar Dine ("Defenders of the Faith"), Al Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM) and Jama'a al Tawhid wa al Jihad fi GharbAfriqiya (The Movement for Unity and Jihad in West Africa, MUJWA), from where its operations and activities are coordinated. The Boko Haram group also has ties with Somalia's al-Shabaab while its membership has spread to other West African countries such as Cameroun, Benin Republic, Niger, Mauritania, and Chad which also provide sanctuary for the group's members Okpaga, Chijioke & Eme, (2012).

In addition, because violent groups receive both funding and logistics from international sources and because globalization has enabled illicit arms dealing and free movement of goods and services and illicit global economy such as oil bunkering to flourish, many of these groups have sprung up. This is mostly the case with the militant groups in the Niger Delta region where groups such as the Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta (MEND) led by Henry Okah, the Niger Delta People's Volunteer Force (NDPVF) led by Alhaji Asari Dokubo, the Niger Delta Vigilante force (NDVF) led by Ateke Tom, the Bush Boys, the Martyrs Brigade among others operate Cesarz, Morrison & Cooke, (2003). Apart from their international connections, sources of funding and logistics, the organizational structures, coordination of the activities and operations of the terrorist groups have been enhanced by the use of global system of communication such the cell phones, internet, websites, media releases. These are all processes of globalization Afoaku, (2011).

Thus, sources of funding, training and supply of weapons of terrorist groups have been aided by a global system that encourages free flow of liquid cash, information and easy movements of human beings. A recent United States report indicated that Boko Haram receives funding and training from international terrorist groups such as al-Qaeda in the Middle East, al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM) and radical Islamic group, Al-Muntada Trust Fund, based in the United Kingdom (Nigerian Tribune, February 12, www.ccsenet.org/jpl Journal of Politics and Law Vol. 7, No. 3; 2014 25 2012). With regard to the Niger Delta Militants, Ebienfa and Nwaodike (2010) have argued that globalization has swell up the capacity of the Militant groups in terms of logistics, funding and training opportunities. This according to them is evident by the fact that advances in communication and information technologies now have serious implications and outcomes on the Niger Delta crisis. As for the sources of the Militants' weapons, analysts have submitted that illicit arm dealers created by a global system of interconnectedness supply weapons from various locations.

Impact of Insecurity and Responses of the Nigerian State

Recent events in Nigeria have indicated an emerging security trend in the form of terrorism and terrorist group attacks. It would be recalled that in September 12, 2007, the Australian government issued a travel advisory advising its citizens to re-consider their needs in travelling to Nigeria at this time due to the high threat of terrorist attack, high risk of kidnapping, unprecedented security situation and the heightened risk of violent civil unrest. This was sequel to an earlier warning issued on September 6, 2007 by the US Mission in Lagos to her citizens against travelling to Nigeria due to high risk of terrorist threat and attack against the West Ojiabor, (2007). At the time of this message, the terrorist activities in the Niger Delta area of Nigeria especially hostage taking, kidnapping and other criminal activities was just assuming an unprecedented rise. Nigeria lost an estimated 58.3bn in oil revenue to crisis in the Niger Delta in the last nine years the Chairman, Senate Committee on Niger Delta Peace and Conflict Resolution, Senator David Brigidi disclosed (Nwachukwu &Ekwere 2007).

Criminal violence in the Niger Delta degenerated overtime into an irrepressible wave of abductions for ransom, armed robberies, cult wars between gangs and fighting connected to the dangerous trade in stolen crude. Within the period over 200 foreigners were kidnapped in an ex-change for money, fueling insecurity in the region. Thousands of expatriate workers and their relatives fled the region, abandoning oil production and infrastructural projects in the zone. Terrorist activities in the form of kidnapping soon gain pre-eminence because it attracted ransoms. The South East zone became the happening zone. Accordingly, it was reported that "virtually all the kidnappings this year (July 2010 reporting period), occurred in the South-East and Niger Delta regions, home to African's biggest oil and gas industry" (Akasike& Adelekan, 2010:3).

The south-eastern State of Abia had the most incidents with 110 people taken hostage. Total income generated (to the criminals) from the kidnapping enterprise stood at a whopping estimated N10bn so far (Akasike & Adelekan, 2010). The Senate President and well-meaning Nigerians called for a state of emergency to be declared in the south-east. According to President Jonathan Goodluck, "the emerging dimension of threat to national security that is rearing its ugly head in our nation must be confronted headlong and defeated. The spate of violent crimes in parts of the country including kidnapping, armed robbery, assassinations etc. are contemporary security challenges facing our nation" Soriwei& Fidelis (2010:1). The President went on to say that the unfortunate act of

terrorism that was unleashed on the nation on October 1, 2010 is another emerging threat by some unpatriotic and undemocratic elements in the country. He therefore called on the Nigerian Army to be ready to do all within its capability to partner with other security agencies to address the security challenges.

Boko Haram's frontal challenge of the Nigerian government has made government seem weak in tackling the menace. The Human Right Watch Report on Nigeria in January 2012 estimated the number of deaths lost in Nigeria as a result of Boko Haram terrorist activities between 2009 and 2011 at 935 cited in Laden, (2012). There has been more death caused by Boko Haram bomb attacks across Northern States from January 1, 2012 to November 18, 2012 Eke Chijioke Chinwokwu (February 2013: 265).

The increase in the level of insecurity was manifested in a number of high-profile jail breaks in the country. Between 2015 and 2022 there were 20 jailbreaks recorded across the country. In a spectacular event on 6th July 2022 at Kuje correctional facility in Abuja the nation's capital a jailbreak which was reported to have been preceded by the withdrawal of security forces succeeded in freeing 889 inmates many of whom were convicted for activities related to terrorism (Oyedeji, 2022). In Bwari also in Abuja there was a series of attacks on the Nigerian army personnel leading to the deaths of 6 soldiers and 2 officers. The response was swift and a security detail was deployed to flush out and neutralize the growing threat from terrorists in and around the capital leading to the deaths of 30 terrorists and the destruction of their base (Omonobi, 2022).

Meanwhile in the South Eastern Zone the IPOB agitators who were designated as a terrorist group by the Nigerian government on 10th September 2017 became increasingly intransigent (Okakwu, 2018). It advocated for forced sit ins to protest what it considers the genocide against indigenous people in the area (Ujumadu, 2022). The group did not shy from the use of violence and terrorist activities to push its agenda. Thus as a result of the enforcement of its sit in orders about 10 billion naira is lost to businesses weekly in the region according to governor Umahi of Ebonyi state (Ujumadu 2022). Additionally, one of the main sources of insecurity that have plagued the Nigerian State recently is banditry. The Northwestern region of Nigeria, which includes the states of Kano, Kaduna, Kebbi, Jigawa, Sokoto, and Zamfara, has developed into a hotbed of criminal activity. Bandits there wield sophisticated weapons and engage in a variety of illegal activities, including robbing local communities, kidnapping for ransom, and cattle rustling. As a result, these activities impede and disrupt economic activity in those states.

Primary Causes of Insecurity in Nigeria

Omale (2013) pointed out that it is necessary to distinguish between different causes as each may require a different remedy. Besides, it is to provide a holistic view to the suggestion or recommendations of solutions. More often, however, policy makers are disinclined to isolate and clarify particular causes. They prefer blanket references, with the consideration that the causes of insecurity are interwoven and contributory to one another. Like in many other societies, the sources of insecurity in Nigeria have been traced to a number of factors and explained by different people. These factors have been classified or grouped into external and internal factors. Beyond the external-internal dichotomy, sources of insecurity have also been classified as either remote or proximate and immediate sources/causal factors. In Nigeria, the challenge is not so much about insecurity of external sources, but rather that of internal sources. We recognize that some internal factors have been enhanced and strengthened by the presence of external forces, but, there is no doubt that, if the internal situations did not present themselves, the external forces would be unable to infiltrate. He also went further to discuss the root factors of insecurity in Nigeria. His main observations are:

Lack of institutional capacity resulting in government failure described as the corrosion or breakdown of institutional infrastructures. The foundations of institutional framework in Nigeria are very shaky and have provoked deterioration of state governance and democratic accountability, thus, paralyzing the existing set of constraints including the formal and legitimate rules nested in the hierarchy of social order. The state of insecurity in Nigeria is greatly a function of government failure, or can be linked to government failure. This is manifested by the incapacity of government to deliver public services and to provide basic needs for the masses. The lack of basic necessities by the people in Nigeria has created a pool of frustrated people who are ignited easily by any event to be violent. The argument here, is that, Nigeria has

the resources to provide for the needs of its people, but corruption in public offices at all levels has made it impossible for office holders to focus on the provision of basic needs for the people Nigerian situation as a 'Paradox of Plenty'. A situation where the country earns a great deal of revenue through oil sales, but fails to use these earnings to meet the needs of its people and to develop infrastructure as well as the economy. When these situations exist, crime rate is bound to rise and the security of lives and properties cannot be guaranteed.

Pervasive material inequalities and unfairness – Greater awareness of disparities in life is a major root cause of insecurity in Nigeria. This is a rooted general perception of inequality and unfairness which has resulted in grievance by a large number of people. This perception stems from the perception of marginalization by a section of the people, government development policies and political offices and this has become a primary source of disaffection and resentment. A large number of the Nigeria population is frustrated and have lost hope, especially the youths, and have now emerged to express their disillusion about the pervasive state of inequality. For example, the case in the Niger Delta where the Avengers, Niger Delta Revolutionary Crusaders have been blowing up installations reducing the exploration and production of oil to abysmal levels. The activities of the Niger Delta Avengers were responsible for the epileptic power supply in the country as well as the inability of state governors to pay workers' salaries due to the low revenue generated in the oil sector as a result of the attack on pipelines.

Ethno-religious conflicts have arisen from distrust among various ethnic groups and among the major religions in the country. He identified ethno-religious conflict as a major source of insecurity in Nigeria. Ethno-religious conflict defined as a situation in which the relationship between members of one ethnic or religious group and another of such group in a multi-ethnic and multi-religious society is characterized by lack of cordiality, mutual suspicion and fear, and a tendency towards violent confrontation. Frequent and persistent ethnic conflicts and religious clashes between the two dominant religions (Islam and Christianity), present the country with a major security challenge. In all parts of Nigeria, there exist ethno-religious conflicts and these according to him, have emerged as a result of new and particularistic forms of political consciousness and identity often structured around ethno-religious identities. The claim over scarce resources, power, land, chieftaincy, local government, councils, control of markets and sharia among other trivial issues have resulted in large scale killings and violence amongst groups in Nigeria.

Weak Security systems resulting from inadequate equipment for the security arm of government, both in weaponry and training. This is in addition to poor attitudinal and behavioral disposition of security personnel. In many cases, security personnel assigned to deal with given security situations lack the expertise and equipment to handle the situations in a way to prevent them from occurring. And even when these exist, some personnel get influenced by ethnic, religious or communal sentiment and are easily swallowed by their personal interest to serve their people, rather than the nation. Thus, instead of being national watch dogs and defending national interest and values, and protecting people from harm by criminals, they soon become saboteurs of government effort by supporting and fueling insecurity through either leaking vital security information or aiding and abetting criminals to acquire weapons or to escape the long arm of the law.

Statistics have also indicated that in the last one year, there is a slight improvement in peace as Nigeria moved up one place to 147th out of 158 countries in the 2020 Global Peace Index Ranking (GPI, 2020).

Conclusions

As we have shown, the rejection of authoritarian approaches to governance and the orientation of the State towards entrenching the concept of democracy is one of the core ingredients necessary for security, stability and development in society. The ideal of democracy suggests the equalization of individuals across various social spheres. It does this through its emphasis on the principle that every individual has the same nights as another in the political process. For democracy to thrive there must be an emphasis on creating the basis for a minimum level of equalization in the social, economic as well as political spheres of society. In this regard it becomes obvious that democracy is not only about granting franchise to the entire adult population. This is because it is obvious that economic and social considerations also feature prominently in the political process. The night to vote must be followed by the freedom to choose before any meaning can be attached to it. Thus,

in a situation in which there is mass poverty, the existence of a culture of intolerance, the willful militarization of responses to perceived injustice by citizens organized in primordial identity groups makes a mockery of democratic principles and they become difficult to entrench in a given polity.

In whatever way it might be interpreted, globalization has not improved the situation in Africa. Rather, it has led to widespread oppression, inequality, and exploitation, which have resulted in various types of terrorism and insurgency, especially in Nigeria. Given this, it is acceptable to acknowledge that insurgency and other forms of criminality, particularly in Nigeria, are fueled by globalization and that they both function as feathered friends in Africa. The Nigerian State has been struggling for decades with various dysfunctional mechanisms in the governance process as a result of the significant distortion of security. State actors must act quickly to save the country from complete collapse, which is becoming more and more likely every day.

Recommendations

1. Nigeria needs to be at the forefront of promoting the establishment of a strong economic bloc among African nations with the goal of curbing the explosive trend of globalization toward the proliferation of weapons and other types of transnational crimes.

2. Nigeria requires an institutional and political framework to deal with the problems posed by the proliferation of ethnic and religious militias, whose actions have undermined the State's legitimacy and sovereignty and continued to pose a threat to the internal security system.

3. To create a sustainable political structure for Nigeria that overcomes security and governance challenges, these core values must be embedded in the institutional and structural framework of the Nigerian political system.

4. Authority must emanate from the consent of the people. For our purposes, the fact of the existence of the Nigerian state means that the authority it utilizes must be consistent with the collective resolve of the people, freely given.

5. The system must be based on the rule of law. There must not be any form of arbitraries in the legal system. This is one of the main reasons why military regimes with their rule by decree can be very harmful to social stability.

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PUBLIC INFRASRUCTURE PROJECT FAILURES IN NIGERIA: CAUSES AND CONSEQUENTIAL EFFECTS ON ECONOMY AND WELFARE OF CITIZENRY

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KEYWORDS
Project, project failure, public infrastructure, poor implementation

ABSTRACT
Nigerian state particularly at national and sub-national levels, have experienced public infrastructure project failures during execution of their projects, though, there may be some differences among the level of failures, causes, and effects of such failures at federal, state and local government levels. The aim of this study is to examine and investigate the reasons behind the failure of public infrastructure projects in Nigeria. In practical terms, the implementation of public infrastructure projects in Nigeria has encountered several challenges, which usually results into failures of some projects. The investigation in to the failure of infrastructure project was conducted through qualitative methods. Data were obtained from secondary sources, such as books, journals, archival documents, newspapers, magazines, and websites that host related data on public infrastructure projects. The data were further examined using a content analysis technique. The study found that the failures of public infrastructure projects is a recurring decimal in Nigeria, due to variety of causes such as poor financial capability, inaccurate costing, corruption, incompetence, poor planning and estimation, poor contracting and contractor practices, poor communication, frequent scope changes and design errors, poor leadership, interference from socio-cultural and political factors. The adverse effects of these failures on the economy and citizen's welfare is colossal as it involves loss of state revenue, citizen revenue losses, project cost overruns, low community empowerment, slow economic growth, underdevelopment of infrastructure sector, a loss of foreign aid and grants, stricter donor regulations, the loss of elections by the incumbent leadership at state and federal levels, and a lack of trust in government by financial institutions to further finance public infrastructure projects. Based on this, study recommends that government agencies in charge of overseeing and monitoring public infrastructure projects such as the National Council on Public Procurement, Bureau of Public Procurement, and Due Process Office should be re-organized and reformed to

carry out their statutory responsibilities efficiently and effectively without adopting unethical methods. These findings and recommendations are the contributions of this work to scholarship as they are different from the previous related studies.

Introduction

In Nigeria, successive administrations at federal, state and local levels have worked cooperatively to plan and carry out public infrastructure projects. However, most of the time, these infrastructure projects have terrible planning and execution challenges. This is because the three tiers of government have been extremely ineffective in managing and delivering public infrastructure projects, as they generally lack the institutional structures and desired capacities needed to plan and effectively execute infrastructure projects to raise the standard of living for Nigerians, and transform the country to a developed nation.

According to Nzekwe, Oladejo, and Emoh (2015) and Eja and Ramegowda (2020), an infrastructure project can be considered a failure if its intended purpose is not achieved, regardless of how long it takes to execute or how much money it costs to complete the execution of a public infrastructure project. Therefore, the threat of recurring failure of public infrastructure projects has prompted this research to investigate the underlying causes and consequential effects of the project failures in the country. In fact, a preliminary survey of our immediate environment in Nigeria today, shows an unpalatable scene of poorly planned, incomplete, abandoned, aborted or failed infrastructure projects such as roads, housing, electricity, hospital, and water projects, in which colossal amount of public scare resources sunk in them are been wasted.

Statement of Problem

At present, there is widespread institutional mediocrity, a lack of vision, and insufficient budgetary allocations in the execution of public infrastructure projects, which ultimately results in corrupt practices and high project financing costs, and in some cases, project failures or abandonment may be the end result. The implication is that any infrastructure project undertaken that eventually fails, usually wasted public scarce resources, which may prevent other potential infrastructure projects from coming on stream for the advancement of the nation. In the long run, the project's environment and the economy are adversely affected in three ways. The first is the waste of time, money, and human effort put into carrying them out. The second is denying other projects the chance to enter the stream. The third is how the failure syndrome affects the participants and stakeholders in the project's mental health (Okereke, 2017). On the strength of these reasons, David (1997) observed that it is preferable to forgo starting a project implementation than to start, get stuck, and then give up, and allowed it to fail. This means the failure of public infrastructure projects has constitutes a big problem in Nigeria that requires deep investigation in to its cause and effects.

The study therefore examines the factors that responsible for the failure of public infrastructure projects in Nigeria. From some of the literature reviewed, the study notes the work of Damoah and Kumi (2018), which identified poor supervision, contract modification, construction errors, insufficient equipment, poor procurement practices, and challenging financial processes as the root causes of project failures. The study also notes the research report of Igwe and Ude (2018), which hinged the problem of project failures on the three levels of government that they have not really implemented infrastructure projects with due diligence in accordance with international best practices. Also, the study notes the suggestions of Igbokwe-Ibeto (2018), that adherence to due process in all aspects of project planning and management as solutions to incessant project failures in Nigeria. Notwithstanding the submissions of these scholars, existing evidence of failed projects across the country have shown that it has reach a point in this country that the negative effects of infrastructure project failure on the national economy needs to be deeply investigated with a view to develop some strategies to mitigate the effects and proffers some recommendations to deal with the problem, hence the relevance of this enquiry in to the causes and effects of infrastructure project failure in Nigeria.

Research Objectives

The objectives of the study is to investigate the causes and effects of the failure of public infrastructure projects on the economy with a view to recommend suitable measures to reduce the menace of failed projects in the country.

Methodology

The investigation is a documentary study, which obtains its data from secondary sources such as books, journals, government-archival documents, newspapers, magazines, and websites that host related data. The content analysis technique was further employed to analyze the data collected on the recurring failure of public infrastructure projects in the country.

Theoretical Framework

This study adopted stakeholder theory for explaining this work. A stakeholder theory of the organization requires an understanding of the types of stakeholders and their influence. The theory also explains how organizations respond to those influences. In reality, each project faces a different set of stakeholders, which aggregate into unique patterns of influence. In the work of Ambler and Wilson (1995), it was demonstrated that projects do not simply respond to each stakeholder individually; rather they respond to the interaction of multiple influences from the entire set of stakeholders. In the project setting, organization responses to their stakeholders requires an analysis of the complex array of multiple and interdependent relationships existing within the stakeholder environment. The conceptual analysis of the stakeholder theory is reflected in virtually every major theory of the project particularly in agency, society, behavioural, institutional, population, ecology, resource dependence, and transaction cost (Argenti1997). Also, Freeman (1984) defined stakeholder as any group or individual who can affect or who is affected by the achievement of the project's objectives and continues to provide the boundaries of what constitutes a stake. Freeman argues further that a stakeholder in a project such as government, citizen and the contractor, has some form of capital, either financial or human, which when at risk, has something to lose depending on a project's behavior, so when a project fails or abandoned, stakeholder such as the government and the citizen as the first casuality.

Conceptual Clarifications

Public Infrastructure are infrastructural facilities, institutions, equipment, systems and structures owned and operated by the government, for the common good and use of the general public. It includes all facilities and systems that facilitate day to day running of the economy, for the enhancement of the standard of living of the general populace. Public Infrastructure is entirely different from private infrastructure with respect to policy, purpose, financing, management and ownership. Public infrastructure implies publicly owned physical infrastructure required for sustaining human life such as drainage, water treatment systems, water dams and reticulation pipes, roads, bridges, parking ramps, schools, research centre, skyway, railway, traffic signal lights, pipelines, and so forth (Manjo,2020). Also, according to Zarmadze (2009), public Infrastructure means the goods and services that are not produced within the market system and in many countries, public Infrastructure is a fundamental component for delivering public goods.

Review of Related Literature

The study engaged in thematic review of related literature on the causes of public infrastructure project failures, and impact of infrastructure project failures:

i. Causes of public infrastructure project failures

Several literatures had attributed one reason or the others to public infrastructure project failures. In the works of Zulch (2014); Ikechukwu (2017); and Sambasivan and Soon (2007), communication was found to be a leading cause of project failure in Nigeria as their works affirmed the importance of communication on the successful implementation of projects globally. Also, Hussein (2018), submitted that communication challenges such as linguistic barriers, cultural barriers, poor feedback and unclear communication channels are factors responsible for public infrastructure project failure. In the same manner, Ogundelea and Somefunb (2008), and Dim (2018) further corroborated the factor of communication challenges by pointing out the weaknesses between intergovernmental communications and stakeholders in Nigerian infrastructure projects. Based on these submissions, the study is in agreement with their assertions that the problem of poor communication channels isa

recurring problem in public infrastructure projects in Nigeria.

Furthermore, Nzekwe (2015) and Adebayo (2018), in their works, equally established poor planning as another factor responsible for high infrastructure project failures in Nigeria. They affirmed the importance of effective inclusion of intended goals in the planning and designing stages of any public infrastructure project in order to achieve success in implementation. Inherently, poor practices at the planning stage will imply a subsequent failure of such project. In support of this is the work of Dosumu and Aigbavboa (2017), which cited that the rife failure of infrastructure projects in Nigeria is due to planning related aspects like the estimation of time and costs, in which they referred to Anambra State as the State with the huge record of project failures owing to poor planning. In practical terms, poor planning means poor conceptualisation of the project by the implementing stakeholders, which implies errors and subsequent failures or abortion of the project.

Additionally, Uyo(2019) also identified poor contracting and contractor's sub-optimal performance as another factor responsible for public infrastructure project failure in Nigeria, pointing to the underperformance of contractors on awarded contracts, the embezzlement of project funds for ulterior gains and favouritism in contract awarding processes as a recurring issues. Uyo (2019) further stated that such favouritism locks out good contractors who could have undertaken the projects effectively, but, in their place, choose close friends, relatives and tribe-mates, who end up getting the job and delivering poor work, and in the end, lead to failures of such public infrastructure projects. Such practices are rife in the tendering processes for infrastructural projects in Nigeria across government ministries, departments and agencies. In reality, poor contracting practices is accepted as one of the determinant factors for occurrence of infrastructure project failure in Nigeria.

Equally, in the work of Nweze (2016), socio-cultural and political interference, poor leadership and corruption have also been recorded to be the cause of some public infrastructure projects failures in Nigeria. These socio-cultural issues usually take the form of communal or tribal conflicts, while political interference takes the form of incumbent's leadership refusing to allocate fund to public infrastructure projects initiated by their political predecessors for no good reasons. Evidently, at the sub national level under the current fourth republic, politics plays a critical role in the development trajectory of Nigeria state. The study concurred that bad politics and poor political-will has seen thousands of public infrastructure projects failed before they are even implemented at both federal, state and local government levels. In practice, the aspect of poor leadership and corruption further worsen the case for public infrastructure projects in the country, as corruption, embezzlement of funds, nepotism and tribalism in contracting practices and other sectarian practices have make the country fail to attain its potential in several public infrastructure projects it undertakes. Politics and corruption in the commencement of infrastructure projects have resulted in to many earmarked projects lie unattended to. A typical example is the $20bn Ogidigben Gas Industrial Park and the Gelegale Seaport projects in Delta and Edo States of Nigeria that are yet to see the light of the day due to politics and corruption (Yusuf ,2018 and Okoromadu, 2019). Evidently, the study observed that in all States of the federation, these twin problems- poor leadership and corruption, are major detrimental factors responsible for public infrastructure project failures across Country.

In the opinion of Ayal (2005), frequent design changes, touching the scope, and errors that are usually made in the implementation process have also been established as factors causing the failures of some public infrastructure projects in Nigeria. From this literature, changes or lateness in project implementation usually spike the cost and time overruns of projects. Understandably, project limitation in finances and time horizons paired with the incessant changes in the plans can be costly and in turn, derail the project implementation process. In some cases, contractors or financing can be withdrawn from the project. The study agreed that frequent changes in project scope or withdrawal of funding in a project will ultimately lead to failures or abandonment, which are recurring decimal in many public infrastructure projects in Nigeria.

Similarly, lack of adequate financial resources is identified by Ubani and Ononuju (2013) as another factor for the high rates of infrastructure project failures in Nigeria. Financial constraints couple with poor planning and changes to a project, sum up the bulk of structural setbacks to

the successful implementation of projects globally. In Nigeria, inadequate funds disbursement to the project implementing agencies, resulting in to under-financing of mostpublic projects, usually results to failures of such public infrastructure project. Essentially, the study noted the fact that without enough financial support, public infrastructure projects cannot take off, let alone their completion. Thus, finances are critical to the success or failure of any public infrastructure project.

ii. Impact of public infrastructure project failure

Public infrastructure project failures confer the all-dreaded poor social amenities to a community or society, which is detrimental to the nation's economic development. In practical terms, failed projects essentially mean the intended goals of a project were not successfully met by the respective stakeholders, as such, the remnant project is a fraction of what was intended in the designing stage. The end product of the failure of public infrastructure projects can be seen in roads, housing, power, and other infrastructural projects, which failed with the end product not achieved, thus making the intended benefiting community poorer, suffered and degraded. Yusuf (2018) and Okoromadu (2019), in their works, once identified Anambra State to have been noted to be filled with these set of ugly consequences due to the high rate of failed infrastructure projects. As such, sub-standard infrastructure projects delivered to the community or State across the country has made such community or State to remain at a disadvantaged in term of development.

The impact of public infrastructure project failures is also adverse to stakeholders of these investments across Nigeria state. Evident to support this is the report of Sahara Reporter (2019), which identified the loss of state revenues pumped into the execution of these projects as the prime effect of the failure of infrastructure projects, which is put at 2 trillion Naira ($5.517 billion) between the years 2000 and 2019. Moreover, Dim (2018) pointed out that only less than 16% of the projects in road construction end up successful in Nigeria. The bulk of infrastructure projects undertaken in the country fails, which has sent the larger percentage of public's limited resources down the drain with little benefits drawn back from these investments. The study notes that the lost revenues could be used in the provision of essential services to the community and in addressing the poverty levels for the majority of the Nigerians as opposed to undertaking these costly infrastructural projects which in the end fails. Thus, public revenue losses to such infrastructure projects have been a huge impact of failure of public project which warrants urgent solutions.

Also, in the work of Manjo (2020), cost overruns have been established to be an associated impact of public infrastructure project failures. These costs have been tied to the contractual responsibilities, which stakeholders are to or have to fulfil, regardless of the trajectory of the project. Mostly, credit facilitation costs have been noted to be a leading cost associated with the majority of public infrastructure projects that failed in Nigeria. In fact, contractors will be obliged to pay the loans they took to undertake the projects, while the government is paying its donors and financial institution for the projects too. Therefore, the study agreed that meeting the strict financial condition given to the stakeholders regardless of the status of the project is a consequence for failure of infrastructure projects in Nigeria.

In the study conducted by Yusuf (2018) and Okoromadu (2019), loss of revenue by the immediate host community of failed infrastructure projects is another major consequence. It is necessary to state here that project implementation is geared towards the provision of projects that facilitate vital services to the communities, as infrastructural projects open opportunities to the local communities in commerce and social integration, which is important for the development of the nation. However, when public infrastructure project fails, it's usually locked out communities from development, and in some cases, taken away the probable revenues that could have been gained with the operation of some of these public infrastructure projects. A specific case in point is the Delta communities, which were said to have lost plenty revenues which could have been generated from the $20bn Ogidigben Gas Industrial Park. The failure of the project has left the Ogidigben community economically disadvantaged and still playing catch up game with advanced regions like Asaba within the same Delta state. In this case, low empowerment of the community disadvantaged by the project failure can also be counted as one of the impacts of infrastructure project failure.

Equally, Yusuf (2018) and Okoromadu (2019) restated that public infrastructure project failure usually leads to slowed developments in the

associated sector in which the infrastructure project would be operating. This means that such project failures will also deprive the affected sector of the needed support that the infrastructure projects were intended to offer as the case with the Gas Revolution and Industrial Park, Ogidigben in Delta State and the Gelegale Seaport in Edo State, which are both intended to benefit the gas industry in both Edo and Delta States, but failed to materialize. Had it been they had been successfully implemented, the local gas industry would have benefitted from refinery services locally in Nigeria, hence, bridging the costs, and improving the efficiency of the product value chain. The multiplier effect would have, in turn, benefitted local oil manufacturers with more revenues. However, the failure of these two vital infrastructure projects implies that these projects would not be conferring the intended economic benefits to the local communities, and at the same time, locking out economic opportunities for the industry players to capitalise on for overall economic and oil and gas sector growth in the country.

Analysis, Findings and Discussion on the Causes and Effects of Infrastructure Project Failures in Nigeria.

As a practical guide for analysis, the study employed some of the documented memoirs of field works, inspection reports and observatory work across some project sites, particularly in Kwara state between 2017 and 2020when the Author served as Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Works and Transport, where the following factors were found to be responsible for public infrastructure project failures in Nigeria, particularly in Kwara State:

First, most infrastructure projects in Nigeria have failed due to poor project management and ineffective resource allocation. In reality, infrastructure development is a construction process whereby an organization assumes responsibility for a project, delegates a project team to build it and initiates management systems such as tools, equipment, processes and procedures with which the project can be completed. This management process needed three fundamental elements; requiring execution and control, which may be symbolized by 3 Ps: the project outcome (product), the tools, technology and management systems (process) and the team to deliver the project (people).The study by Manjo (2023) on Kishi-Kaiama federal road project traversing Kwara-Oyo States Boundary revealed that fund reimbursement impasse was a major cause of the abandonment of Kaiama-Kishi road construction project, which therefore corroborated this finding.

Secondly, Moro and Ohan Bridges Inspection Report (2018) equally revealed poor project management and lack of sound project management by project sponsors, particularly the federal and state governments and in some cases the contractors, which often lead to project construction delays and extra costs for both parties i.e., the government and executing contractor. The study found that poor management accounted for the non-completion and abandonment of Moro and Ohan Bridges since 2015. In addition to the problems that occur during project construction period, poor project management in particular, had also resulted in some completed infrastructure project failing to meet the specified quality and functionality requirements, thus, could not produce the intended products, or could not be operated for its intended purpose. The study found from the Inspection Report (2018) that Ohan and Moro Bridge Construction works along Ilorin-Igbeti federal road, traversing Kwara, Oyo, to Chikanda-Benin Republic International border is being executed at a snail rate since 2015.Works stopped at the two sites in 2017, and there was no construction activities at the two sites throughout 2018, 2019 and 2020. The study's field trip to the sites of the two bridges on 24th March,2024 also revealed a sorry state of abandonment of the two projects as there was no works at the two sites.

In practice, the penchant for fire brigade approach to project management in Nigeria was found to be a critical factor responsible for public infrastructure project failures across the country. Project managers and government agencies often take on extremely aggressive schedules without outlining necessary plans, resources and systems to adequately address the difficulties which may arise and this usually forces project staff to work in areas outside their competence, thereby compelling them to take shortcuts and barely giving them necessary space to assess risks and plan for eventualities without which project failure is almost inevitable. Corroborating this finding is the remarks by El-Rufai (2012) which stated that:

> *"Assume a road is to be constructed between two locations, the rights-of-way must be surveyed, levels taken, alignment finalized, road designed, and detailed drawings, bills of*

quantities and other bidding documents prepared prior to inviting pre-qualified engineering contractors to submit competitive tenders. The design development process can take anything between some months to more than a year, while it takes a minimum of 5 months from advertising invitations for bids to presentation to the FEC or other approving authority. This suggests that design and procurement processes for any project ought to start at least a year or two before being budgeted for. This only happens in a few foresighted agencies (MDAs). Typically, nothing happens until the budget is passed and cash-backed, then the implementing MDA begins the fire brigade work of compressing this timeline into a few weeks! Most MDAs wait until projects are included in budget or the budget passed before they start project surveys or design or the procurement process. When an MDA spends at least 5 months on procurement, how much time does the contractor have to execute the project and draw down the funds before the financial year runs out? This becomes a big issue as MDAs are required by law to return all unspent funds to the treasury by the year end".

Furthermore, the Author's practical experience in public service have also shown that for a project to achieve its purpose, the project systems have to be integrated and aligned so as to enable the people to carry out their functions efficiently. However, this was not the case found in the Moro and Ohan Bridges Inspection report (2018), which revealed that the handling construction companies in Nigeria engaged in unprofessional practices that lead to the abandonment of these projects. First, it is a general knowledge in project management that project managers sometimes hold overly optimistic views occasioned from inadequate analysis, which may affect the operational plan or the schedule plan or both. Secondly, when the schedule of work is based on performance expectations from sub-contractors and expected productivity from the workforce, meeting the schedule of works will depend on sub-contractors meeting stated deadlines. When these targets are not met, previous unrealistic assumptions will therefore demand that the project work plan be changed to recover from unexpected lapses which ultimately increases the potentials for failure of the project. With respect to the two Bridges under reference, records from inspection reports shows that the contractors quoted ridiculously low rates to win the bids, and thereafter, submitted a variations, which almost doubled the initial approved contract costs. The non-approval of variation costs submitted by the contractors, resulted to an impasse that adversely affected the construction of the two bridges since 2018 till date.

At this juncture, it needs to be stressed also that evaluation of risks during project planning tends to receive inadequate attention due to time constraints and the urgency to deliver by ministries, departments and agencies of government. The resultant effects is the likelihood of higher risks being imposed on the project. When a project is denied the very necessary processes and preparations which may improve the possibility of success, such an infrastructure project tends to fail and this has been the case at both federal and state governments in Nigeria.

Another recurring problem is the lack of financial capacity and delays in payment due to contactors, occasioned by paucity of funds on the part of government, and this usually resulted in to stoppage of project's works, especially that federal government ministries, departments and agencies are required to return unspent budgeted funds to the central coffer at the end of every financial year. The practice often leaves federal MDA's stranded for cash to complete on-going projects. In spite the adverse implications of not exhausting the funds budgeted for implementing infrastructure projects on the economy, federal MDA's are always eager to showcase their incorruptibility by rushing to return unspent funds, thereby promoting project abandonment and total failure. In this regard, government at all levels in Nigeria are failing to conduct an evaluation of the infrastructural projects for which budgeted funds are being returned to realize the incompetence aspect of government agencies in terms of time wasted on procurement, which may causes delay and project failure in the name of unspent funds must be returned to government at the end of every financial year.

Additionally, the Author's practical experience in public service have also shown that bureaucratic red-tapism, corruption and inaccurate cost estimate has been responsible

for public infrastructure project failure. It is no longer news that the Nigerian public service is characterized by a very high level of bureaucratic red-tapism and delay which seriously hinders infrastructure project delivery in Nigeria. This challenge is prevalent in the areas of appropriation, procurement, documentation, approvals and fund release. Given that government agencies are often charged with the responsibility of initiating and monitoring on-going projects, officials in public service usually capitalize on this authority to exploit the process by conniving with contractors to manipulate cost estimates and document false progress report to favor contractors, and receive kickbacks, thereby ensuring the failure of most infrastructure projects across the country. In fact, bribery and corruption are regarded by most Nigerians especially the civil servants as a custom even with the ongoing crusade against corruption by the EFCC and ICPC since the enthronement of democratic governance in 1999. Delays procedure and implementation of projects, leading to cost overruns are part of the consequences of excessive bureaucratic red-tapism and corruption. Corroborating this finding, Sohail and Cavil (2009) also submitted that contractors often purposely overstate the time and cost requirements of a project, falsify time sheets, utilize cheaper or defective materials and sometimes deliberately omit specifications in order to reap illegitimate financial benefits.

Along the same thinking on the impact of excessive bureaucracy and corruption on project implementation and delivery, Szeffel (1998) is also of the opinion that corruption alters the capacity for institutional performance in the context of administrative efficiency, undermines managerial effectiveness and redirects resources from regional, country and global development to individual interest. Equally, this finding is in line with the earlier submission by Odeyinka and Yusuf (1997), that the effect of corruption in public infrastructure project failure in Nigeria is so severe to the extent that in an effort to ensure the success of bids submitted, contractors sometimes buy out information from the client's quantity surveyor to ensure that the lowest tender figure is submitted for the said contractor or company to win the bids. The long run effect of this is that public infrastructure projects are often awarded to contractors or companies which do not have the technical capability to deliver on the project and such unholy practices have been found to be responsible for so many failed infrastructure projects across the country.

Similarly, Ademuyiwa (2009) had pointed out that experts in project accounting had submitted that the current accounting system for project funds cannot be deemed to be adequate without accounting for other project inputs such as time, human and material resources which are wasted by MDA's in the course of project procurement, which usually leaves the contractors in a dilemma when the financial year ends in the middle of a project. For instance, the amount of unspent funds on projects expected by government in 2008 alone was estimated at over N500 Billion translating to about US$3 Billion (Ademuyiwa,2009).

The study also found that in spite the provisions of Public Procurement Act (2007), there are still several cases of many contracting companies in Nigeria that do not have the financial capacity to execute the contracts, yet, they secured the project contract, and this leaves them stranded for funds midway into the project execution process. The study noted that some of these contractors hide and capitalize on the provisions of Section 63 (1) of the Public Procurement Act (2007), which states inter-alia: *'In addition to any other regulations as may be prescribed by the Bureau, a mobilization fee of no more than 15% for local suppliers and contractors and 10% for foreign suppliers and contractors may be paid to a supplier or contractor …'*. Though, the study accepts that the literal interpretation of this section of the Act implies that contractors must have the requisite capital outlay for project execution prior to submission of bid documents, but unfortunately this principle is not always followed by MDAs during contract procurement process, thus contributing to public infrastructure project failure in Nigeria.

Another controversy that usually a re-occurrence during project procurement process is the contractor non-performance, nepotism, tribalism and deficient contracting practices. These infractions have always caused immense harm on Nigeria's infrastructural development and has significantly undermined Nigeria's contracting process such that the best contractors do not always get the job, rather contracts are awarded based on ethnic and sectional considerations, resulting in many failed infrastructure projects. In practice, the present contracting practices in Nigeria is highly deficient. Normally, a contract document should

contain every aspect of the job to be done, the payment terms, pricing, and service levels, but, this has not been the case in Nigeria's project systems. Practical experience in public service have shown that there are several cases that exists of projects that failed because the entire project scenario was not captured in the original contract documentation and as such, disputes could not easily be resolved. In reality, during implementation process, the absence of relevant specifications in the contract tends to encourage disagreements between the MDAs and project's contractors, followed by prolonged negotiations and avoidable change orders, which entail new budgets and schedule, and practically, will results to delays, cost overrun and project failure in the long run as witnessed in Kishi-Kaiama Road project (Kishi-Kaiama Field Report,2018).

The study also sees the need to stress at this juncture that most ministries, departments and agencies of government in Nigeria lack proper due process and tender system, which should ordinarily, assist in developing a standard of the most suitable contract type for the specific project, taking into cognizance the peculiarities of the envisaged project. The absence of proper due process and tender system, which should explicitly define the terms and conditions that would govern the project and spell out penalties in the event of infractions and delays, in addition to specifying the party that would bear cost overruns, has led to a situation whereby contractors tend to be at ease with their non-performance, knowing that there are no means of checkmating their unprofessional activities. The use of obsolete contract templates in contract administration in Nigeria also contributes to infrastructure project failure as no preparation is made to envisage and tackle operational challenges during project implementation when they arise.

In many infrastructure projects across the country, inadequate planning and poor scheduling has also result to project failure. Westerveld (2003), averred that infrastructure projects in Nigeria are hampered by inadequate planning and poor scheduling, submitting that any project that is not well planned is bound to fail. Project planning is important because it helps the project team to develop objectives and outlines the best way of achieving them. But in Nigeria, parties to infrastructural project implementation often put in place inadequate plans before commencement of work and also, tend to use inexperienced professionals in project planning, which usually have an adverse consequence on the project. In some cases, when there are capable people to draw up the project plan, time constraints arising from a variety of factors make it difficult for planning officials to follow pre-established guidelines and deliver an implementable plan that would guarantee the success of the project.

In a normal project management circumstance like what is obtainable in developed countries, a project should have a budget and deadline prior to take-off. However, in many project cases in Nigeria, project managers commit to low estimates without knowing it and as such, the project kicks off without the requisite materials and resource outlay, only for the budgets and deadlines to be overshot before the project management team comes to the realization that adequate planning was not carried out. The study found this issue of low estimates in Bill of Engineering Measurement and Evaluation (BEME) of Moro and Ohan bridges projects, which accounted for variations costs that is yet to be approved and consequently resulted to work stoppage at the two sites since 2017(Moro-Ohan Bridges Inspection Report).

In many MDAs, poor planning and lack of agreement on project outcomes impact negatively on the execution phase of most infrastructure projects in Nigeria. In fact, in some projects, conflicting instructions from different officials of MDAs and frequent intra-governmental confrontations by officials of MDAs have resulted to unplanned adjustments to projects and has also led to the failure of many public infrastructure projects across the country. There is also the problem of poor monitoring and scope tracking, which in some cases, may not be done by government institutions responsible for the project. Scope tracking involves the monitoring of the totality of deliverables expected at the end of a project since all project implementation plans, cost estimation, schedule, quality specifications and baselines are normally articulated based on the initial project scope. This implies that any change in project scope during execution will affect the whole project plan and would require a reviewed budget, schedule and quality. Whenever a change in scope occurs, scarce project resources are diverted to activities that were not part of the original scope, leading to pressure on the original schedule and budget. An evaluation of failed infrastructure projects in Nigeria like Kaiama-Kishi Road project indicated that changes in project scope usually arises from

wrong initial scope definition, unanticipated risks and uncertainties and sudden change in financing which leads to change requests and then change in expected deliverables, which also affects the whole project team as the case with Kishi-Kaiama abandoned federal road project. (Kishi-Kaiama Field Report,2018)

In many public infrastructure projects, poor scope management has also caused dispute and litigation which impacts negatively on the project in terms of delays and cost overruns and could sometimes end in discontinuation of the project. For example, some project inspection reports perused by the Author have shown that most road construction companies in Nigeria do not integrate a suitable change management plan which enables the adoption of a proactive approach in managing the needs of stakeholders throughout the road project life cycle. Such road construction companies are therefore unable to select the key success factors together with the client, which accounts for their inability to establish key performance indicators to measure the performance of the road project scope. Sometimes, changes are communicated in an untimely manner, which introduces confusion amongst the project team and eventually lead to road construction project delay, abandonment or failure.

Furthermore, from Moro and Ohan Bridges Inspection Report (2018), the study also found lack of experience and technical competence of contracting companies as another twin factors that usually caused infrastructure project failure. It is saddening that the construction industry and many contracting companies in Nigeria are suffering from an acute shortage of skilled manpower, mostly because Nigeria has been experiencing brain drain in the last two decades, with highly skilled personnel migrating to developed countries in search of more rewarding opportunities. The consequence of this trend is that Nigeria has had to depend on expatriates from other countries to execute some big public infrastructural projects like roads and bridges. This comes at highly exorbitant costs and poses a major challenge to government's quest to implement high impact infrastructure projects which are often complex. The study observed that even within Nigeria, there has been a huge movement of construction professionals and experts from public to private sector and this has also limited the capacity of government agencies to properly oversee infrastructure project implementation, with many government institutions now having to rely mainly on the services of private consultants, whose services constitute a huge financial burden on government. In this case, a critical contributory factor to infrastructure project failure in Nigeria is therefore the inability of local professionals and government personnel to deliver on highly complex infrastructure projects even when they give the project their best, owing to a huge skills gap which threatens the economic and technological advancement of the country.

Presently, most construction companies operating in Nigeria have also been found to lack value management skills which are integral in obtaining the best cost-effective design options while guarantying quality and outcomes that meet the expectations of project stakeholders, and this has significantly contributed to the failure of many public infrastructure projects.

There is also the problem of poor design, frequent design changes, design error and defective design. In project implementation, design is the core basis for the implementation of a project. So, errors in design means that the project is bound to fail as the implementation team may apply wrong techniques for achieving wrong deliverables and any effort to correct the mistake midway into the project is likely to increase costs and cause delays which could bring about infrastructure project failure. In fact, Practical experience gathered from the inspection of the abandoned Kaiama-Kishi Road project indicated that many other road projects have also failed in Nigeria because designs were done without proper assessment of site conditions, and during the course of the project, the actual site conditions often pose a challenge to the construction companies, necessitating additional work, revision of project scope and sometimes total contract revision. This often creates an obstacle to the success of the project and has led to project failure in cases where it was not well managed (Kaiama-Kishi Road Report,2019).

The study found another example of the problem of design changes and errors at the re-constructed Adeta-Pakata intra-city road in Ilorin, Kwara State capital. The road was awarded in 2021 and completed in 2023 with a covered drainage on both-side as walk ways. Since the completion of the road, the covered drainage had resulted in to environmental problem of silted sewage and flooding whenever rainfall in the area, resulting to several havoc to homes along the road. The study fieldtrip along

the road notes that problem of the road is essentially the drainage design error, which is defective and not suitable for a build-up area like Gaa-Aremu and Pakata where the road passes. In 2024, the Kwara State Government had to re-award the re-construction of the road at the expense of public scarce resources. Presently, a field-trip to the site revealed a massive destruction of the covered drainage and walk-way, with a view to convert them to an open drainage as it was originally designed in 1977 when the road was first constructed by the administration of late General George Innih (Adeta-Pakata Field Report,2024)

Another protracted reasons that usually responsible for infrastructure project failure is political instability and community interference which revolves on the lack of continuity in government policy. History has shown that successive governments in Nigeria tend to discontinue infrastructure projects started by their predecessors (Fubera, 1985). The underlying reason behind this trend is that contracts are usually awarded to cronies and party loyalists, and such contracts are awarded purely to serve political purposes. There are several cases where infrastructure contracts are inflated, making incoming governments to prefer to initiate their own projects and receive kick-backs rather than continue funding existing projects (Nwachukwu, 2010). This trend discourages private sector participation in infrastructure development in Nigeria.

There are other politically related reasons for discontinuation or failure of infrastructure projects in Nigeria and this includes rising inflation which affects the price of raw materials and increases the funds required to complete a project, following changes in government especially under the current fourth republic from 1999 till date. When the cost of such infrastructure projects is reviewed upwards many times by successive governments, such that the amount of money required to complete them is much higher that the amount required to deliver a new project, the tendency is to abandon them, hence such infrastructure projects are regarded as having failed. A reference case in point is the ten kilometers Sango-Kulende-Kwara Polytechnic-Unilorin Teaching Hospital-Oke-Ose Road dualisation project in Ilorin, Kwara State, which has been abandoned since June,2019 at 85% completion level by Abdul Rahman Administration of Kwara State. The study's field trip along the road on 26th March, 2024 revealed that the project is still in an abandoned state, with spatial potholes, causing hardship and accessional accidents to motorists and vehicles (Report of Fieldtrip along abandoned Sango-Oke-Ose Road project,2024)

The study also found that there are several reports of hostility to contracting companies and to the project itself by communities that plays host to the projects especially in the Niger Delta areas, and this hostility often play a vital role in the failure of projects. In some cases, some communities in Niger Delta areas, sometimes sabotage the project by making various kinds of demand from government and contractors. In fact, there are cases where construction companies are sometimes required to appoint indigenes of the community as subcontractors or to include influential community leaders on the payroll of the company even when such persons are not meant to perform work of any kind during the project. Failure of construction companies to meet these kinds of demand sometimes lead to disruption of on-going work at sites, vandalization of company's equipment at sites, theft of materials and abduction of expatriate workers at sites by community youth groups. This attitude by host communities has put a stop to many infrastructure projects in oil producing Niger Delta region of Nigeria (Report of NNDC to Senate, 2016).

Finally, the twins' fundamental problems that has been a clog in the wheel of many public infrastructure projects across the country is the challenge of poor communication and leadership between government agencies and contractors. The study found that these twin issues has been having detrimental effects on many infrastructure projects, and has even caused revocation of some contracts by government, which often lead to litigations and termination or failure of a number of infrastructure projects. In project management, effective communication is necessary for the success of any project, as sound communication practice helps to enhance team work and ensure better collaboration. On the contrary, poor communication results in misunderstanding, delays and disputes. In practice, there are many hindrances to effective communication in the infrastructure project system and these include: unclear communication objectives, unclear channels of communication, ineffective reporting system and ineffective communication between the key parties involved in a project. Because infrastructure project implementation process is a highly fragmented and dynamic sector, effective communications is vital for the success

of projects in terms of performance objectives such as productivity, profitability and re-work opportunities (Dainty, 2006). In practical terms therefore, project details are communicated by means of drawings, contract documents, and specifications; and the absence of proper medium for effective communication has been impacted negatively on the infrastructure project life-cycle, which accounted for many failed infrastructure projects in the country.

Conclusion

Evident from the foregoing analysis, findings and discussion, the causes of public infrastructure project failure in Nigeria are multifarious and ranges from a number of factors such as poor planning, frequent design changes, inadequate resources, poor leadership, and endemic corruption in public service among others; and this recurring project failures has been having detrimental effects on the citizens and economy through revenue loss, loss of economic opportunities, and overall slowdown in the rate of economic development of the nation.

Recommendations

As a way out to drastically reduce public infrastructure project failure in Nigeria, the following measures are recommended:

1. Review of the Public Procurement Act 2007 to reduce corruption and plug leakages, and abuse of the procurement process by both government officials and contractors;

2. The government procurement agencies such as the Bureau of Public Procurement (BPP), National Council on Public Procurement (NCPP) and the Due Process Office, which are the authorities charged with the responsibility of overseeing and monitoring federal government projects across the country should be re-organized to optimally discharge their functions devoid of sharp practices;

3. The existing practice whereby Ministries, Departments and Agencies of government are required to return unspent budgeted funds at the end of each financial year should be reviewed with a view of making adequate provisions for on-going projects that started late in the year due to time spent on planning and procurement of contract for projects;

4. Mechanisms should be developed to sanction erring contractors to account for non-performance and failure to deliver after contracts have been awarded, to serve as a deterrent to contractors who are in the habit of bidding for jobs for which they lack competence, thereby providing guarantee that contracting companies seeking infrastructure contracts are adequately staffed for the project;

5. Professional bodies such as the Council for the Regulation of Engineering in Nigeria (COREN), the Nigerian Society of Engineers (NSE), the Nigerian Institute of Quantity Surveyors (NIQS) etc, should enforce existing codes of conduct to ensure strict adherence of members to the highest standards of ethics and professionalism in public infrastructure project management and delivery systems; and

6. Federal, State, and Local Government need to quickly address unbridled corruption and nepotism in public service and widespread community interference in the award of infrastructure contract and project implementation process in Nigeria.

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DOES HEALTH EXPENDITURE IMPACTS ON ECONOMIC GROWTH IN NIGERIA?

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KEYWORDS
health expenditure, education attainment, economic growth, Nigeria

ABSTRACT
A nation with healthy people is considered a wealthy nation. This study is designed to evaluate the impact of health expenditure on education attainment and economic growth in Nigeria. Most empirical studies in literature pay little or no attention to this area but majorly focus on how people achieve better health when there is economic growth. This could be as a result of the general consensus that economic growth leads to improved health status while the attention was not given to whether causality exists in the reverse direction. This study is carried out to breach this gap. Autoregressive conditional Heteroskedasticity regression analysis was employed and the result shows that health expenditures and education attainment are important determinants of economic growth in Nigeria while life expectancy rate has negative impact on growth for the period covered by the study. As a result, the following policy measures are suggested among others that government should encourage education attainment through improve education spending in the economy, increase expenditures on health provisions, induce the level of education attainment and place priority on improve health spending to enhance economic growth.

1.0 Introduction

The economic development of Nigeria had been poor particularly if the enormous revenues generated from oil are to be considered. Nigeria enjoys huge revenues from their oil sector being the largest producer of oil in Africa and being among top 10 producers of oil in the world (Ranjan & Sharma, 2008), but most of its revenues have been served to the ruling elites to fill their treasure chests rather than being used to fuel the development of people and their quality of lives. As per the estimates of World Bank less than 1% people of Nigeria benefit from 80% of the revenues from oil Library of Congress, (2018). Such statistics are equally shocking as well as disheartening and point out towards the problem of corruption in Nigeria.

The government expenditure in Nigeria has shown a continuously rising trend due to excessive receipts from production and selling of crude oil along with the rising demand for public goods (utilities) like communication, education, power, health and roads. Other than that, the need to provide both external and internal security for the nation is constantly rising. Statistics show that the overall capital and recurrent expenditure of government as well as its components have showed a constant rising

trend for the past three decades which unfortunately has not been able to translate into meaningful development and growth as Nigeria continues to be counted among the poorest countries of the world Olugbenga, & Owoye, (2017). He further states that many people in Nigeria are still living below the poverty line. This statement in turn supports the claim made by the data set presented by the library of congress. The dilemma does not end here, rather increases when the crumbling infrastructure, especially the power supply and roads are mentioned because the run-down framework led to the collapse of a lot of industries which in turn resulted in high unemployment. Furthermore, the macroeconomic indicators such as import obligations, exchange rate, balance of payments, national savings and inflation reveal that the country has not been able to fare well in the past (Cooray, 2019).

WHO (2016) reveals that about 50% of the differential of economic growth between the developing and developed nations can be attributed to poor health and little life expectancy. In developed countries a greater portion of their GDP is spent on health care for they believe that the health of the residents would eventually be a major driver for development and economic activities. Studies have been conducted by a lot of researchers Kaufmann, Daniel, AartKraay and Pablo Zoido-Lobaton. 2019; McCarthy & Wolf (2016) along with a lot of others, there have been frantic efforts by the governments in Nigeria also to increase the expenditure on public health. The above-mentioned scenario makes it evident that the expenditure on health care by the government in Nigeria had continuously been increasing claims by Abu (2015) the following facts should be considered. The infant mortality rate of Nigeria is one of the highest in the world (91/1000 live births). Secondly the rate of mortality for children below the age of five is 192 deaths/1000. Furthermore, the coverage of immunization has fallen below 30%. The figures from the year 2017 state that around 134,000 (which is a huge figure) women lost their lives to pregnancy complications. Not only that, but also the expectancy ratio has been observed to be declining over the years WHO, 2018; Yaqub, Ojapinwa &Yussuff, (2019). A point to be noted here is that in spite of all the economic development and increase in public expenditure on health, the health conditions of people stay poor and the contribution of all the economic growth seems to be marginally low. Nigeria enjoys huge revenue from the oil sector being the largest producer of oil in African and being among the top 10 producers of oil in the world (UNDP 2019).

As per the estimate of World Bank less than 1% population of Nigerians benefit from 80% of the revenue from oil Library of Congress, (2018). Such statistics are really shocking as well as disheartening and point out towards the problem of corruption in Nigeria. Another major challenge associated statistics are really shocking as well as disheartening and point out towards the problem of corruption in Nigeria. Another major challenge associated the activities of Boko Haram, banditry and kidnapping which have all contributed their fair share. Owing to this issue of civil unrest, strikes in the educational and health system is a serious damage as the number of out of school children has increased by 13.2 million, making it the largest in the world UNDP (2019), in line with the World bank (2020) estimates.

It should however be noted that despite the increase in government expenditure on health provisions in Nigeria, the contribution of this to human health is still marginally low. Moreover, the extent and magnitude of its impact on education attainment and economic growth is yet to be adequately investigated probably because of the general unidirectional impression that economic growth facilitates better health. Off course, for example, economic growth could lead to increased availability of food for better healthy living; increased earning which makes health spending more affordable; and also raises demand for good health services and education. Higher economic growth could also imply higher public revenue which can translate into higher investment in health infrastructure and education. Therefore, there is a question of whether causality exists in the reverse direction? In other words, does improved health lead to economic growth? And does health expenditure impact on education attainment? If yes, then to what extent and in what magnitude does health contribute to economic growth and education attainment especially when one accounts for other potential factors that are empirically known to drive growth? It is therefore likely that causality exists in both directions. However, the question of which direction dominates could be an area of interest for further studies. Therefore, this study seeks to evaluate the economic growth impact of health expenditure, the relationship between health expenditure and education attainment, to determine the extent

and magnitude of its contributions to the Nigerian economy, from 2000 to 2022.

2.0 Literature Review

2.1 Conceptual Issues

Human capital connotes the skills, knowledge and capacities of people related to their actual or potential participation in the labour force (Imahe, 2001). Human capital is the pivotal source of growth in several endogenous growth models, as well as one of the key extensions of the neoclassical growth models (Oyeyemi, 2014).

Oluwatoyin (2011) cited Jhingan (2005) asserted that in a broader sense, human capital means expenditure on health education and social services in general, and in its narrower sense, it implies expenditure on education and training. Health and education are two closely related human (resource) capital components that work together to make the individual more productive. These are the two integral parts of human capital that strongly influenced labour productivity Campbell and Agbiokoro, (2014). Health is central to well-being and education is essential for a satisfying and rewarding life: both are fundamental to the broader notion of expand-ing human capability and that it has the heart of the meaning of development Todaro, (2009). A healthy populace will be highly productive and the educated have the tendency to apply a degree of sophistication in the production process. One component cannot be considered important than the other (Lawanson, 2009).

Health is one of the major components of Human capital development and the basis for individual's productivity. Human capital as an economic term encompasses health, education and other human capacities that can raise productivity Todaro & Smith, (2011). Health connotes the ability to lead a socially and economically productive life Anyawu (1997). Mayer-Foulkes (2001) observed that health is responsible for approximately one- third of long-term eco-nomic growth. Lustig (2006) considered health to be an asset with an intrinsic value as well as an instrumental value. According to Imahe (2018), investment in health is a life resource because in-vestment in health is for the living and not the dead. This resonate the raison d'etre for government encouragement of both the private and public investment in the sectors. Private sector participation includes medical licensed non-governmental organization, private for-profit providers, community-based organization and religious and traditional care givers while the government assumes the responsibility of health service provision in the public sector. Nonetheless, the devoted private and public fund for health care provision in Nigeria remains abysmal hampering concerted effort to-wards improving the health status of the citizenry so that they can contribute meaningfully to eco-nomic growth and development. The expenditure pattern on health depicts the low amount spent on health in Nigeria with attendant concomitant deplorable health statistics. It was estimated that by year 2007, more than one hundred and thirty-four thousand women died from pregnancy complications. In addition, the life expectancy ratio on the average has been on the decline over the study period. Life expectancy is put at 52 years in 2011(according to World Bank) and crude death rate, in that same year as 14% Onisanwa, (2014). The figure is a clear indication of the nation poor commitment to improved health provisions and deliveries. Nigerian overall health system performance ranked 187th among the 191 Member States rated by the World Health Organisation (2000) and National Health Policy, (2004). The Nigeria's rate of infant mortality (91 per 000 live births) is among the highest in the world.

Nigeria being a very large country is the 8th largest country in the world, population wise and 32nd largest according to area Orenstein, (2012). The gross domestic product (GDP) per person in Nigeria was $ 2000 in 2008. Even after such a figure of GDP which is above average per capita GDP for an African nation; developing one, majority of the Nigerian population is living below the poverty line and suffer from excessive poverty. The rank that Nigeria holds on the human poverty index of United Nations is 158th. There exists an enormous income gap in Nigeria the proof of which is the fact that 50% population of Nigeria are living below $1 per day (UNDP, 2019).

The economic development of Nigeria had been poor particularly if the enormous revenues generated from oil are to be considered. Nigeria enjoys huge revenues from their oil sector being the largest producer of oil in Africa and being among top 10 producers of oil in the world (Ranjan & Sharma, 2008), but most of its revenues have been served to the ruling elites to fill their treasure chests rather than being used to fuel the development of people and their

quality of lives. As per the estimates of World Bank less than 1% people of Nigeria benefit from 80% of the revenues from oil (Library of Congress, 2018). Such statistics are equally shocking as well as disheartening and point out towards the problem of corruption in Nigeria (Igbeng, Beredugo & Adu, 2015).

The government expenditure in Nigeria has shown a continuously rising trend due to excessive receipts from production and selling of crude oil along with the rising demand for public goods (utilities) like communication, education, power, health and roads. Other than that, the need to provide both external and internal security for the nation is constantly rising. Statistics show that the overall capital and recurrent expenditure of government as well as its components have showed a constant rising trend for the past three decades which unfortunately has not been able to translate into meaningful development and growth as Nigeria continues to be counted among the poorest countries of the world Olugbenga, and Owoye, (2017). He further states that many people in Nigeria are still living below the poverty line. This statement in turn supports the claim made by the data set presented by the library of congress. The dilemma does not end here, rather increases when the crumbling infrastructure, especially the power supply and roads are mentioned because the run-down framework led to the collapse of a lot of industries which in turn resulted in high unemployment. Furthermore, the macroeconomic indicators such as import obligations, exchange rate, balance of payments, national savings and inflation reveal that the country has not been able to fare well in the past (Cooray, 2019)

2.2 Impact of Economic growth on Health

One of the primary needs of human beings is good health care. Bakare, and Olubokun, (2011) have concluded that generally health of people improves when economic growth takes place while infant mortality rate lowers and life expectancy increases. Fahey, Russell, and Whelan. (2018) state that people don't necessarily feel healthy if life expectancy is increased. Improvements in terminologies of science and medical attribute to better treatment and management of ailments like diabetes, but a person who has a chronic condition may not label himself as healthy even in periods of economic growth and proper provision of health and medical facilities. Taking into account the afore mentioned fact it could be said that the relationship between economic growth and healthy being of people is rather a complex one and it is much more than just factors of economic growth affecting the health of people.

2.3 Impact of Economic Growth on Education

Various studies have been carried out to study the relationship between economic growth and education. Many of them had been cross country analysis. The methods adopted in the work already done are three stages least squares (Barro 2019). Ordinary least squares (Geol, 2014; Barro, 2019, Barro and Lee 2017; Abbas 2011; Lin, 2013), granger causality (Self and Grabowski 2016) and co-integration (Babatunde and Adefabi, 2015). These studies have produced mixed results but the nature of relationship determined by all of them had been positive (the relation between economic growth and education) produced mixed results but the nature of relationship determined by all of them had been positive (the relation between economic growth and education). Earlier studies however (Lucas 2018; Romer 2019) had made analysis of importance of human capital development and education in the process of growth, Barro (2019) was the first one to shed light on the link between economic growth and educational expenditures. He found out that the relationship between per capita output and human capital was positive and that it leads to increased enrolment in schools. He recommended that the gap between developing and developed countries could be closed if countries started investing more in human capital development.

Ramirez, Ranis and Stewart, (2017) made use of cross-country data to investigate the channels through which economic growth effects human capital development and vice versa. The basic argument presented in this study was that educational development is not directly related to economic development rather there's a channel in between which is the human capital development. And human capital development may cause economic growth or it could be the other way round too. Loening (2015) analyzed the relationship between economic growth and human capital development employing data from Guatemala and concluded that an educated work force impacts growth output positively. Dorian (2017) using a neoclassical framework approximated a structural growth model in which he used two explanatory variables; health and education. Positive relationship between health and economic growth was found whereas there was no

evidence of a significant relationship between economic growth and education.

2.4 Empirical Review

Onwuka (2021) empirically examined the relationship between poverty, income inequality and economic growth in Nigeria. The study used time series data from National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) and Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) Statistical Bulletin between the periods from 1981 to 2019. The study employed the use of Augmented Dickey Fuller test, Co integration test and Error Correction technique. The unit root test results indicated that all the variables were stationary at first difference and co-integration test confirmed a long run relationship among the variables. The error correction model shows that about 96 percent of the discrepancy between the actual and the equilibrium value of economic growth is corrected or eliminated each year. The coefficient of determination (R2) is 0.68 which shows that about 68 percent variations in the economic growth were explained by the independent variables. Similarly, the findings also revealed that poverty and income inequality has an insignificant effect on economic growth in Nigeria.

Keghter, Eze and Ogbonna (2020) state that, Institutional quality is considered to be a determining factor in enhancing the growth of any economy. This paper examines the role of institutional quality in growth enhancement and the precise role it plays through the channel of health expenditure. The ARDL model was employed between the period of 1984 and 2019 to ascertain the link between the variables in question. The paper provides evidence that the long-run effects of health expenditure and institutional quality on economic growth are both surprisingly negative, but with only institutional quality having a statistically significant relationship. Further findings reveal that the institutional quality moderates the effect of health expenditure on growth. Specifically, when institutional quality is maintained at a threshold of 0.52 level, growth will be at least positive. This means that, with institutional quality at less than the threshold level, the economic growth will become negative. However, with the right policies in place as recommended, there could be a turn in events.

Idowu (2019) in his paper examines the impacts of health on Economic growth in Nigeria. The cointegration and granger causality techniques were used in analysing Quarterly time series data of Nigeria for the period of 1995-2009. The study finds that GDP is positively influenced by health indicators in the long run and health indicators cause the per capita GDP. It reveals that health indicators have a long run impact on economic growth. Thus, the impact of health is a long run phenomenon. Ordinary least squares method had been used by Omotor (2019) to analyze the determinants of federal government expenditures in the field of education in Nigeria. Instability in government expenditure was predicted through that study because the study revealed inconsistency in expenditure of government in the education sector in Nigeria. The only significant determinant of education expenditures was found to be government revenue.

Easterling and Angelicum (2018) in their article titled: to what extent are improvements in quality of life (material living levels, health, education, political and civil rights, happiness, and the like) associated with economic growth? International comparisons of quality of life (QoL) conditions almost always point to a strong positive association with real GDP per capita. Historical experience, however, frequently belies the results of these comparisons. More often than not the timing of various improvements in QoL, material living levels excepted, is different from that in real GDP per capita - some indicators preceding, others following. Moreover, the sequence of improvements in various aspects of QoL is not always the same from one part of the world to another. And sometimes, as in the case of happiness and life satisfaction, QoL indicators remain unchanged despite a doubling or more of real GDP per capita. In contrast to the results of simple international point-of-time comparisons, history suggests that improvements in many realms of life are not an automatic result of economic growth.

Babatunde and Adefabi (2015) carried out an in-depth analysis about the relationship between economic growth and education in the long run in Nigeria and the approach employed was the Johansen co- integration framework of analysis. The co integrating technique predicted a long-run relationship between output per worker and school enrolments in all years of education (primary as well as tertiary). The conclusions presented by the study stated that

growth is affected positively through evolution of total factor productivity as well as factor accumulation if the labour force is well educated. Aighokhan (2018) examined the impact of expenditures (education) on human capital development. Historical data was used in the study to formulate correlation between human capital and education expenditure in Nigeria and acclaimed that uncertain and insufficient allocations of budget resulted in destruction of its effect on human capital development. Low percentages of annual budgets were allocated to be spent on education and they were unstable also.

2.5 Gap in Literature and Value Addition

An appraisal of reviewed literature showed a notable gap in knowledge when it comes to the impact of health expenditure on growth in Nigeria. The majority of studies (such as Onwuka 2021; Keghter, Eze & Ogbonna 2020; Idowu, 2019; and Aighokhan 2018) have investigated the impact of health expenditure on economic growth without extending the study to 2022 on health expenditure-growth relationship. Thus, this study seeks to fill in the knowledge gap by expenditure-growth relationship. By Examining the interactive effect of health expenditure and economic growth and subsequently the threshold level could help policymaker in designing policies that improves economic growth above the threshold.

3.0 Theoretical Framework

The standard Cobb- Douglas production function provides the methodological framework of factors that foster economic growth Carone (2006). The production function relates labour input, capital input and technological progress, i.e., the residual which cannot be explained by the quantity and quality of either labour or capital. The factors that impact output could be captured in an aggregate production framework (APF). From the study of Oderinde & Ishola (2011), the standard aggregate production function assumes that along with other "conventional inputs" of capital and labour used in the neoclassical production function, "unconventional inputs" factors fostering economic growth may be included in the model to capture their contribution to economic growth. In line with Bleischwitz (2001), the standard concepts to measure multi- factor productivity assume an aggregated Cobb-Douglas production function with labour, capital and technical progress as the factor being measured. Additionally, the other production functions like the CES (constant elasticity of substitution) or the translog production function are used to measure economic growth. The production function is stated as:

3.1 Model Specification

We shall use the AK model in its special case of a Cobb–Douglas production function because of its simplicity in analyzing the possible relationship among health expenditure, institutional quality and economic growth. The model is specified as;

$$Y = A K^{a} L^{\Phi} \quad \text{----------(1)}$$

Where Y = gross domestic product; A = total expenditure on health; K = capital; L = labour force participation and the parameter measures the output elasticity of capital. Theoretically, the effect of health expenditure (HE) on economic growth will operate through labour force participation. We assume therefore that labour force participation is a function of HE Thus:

$$A = f(HE, LE, IMR, LFP) = HE^{\beta 1}, LE^{\beta 2}, IMR^{\beta 3}, LFP^{\beta 4} \quad \text{----------(2)}$$

Substituting equation (2) into (1) give

$$Y = HE^{\beta 1}, LE^{\beta 2}, IMR^{\beta 3}, LFP,^{\beta 3} K^{a} L^{\Phi} \quad \text{----------(3)}$$

Where β_1, β_2 β_3 β_4 a, ϕ are constant elasticity coefficients of production with respect to HE, LE, IMR, LFP, K, and L after the usual logarithmic transformation.

3.2 Model Specification

Following equation (3), the basic estimable equa HE tion is specified as:

$$LRGDP = \phi + \beta_1 LHE_t, + \beta_2 LE_t + \beta_3 IMR_t + \beta_4 LFP_t + \beta_5 \lambda + \varepsilon \quad \text{----------(4)}$$

Where; LRGDP = log of real gross domestic product (proxy for economic growth), LHE = log of health expenditure, LE = life expectance, LFP = labour force participation, λ = population growth We will now model our equation to capture the interactive term that would ascertain the impact of health expenditure on education and economic growth.

$$LRGDP = \phi + \beta_1 LHE_t, + \beta_2 LE_t + \beta_3 IMR_t + \beta_4 LFP_t + \beta_5 (LHE * LE * IMR * LFP)\, \beta_6 \lambda + RGDP_{t-1} + \varepsilon \quad \text{--(5)}$$

By considering the possible signs of the coefficients in equation (5). If $\beta_1 > 0$ and $\beta_4 < 0$, it explains that health expenditure has a positive impact to RGDP and education attainment that negative impact; but with $\beta_1 > 0$ and $\beta_4 < 0$, it simply means that health expenditure is a setback to economic growth while education attainment tries to redeem the economic growth with its positive sign. In a case where both β_1, β_2, β_3 and β_4 are negative, it means that with a higher level of health expenditure, the economy will be cursed and education attainment will intensify that curse; but if the two parameters turn out to have positive signs, an increase in health expenditure will be a boost and education attainment will further heighten the enhancement in Nigeria.

To estimate equation (5), the study adopts the Autoregressive conditional Heteroskedasticity (ARCH) framework by Pesaran and Shin (1999) and further developed by Pesaran et al (2001). ARCH bounds test approach appears to have gained prominence recently for some of reasons. First is the problem of endogeneity and the inability to test hypotheses in the long run with limited coefficients connected to the Engle-Granger method are avoided, that is, it has superior statistical properties on small samples as it is relatively better measure in the case of small samples, while the Johansen co-integration techniques still require large data samples for the purpose of validity. Second, the long run and short run parameters of the model are estimated simultaneously. Lastly, whereas all the other methods require that the variables in a time series regression are integrated of same order, only that of Pesaran et al. (2001) could be used regardless of whether the underlying variables are either I(0), I(1), mixture of I(0) and I(1) or fractionally integrated. But it is important to ensure that the variables under consideration are not integrated at an order higher than one.

4.0 Results and Discussion of Findings

Table 4.1: Descriptive Statistics of the variables

variables	mean	Max.	Min.	Std. Dev.	Skewness	kurtosis	Jarque-Bera	Prob.	Observ.
GDP	2.426602	12.27614	-4.162059	3.504958	0.409580	4.376934	2.460013	0.292291	23
HE	3.564342	5.053610	2.490640	0.580649	0.904708	3.649733	3.542135	0.170151	23
IMR	86.08116	109.6000	70.60000	11.54649	0.576420	2.227321	1.845821	0.397361	23
LE	50.75141	52.91000	47.19300	1.813696	-0.557576	2.054311	2.048813	0.359010	23
LFP	33.36145	64.17000	24.84000	7.545587	3.014962	13.36729	137.8472	0.000000	23

Source: *Authors' Computation using Eviews 11*

Table 1 show the descriptive statistics of the variables for the study for the study. The growth rates of gross domestic product per capital lie between 12.27614 and -4.162059. The standard deviation was 3.504958 and the average growth rate was 2.426602 from 2000 to 2022. The coefficient of Skewness, kurtosis and Jarque-Bera statistic with a probability of 0.292291 indicated that the variable followed a normal distribution. All the independent variables

followed a normal distribution pattern except labour force participation with probabilities of 0.000000. Majority of the variables considered for this study are normally distributed based on the coefficient of skewness, kurtosis and Jarque-Bera statistics probability values which are more than 5%.

4.2 Unit Root Tests

Table 4.2: Summary of Unit Root Tests

Variable	ADF				Phillips- Perron				Remark
	coeff.	t.Stat	Prob. level.	Prob. 1st differ.	coeff.	t.Stat	Prob. level.	Prob. 1st differ.	
GDP(-1)	0.4644	-2.443	0.1424	-	-0.4644	-2.3583	0.1641		1(0)
D(DGP(-1)	-1.7581	-5.8887	-	*0.0000	-1.3891	-6.5849	-	*0.0000	1(1)*
HE(-1)	-0.5702	-2.8196	0.717	-	-0.5702	-2.8198	0.0106	-	1(0)
D(HE(-1)	-1.3239	-6.099		0.0001	-1.3239	-6.0999	-	*0.0000	1(1)*
IMR(-1)	-0.1814	-4.7653	0.0005	-	-0.0735	-5.8018	*0,0000	-	1(0)*
D(IMR(-1)	-0.0465	-0.2082	-	0.8373	-0.0465	-0.2082	-	0.8373	1(1)
LE(-1)	-0.0695	-4.1983	*0.0004	-	-.0.0695	-4.1983	0.0004	-	1(0)*
D(LE(-1)	-0.5879	-2.8585	-	0.0101	-0.5879	-2.8585	-	0.0101	1(1)
LFP(-1)	-1.0244	-2.0939	0.0492	-	-1.0244	-2.0939	0.0492	-	1(0)
D(LFP(-1)	-1.7004	-3.0557	-	*0.0005	-1.7004	-3.0557	-	0.0065	1(1)*

Source: Authors'Computation using Eviews 11

Table 2 presents the unit root tests. The variable considered for the study were not integrated in the same order. The two-unit root tests (ADF and PP) employed showed that two variables (infant mortality rate (IMR) and life expectances (LE)) were stationary at level. While the other three variables (gross domestic product per capital growth rate (GDP), Health expenditure and Labour force participation (LFP)) were not stationary at level, but they became stationary after the first difference. Following the difference in the order of

integration found in the variables, it appeared unnecessary to proceed with the traditional cointegration tests and cointegration estimations (Eagle and Granger,1987; Maddala and Kim, 1998; Stock and Watson, 1993). By the features of the variables and our sample size, the ARCH- Autoregressive conditional Heteroskedasticity approach appeared more appropriate.

Table 3: ARCH- Autoregressive conditional Heteroskedasticity

Dependent Variable: GDP				
Method: ML ARCH - Normal distribution (BFGS / Marquardt steps)				
Date: 12/29/23 Time: 22:19				
Sample: 2000 2022				
Included observations: 23				
Failure to improve likelihood (non-zero gradients) after 36 iterations				
Coefficient covariance computed using outer product of gradients				
Presample variance: backcast (parameter = 0.7)				
GARCH = C(6) + C(7)*RESID(-1)^2 + C(8)*GARCH(-1)				
Variable	Coefficient	Std. Error	z-Statistic	Prob.
HE	-1.144052	0.894665	-1.278750	0.2010
IMR	-0.634611	0.085742	-7.401406	0.0000
LE	-5.539774	0.617595	-8.969921	0.0000
LFP	0.024319	0.093556	0.259937	0.7949
C	341.7684	37.45330	9.125188	0.0000
	Variance Equation			
C	0.954526	0.052707	18.11005	0.0000
RESID(-1)^2	-0.237404	0.066243	-3.583825	0.0003
GARCH(-1)	0.986244	0.118674	8.310551	0.0000
R-squared	0.812418	Mean dependent var		2.426602

Adjusted R-squared	0.704067	S.D. dependent var	3.504958
S.E. of regression	2.705712	Akaike info criterion	4.702327
Sum squared resid	131.7758	Schwarz criterion	5.097281
Log likelihood	-46.07676	Hannan-Quinn criter.	4.801657
Durbin-Watson stat	2.322926		
Prob(F-statistic)	0.000001		

From the table Autoregressive conditional Heteroskedasticity model estimation result presented in table 3, the value of the coefficient of determination (R-Squared) is 0.8124, indicating that 81% of the systematic variation in gross domestic product per capital growth rate is captured by the explanatory variables included in our model. The remaining 19 % is accounted for by other variables not included in the model. The F-statistic with a probability value of 0.000001 indicates that a significant relationship exists between GDP and the explanatory variable included in the model. The value of in the Durbin Watson (DW) statistic of 2.322926 suggests that there are no effects of autocorrelation in our estimated model. This makes our result reliable for policy decision –making.

The individual effect of the explanatory variables on the dependent variable is determined based on the coefficient and p-value of the variable. The results show that infant mortality rate is statistically significant at the 5% level. This is based on its probability vale estimated at 0.0000. the coefficient of IMR is -0.634 unit decrease in GDP. This result is in agreement with the findings of Ashhakah and Ogbebor, 2020 and Ikhide, 2021. The results also show that life expectance (LE) is significant at the 5% level. This is based on its probability value of 0.0000. The coefficient of LE is -5.539. it shows that a one unit decrease in LE will lead to about 5.5 unit decrease in GDP.

This result is also in corroboration with Oluseun and Kazeem (2017) who also reported this negative relationship in the short run. Further studies by Adedotun and Oluwatosin (2018) also found control of corruption to exert a negative impact to economic growth, thereby contradicting the apriori expectation.

The interactive term (LE) from our analysis suggests that with increase health expenditure and the quality of the institutions/expenditures (i.e. there are no leakages and allocated funds are channeled appropriately and effectively considering the economic cost and benefits of government investments) then the health expenditures would bring more economic prosperity. This report is similar to the findings of Rizvi (2019) who proxied education by government enrolment in high school and also reported a positive interactive effect between health expenditure and education.

5.0 Summary of the Findings, Conclusion and Recommendation

5.1 Summary of the findings

The study examined the impacts health expenditure on education attainment and economic growth in Nigeria using ARCH technique of analysis. The study focused on Nigeria experience spanning from 1990 – 2022. The findings revealed that health expenditures and education attainment are important determinants of economic growth in Nigeria.

5.2 Conclusion

It is established by this study that health expenditures and education attainment are

important determinants of economic growth in Nigeria while life expectancy rate is the only variable that exerts negative impact on growth for the period covered by the study. The regression results reveal that health expenditures is characterised by the highest positive value of coefficient followed labour force participation. It should therefore, be noted that, health expenditure has a vital relationship with economic growth of any nation. It is capable of improving the health, the life expectancy, the efficiency, productivity and income of labour as well as the level of education attainment in the economy.

5.3 Recommendation

Social spending especially on health is vital for a country's economic growth. However, there should be an institutional reform that encourage transparency and monitoring and evaluation of health expenditure will no doubt lead to economic growth.

The above findings have important policy implications. Firstly, since health expenditure and labour force participation enhance the level of economic growth, hence, government should encourage budgetary improvement in education sector in the economy, increase expenditures on health provisions and induce the level of labour labour force participation. Meanwhile, life expectancy does not impact positively on economic growth, therefore, government should be more sensitive to the issue of insecurity to lives and properties (Oni, L. B., 2012) ensure the adequate provisions of health and medical facilities, promote the welfare of health and medical workers and create job opportunities, thus, this will spur economic growth in Nigeria.

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HUMAN RESOURCE ACCOUNTING AND FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE OF QUOTED DEPOSIT MONEY BANKS

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human resource accounting, salary and wages, training, return on capital employed, financial performance

ABSTRACT
The paper examined the effect of human resource accounting) and on the financial performance of Deposit Money Banks (DMBs)in Nigeria. Other objectives of the study were to determine the influence of HRA on capital employed and to appraise the influence of HRA on return on capital employed. Secondary source of data was adopted for this study and ten quoted deposit money banks were selected through random sampling technique while the data were analyzed using regression analytical method. It was found out that salaries and wages, training, health and safety had significant positive influence on capital employed of deposit money banks in Nigeria and salaries and wages, training, health and safety had significant positive influence on return on capital employed. This study therefore concluded that human resource accounting improved financial performance of deposit money banks. The study suggested for the management of deposit money banks to improve the general welfare of their employees through improved salaries and wages, better training and enhanced health and safety in order to improve their financial performance.

Introduction

Most organizations all over the world strive hard to improve their performance in order to keep their going concern status intact, ensure stability, growth and expansion. Performance shows the health of any business enterprises (Adegbayibi, Oyedokun and Adedokun, 2024). It shows whether such enterprise is doing well or bad. It shows the level of progress made by entity throughout its existence. Performance of any organizations, including banking firms, could be measured using the non-financial metrics such as: customer satisfactions, customer loyalty, customer retention, and market share and financial metrics such as: return on asset (ROA), return on equity (ROE), net profit margin (NIM) (Odewusi and Olalere, 2024).

Deposit Money Banks (DMBs) are witnessing series of complaints on the part of their employees arising from poor motivation to work occasioned by inadequate remunerations in recent times. This has led to series of problems in these banks which invariably may be responsible performance issues in these banks. DMBs in Nigeria are facing poor performance due to massive labour turnover among these banks and which had made most of these banks to engage the services of casual labour to be able

to meet their customer demands (Ogunbiyi-Davies, Alao, Aremu and Olalere, 2023).

Most deposit money banks do not treat human resources as asset in the balance sheet, they only consider these resources as human elements and expenses which are only comprehensive income statement, hence, the neglect of employee needs and welfare by most banks in Nigeria (Omisope, Olalere, Odewusi, Adesina and Kolawole, 2023). This, to a large extent, may affect the financial performance. Human resource accounting may be measured by salary and wages cost, training cost, remuneration cost, development cost, health cost and safety cost. This study intends to use salary and wages, training, health and safety as measurement of human resource accounting.

Adequate and prompt payment of salaries and wages, timely training and improved health and safety of workers may improve the financial performance of DMBs in Nigeria. This fact has not been well established in Nigerian literature.

Objectives of the Study

The aim of this study is to examine the effect of human resource accounting on the financial performance of quoted deposit money banks while the specific objectives are to:

i. determine the influence of human resource accounting on capital employed of DMBs in Nigeria; and

ii. appraise the influence of human resource accounting on return on capital employed of DMBs in Nigeria.

Hypotheses

This study intends to analyze the following two null hypotheses:

H_{01}: HRA does not have significant influence on capital employed of DMBs in Nigeria.

H_{02}: HRA does not have significant influence on return on capital employed of DMBs in Nigeria.

Literature Review

Conceptual Review

Human Resources Accounting (HRA)

There are different definitions of Human Resource Accounting as well as human resources and accounting practitioners and scholars. Hence, HRA does not have a unique definition due to the fact that different scholars and practitioners describe the concept on the basis of their understanding. For instance, HRA is described by Sari, Yani and Pradhani (2023) as the art of assigning and attributing costs to every element of human resources expenses made in an organization and recording such into appropriate books of account of the enterprise. Adegbayibi, Akinyemi and Adepiti (2024) describes HRA is entails ascribing, making budget for and adequate reporting of expenditures incurred on workers in an organization.

Salary and Wages

Salaries and wages are components of remunerations paid to workers in any organization. It is the compensation given to organizational people for providing their mental and physical efforts and skills to the organization for productive purposes (Odewusi and Olalere, 2024). Salaries is fixed amount given to workers on a monthly basis as compensation for their services. This amount is usually paid to permanent workers and professional workers in any business entity. However, organizations may have temporal or contract staff, this set of workers are usually paid daily or weekly stipends called wages.

Training

Training refers to a form of education given to workers to improve their skills and knowledge for better functioning in their new jobs. It is carried out by most organizations to upgrade the skills of workers in any organization for better performance and productivity. It is usually given to workers who do not have deep knowledge of what is expected of them in their new role. It is also geared to provide information and directions to workers on how they could function very well on their job (Adu and Oke-Potefa, 2024).

Health and Safety

Health and safety measures put in place to enhance the general wellness of workers in any organization. Seeing to workers health ensures constant operations as lack of attention to workers health could slow down productivity.

Also, there are bound to be accidents in workplaces and putting adequate measures in place to avoid such accidents is safety Okpako,.Atube, and Olufawoye,2019). Hence, health and safety are measures put in place by organizations to enhance proactive injury avoidance and improve employees' health.

Financial Performance

Performance is the outcome of business operations and this could be either measured in financial and non-financial terms. Since this study is concerned about financial measures, focus is placed on financial performance. Financial performance is a series of financial and non-financial measures of organizational outcome that provide information on the attainment of organizational goals and results. Financial performance is an important factor used to measure the wellness or otherwise of business entity. It is the degree of success achieved by an organization or the extent to which a firm achieves its objective in terms of revenue, profitability, capital adequacy, liquidity, stock prices, and efficiency (Adu and Ajigbotoso, 2024).

Capital Employed

It is the amount of money available to firms to run business operations for profit generation purpose. Capital employed is commonly used to determine the rate of profitability of business enterprise and efficiency at which businesses utilized their capital. Capital employed tells the amount of money a business entity has put into use for investment purpose. It is the excess of total asset over current liabilities and it is computed by adding non-current asset to current asset and subtracting current liabilities (Odewusi and Olalere, 2024).

Return on Capital Employed

Return on Capital Employed (ROCE) is one of the accounting ratios used to determine the profitability of business entity. It is mostly used to determine the profitability and how efficient a firm is utilizing its capital. It is the ratio of earnings before interest and tax to the capital employed of such firm. It allows the firm to understand how well it is making profit from its net worth as being used in production process (Adu and Majeobaje, 2024).

Methodology

The population of this study included all the twenty-two (22) DMBs quoted on the NGX. Ten (10) DMBs, representing 45.5% of the total population figure, were sampled using random sampling technique conducted through balloting. Panel data on salary and wages cost, training cost, health and safety cost, capital employed and return on capital employed computed from the annual accounts of the sampled DBMs quoted on the NGX from 2002-2023. In order to achieve the objectives guiding this study, two models were developed in line with the assumption of Human Capital Theory propounded by Schultz (1961)

Model 1

$CE_{it} = f(SWC_{it}, TC_{it}, HSC_{it})$

(1)

$$CE_{it} = \beta_0 + \beta_1 SWC_{it} + \beta_2 TC_{it} + \beta_3 HSC_{it} + \mu_i \quad (2)$$

Model 2

$ROCE_{it} = f(SWC_{it}, TC_{it}, HSC_{it})$ (3)

$$ROCE_{it} = \beta_0 + \beta_1 SWC_{it} + \beta_2 TC_{it} + \beta_3 HSC_{it} + \mu_i \quad (4)$$

Table 1: Description and Measurement of Variables

S/N	Variables	Description	Measurement	Sources
1	CE	Capital Employed: This is the excess of total asset over current liabilities	CE = Non-current asset + current asset – Current liabilities	Omisope *et al.* (2023)

2	ROCE	Return on Capital Employed: This is the ratio of earnings before interest to capital employed	ROCE = EBIT / Capital Employed	Ogunbiyi-Davies *et al.* (2023)
3	SWC	Salaries and Wages: This is aggregate amount expended on salaries and wages	SWC = Salaries + Wages	Ogunbiyi-Davies *et al.* (2023)
4	TC	Training Cost: This is the aggregate money spent on workers training.	TC = Total Workers' Training	Alao. Oyegoke, Olalere and Ogundajo (2023)
5	HSC	HSC: This is the total money expended on the health and safety of workers	HSC = Total Health and Safety Cost	Alao *et al.* (2024)

Source: Author's Compilation (2024)

Data were analysed using Panel (OLS) regression conducted through Econometric-view (E-view) version 17 at 5% level of significance.

Data Analyses, Results and Discussion

Results

Table 2: Panel Regression Results on the influence of Independent Variables on Dependent

Variable	Model 1: CE	Model 2: ROCE
C	0.191 (0.142)	0.096 (0.067)
Log (SWC)	4.920 (0.002)	7.622 (0.005)
Log (TC)	-0.128 (0.051)	-0.157 (0.007)
Log (HSC)	-0.291 (0.002)	-0.432 (0.521)
F-Statistics (Wald Statistics)	33.471 (0.005)	13.781 (0.001)
R-Squared	0.233	0.429
VIF Test		
Heteroscedasticity Test		

Source: Author's Computation (2024)

Model I

$LogCE_{it} = 0.191 + 4.920\ LogSWC_{it} - 0.128\ LogTC_{it} - 0.291\ LogHSC_{it}$

The result in Table 2 showed that SWC had positive effect on CE (β = 4.920). The p-value of SWC was 0.002 which was less than 0.05 level of significant at which the model was run. This indicated that SWC had significant positive effect on CE. Hence, this study found that salary and wages (SWC) was a potent determinant of capital employed. Likewise, there was negative relationship between TC and CE (β = -0.128). The p-value of TC was 0.051 which was higher than the 5% significant level at which the model was run. The result therefore indicated that training cost had insignificant negative effect on capital employed. Hence, training cost was not a potent determinant of capital employed.

More so, the result indicated that there was negative association between HSC and CE (β = -0.291). HSC had a p-value of 0.002 which was greater than the significance value of 5% at which the model was run. The R-square value of 23.3% showed that SWC, TC and HSC had weak positive association with CE and the F-statistics of 33.471 with significance value of 0.001 indicated that SWC, TC and HSC had combined effect on CE. On this note, result showed that salary and wages cost, training cost and health and safety cost had significant impact on capital employed.

Model II

$ROCE_{it}$ = 0.096 + 7.622 $LogSWC_{it}$ – 0.157$LogTC_{it}$ –0.432 $LogHSC_{it}$

Table 2 revealed that there was positive relationship between SWC and ROCE (β = 7.622). SWC had significance value of 0.005 which indicated that SWC had significant effect on significant influence on ROCE, implying that salary and wages cost had significant influence on return on capital employed. Also, there was indirect relationship between TC and ROCE (β = -0.157) with significance value of 0.007 indicating significant influence of TC on ROCE. So, training cost had significant negative influence on return on capital employed of deposit money banks in Nigeria. More so, there was negative association between HSC and ROCE (β = -0.432) with significance value of 0.521, suggesting a significant negative influence of health and safety cost on return on investment of deposit money banks in Nigeria. Likewise, the R-square value of 0.429 indicated that SWC, TC and HSC jointly accounted for 42.9% variation in the ROCE. The F-ratio of 13.781 with significance value of 0.001 showed that SWC, TC and HSC had significant combine effect on ROCE.

Discussion

The result from the analysis of the objective one showed that salary and wages cost, training cost and health and safety cost had significant influence on capital employed. Analysis of the objective two suggested that salary and wages cost, training cost, health and safety cost had significant effect on return on capital employed.

Conclusion and Recommendations

Conclusion

Arising from the findings of this study, it was concluded that salary and wages cost, training cost, health and safety cost had significant impact on capital employed. Likewise, the result revealed that significant positive relationship was found between salary and wages cost and return on capital employed. This implied that salary and wages cost improved return on capital employed, by extension, the lower the salary and wages paid to workers in DBMs, the lower the return on employed while an increased salary and wages would lead to increase return on capital employed.

Recommendations

It was recommended by the study that the management of deposit money banks to improve the general welfare of their employees through improved salaries and wages, better training and enhanced health and safety in order to improve their financial performance.

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WORKING CAPITAL MANAGEMENT AND THE FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE OF CONSUMER GOODS MANUFACTURING COMPANIES IN NIGERIA

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KEYWORDS
working capital management, financial performance, profitability, return on investment, inventory turnover

ABSTRACT
The study examined the effect of working capital management and the profitability of consumer goods manufacturing companies in Nigeria. Other objective of this study was to determine the effect of inventory turnover on return on investments. The population of this study comprised twenty-four consumer goods firms listed on the Stock Exchange Group as at 2021. Purposive sampling technique was adopted by the study to select ten listed consumer goods firms that have adequate information. The source of data for this study data was secondary obtained from the published audited annual reports of consumer goods firms especially the income statement and statement of financial position for a period of ten years from 2013 to 2022. The regression analytical method was adopted for this study and it was found out that inventory turnover had a positive relationship with return on investment (ROI) of consumer goods firm as indicated by a regression co-efficient of -0.000872 and this relationship was statistically significant at 5% level with a probability value of 0.8007. It was suggested that management of organizations should make sure that there is development of adequate or sufficient and efficient working capital policy for the organizations.

Introduction

Working capital management (WCM) is one of the challenges faced by companies, which can provide a convenient and appropriate level of liquidity for enabling companies to cover their short-term financial obligations resulting from financing their operations in order to ensure the continuity of the companies' business and maximize their profitability. Working capital management relates to current assets and current liabilities that represents an essential part of companies' total assets (Adu, Uchehara, Williams, Oguntuase, and Oke-Potefa, 2023).

Investors all over the globe put their money and resources into a business with a view to having some return on investment irrespective of whether it is in a proprietorship, partnership and corporations. In small and medium businesses, owners have direct or indirect control over the management of the business, so they themselves are answerable and responsible for the profit and loss. On the other side, the management of the business in multinational businesses manages the company's business on

behalf of shareholders; however, managers need management to take such choices and decisions which can offer positive signal to promote market, increase the worth of the firm, enhance profitability and maximize holding period return (Adu, and Majeobaje, 2024).

The world is a global village and, it is moving at a fast and competitive pace. If a company has everything set up and working for them without proper management of its assets, all its efforts are in vain. Companies with the right amount of working capital are usually more profitable and more likely to attract investors. Efficient working capital management facilitates the proper running of operations and, it additionally helps to increase the company's earnings and profit. The amount of working capital a company requires is usually defined by the industry it works in, the number of credit days creditors allow, the number of credit days offered to debtors, and the amount of stock it must keep on hand (Kosgey and Njiru, 2019).

Statement of the Problem

Working capital management is important to manufacturing firms because it comprises over half of the total assets of a firm. Many manufacturing firms are said to be struggling to thrive and that some key players have been forced to move their operations to other countries, others have shut down their operations. All these firms cite high operation costs as the main cause of the precarious financial situation. Firms are closing doors and others are operating at breakeven point. Closure of a business can only be brought about by profitability and liquidity problems. Due to the financial crisis happening in the world today, managers of organizations have been forced to wake up and realize the relevance and necessity of effective and efficient resource management, particularly short-term investments, as not much attention is invested in them, unlike long term investments (Uguru, Chukwu, and Elom, 2018).

The inability of financial manager to effectively and efficiently manage the components of working capital has led to business failures. The efficient management of working capital is very vital for a business survival. This is based on the fact that having too much capital signifies that the survival of the firm is shaky. Most manufacturing firms do not hold the right amount of stocks, debtors, cash and other component of working capital. Due to this reason, the firm is unable to meet its maturing short-term obligations and its upcoming operational needs. Lack of adequate working capital also means that a firm is unable to undertake expansion projects and increase its sales, therefore limiting the growth and profitability of the business. The firm under study is faced with the problem of striking a balance between excess stock and stock inadequacy, fluctuation in the working capital management, dynamics, ineffective and inefficient mix of their working capital components and long operating circle (Abimbola and Kolawole, 2017).

Research Objective

The main objective of this study is to determine the effect of working capital management on the financial performance of consumer goods manufacturing companies in Nigeria while the specific objective is to;

determine the effect of inventory turnover on return on investments.

Research Question

The research question for this study is:

To what extent is the relationship between inventory turnover and return on investment?

Research Hypothesis

H_0: There is no significant relationship between inventory turnover and return on investment

Literature Review

Conceptual Review

Working capital management, which refers to a company's managerial accounting strategy is designed to monitor and exploit the two components of working capital, current assets, and current liabilities, to ensure the ascertain the most financially efficient operation of the company. The principal target of working capital management is to guarantee the company always maintains sufficient cash flow to meet its short-term operating costs and short-term debt obligations. Efficient working capital management helps maintain the unconstrained operation of the operating cycle (the minimum amount of time required to change net current assets and liabilities into cash) and can also help

to enhance the company's earnings and profitability (Adu, and Oke-Potefa, 2024).

Concept of Working Capital Management

Wang, Akbar and Akbar (2020) opined that working capital management deals with the determination of levels and compositions of current assets and ensuring that right sources of funds are tapped to finance current assets and ensuring that current liabilities are paid in time. Also, working capital management involves making appropriate investment in cash, marketable securities, inventories and receivables as well as the level and mix of short-term financing. Working capital management entails short term decisions generally relating to the next one-year period which are reversible (Doan, 2020).

Financial Performance (Profitability)

Profitability is a measurement of efficiency. It is a metric that is used to determine the scope of a company's profit in relation to the size of the business and ultimately its success or failure. Profitability can tell key stakeholders whether a company is able to sustain its position in the market and continue to grow (Otekunrin, Nwanji, Fagboro,Olowookere and Adenike, 2021). It is the extent to which a company earns a profit. There are two parts to a company's profitability: revenue and expenses. As such, a company is profitable if its revenue exceeds its expenses.Every company's principal goal is to be profitable. The business will not survive in the long run if it is not profitable. Profit maximization is the organization's driving factor as a result, assessing current and previous profitability and forecasting future profitability is essential (Obafemi, Tajudeen, and Oluseye, 2021). One of the most crucial objectives for business managers is to increase profitability. Managers are continuously looking for methods to boost profitability by changing the business. Ratios such as Return on Equity, Return on Assets and Net Interest Margin are used to calculate and measure profitability. The ratio of net revenue after taxes to total equity capital is known as return on equity (Adu and Ajigbotoso, 2024).

Return on Investment (ROI)

Return on investment (ROI) is a performance measure used to evaluate the efficiency or profitability of an investment or compare the efficiency of a number of different investments. ROI tries to directly measure the amount of return on a particular investment, relative to the investment's cost. The result is expressed as a percentage or a ratio. ROI is closely interconnected with various other economic tools used for comparing the advantages and disadvantages of a project, such as cost-benefit analysis and cost-effectiveness analysis (Siddique, Khan and Khan, 2021).

ROI= Net profit /Total investment

Methodology

Population of the Study

The population of this study comprised 24 consumer goods firms listed on the Stock Exchange Group as at 2021.

Sampling Size and Sampling Technique

Purposive sampling technique was adopted by the researcher to select 10 listed consumer goods firm that have adequate information.

Method of Data Collection

The source of data for this study data was secondary obtained from the published audited annual reports of consumer goods firms especially the income statement and statement of financial position for a period of 10 years from 2013 to 2022.

Data Analysis, Results and Discussion of Findings

Data Anaysis and Interpretation

MODEL: $ROIit = \beta_0 + \beta_1 ITit + \beta_2 CRit + \beta_3 DRit + e0it$

Regression Analysis

Since the unit test carried out showed that all variables are stationery at level as presented in Table 4.3, the study went further to estimate the pooled OLS against the Fixed and random effect model and decide on the best model to use. The Redundant test was used to determine the most appropriate between the Pooled OLS and Fixed effect

Table 1 Pooled Ordinary Least Squares

Dependent Variable: ROA
Method: Pooled Least Squares
Date: 05/20/24 Time: 04:38
Sample: 2013 2022
Included observations: 100
Cross-sections included: 2
Total pool (balanced) observations: 200

Variable	Coefficient	Std. Error	t-Statistic	Prob.
DEBT_RATIO	0.080175	0.023943	3.348635	0.0010
CR	0.030761	0.010653	2.887493	0.0043
INVT	0.002115	0.002398	0.882145	0.3788

R-squared	-0.083415	Mean dependent var	0.088567
Adjusted R-squared	-0.094414	S.D. dependent var	0.077076
S.E. of regression	0.080633	Akaike info criterion	-2.182938
Sum squared resid	1.280822	Schwarz criterion	-2.133464
Log likelihood	221.2938	Hannan-Quinn criter.	-2.162917
Durbin-Watson stat	0.683573		

Source: Researcher computation, 2024

Hypothesis for Fixed Effect Redundant Test

Null Hypothesis (H_0): Fixed effects is appropriate

Alternate Hypothesis (H_1): Pooled Ordinary Least Squares is appropriate.

Table 2: Redundant Fixed Effects Tests

Effects Test	Statistic	d.f.	Prob.
Period F	6.514467	(9,77)	0.0001
Period Chi-square	56.675268	9	0.0000

Source: Researcher's computation, 2024

According to the null hypothesis for the redundancy fixed effect, Fixed effect is the appropriate estimator to give the best consistent result which can only be accepted when the probability is less than 5%. The result of the test gave a probability of 0.0000 (P<0.5) as presented in Table. Hence, the null hypothesis was accepted, and concluded that the Fixed effect model is the best estimator.

Table 3 Panel Fixed Effect

Dependent Variable: ROA
Method: Pooled Least Squares
Date: 05/20/24 Time: 04:39
Sample: 2013 2022
Included observations: 100
Cross-sections included: 2
Total pool (balanced) observations: 200

Variable	Coefficient	Std. Error	t-Statistic	Prob.
C	0.090215	0.021398	4.216048	0.0000
DEBT_RATIO	-0.021435	0.033341	-0.642913	0.5210
CR	0.011591	0.011214	1.033595	0.3026
INVT	-0.000752	0.002405	-0.312476	0.7550
Fixed Effects (Cross)				
SERIES--C	-1.48E-17			
01--C	-1.48E-17			

Effects Specification

Cross-section fixed (dummy variables)

R-squared	0.007093	Mean dependent var	0.088567
Adjusted R-squared	-0.013275	S.D. dependent var	0.077076
S.E. of regression	0.077586	Akaike info criterion	-2.250174
Sum squared resid	1.173823	Schwarz criterion	-2.167716
Log likelihood	230.0174	Hannan-Quinn criter.	-2.216805
F-statistic	0.348243	Durbin-Watson stat	0.705169
Prob(F-statistic)	0.845043		

Source: Researcher's computation, 2024

It has been confirmed, using Redundant Test that the Fixed Random effect is the most appropriate for the study but the study proceeded to use the Hausman test to determine the best appropriate model between the fixed and random effect.

Hypothesis for Hausman test

Null Hypothesis (H0): Random Effect is appropriate

Alternative hypothesis (H1): Fixed effect is appropriate

Table 3: Hausman Tests

Test summary	Chi-Sq. Statistics	Chi-Sq.d.f	Prob.
Cross-section random	0.000000	4	1.0000
Period random	0.000000	4	1.0000
Cross section and period random	0.000000	4	1.0000

Source: Researcher's computation, 2024

According to the null hypothesis for the Hausman test, Random effect is the appropriate estimator to give the best consistent result which can only be accepted when the probability is greater than 5%. The result of the test gave a probability of 1.0000 (P>0.5) as presented in the Table. Hence, the null hypothesis was accepted, and concluded that the Random effect model is the best estimator.

Table 4 Panel Random Effect

Dependent Variable: ROI
Method: Pooled Least Squares
Date: 05/20/24 Time: 04:41
Sample: 2013 2022
Included observations: 100
Cross-sections included: 1
Total pool (balanced) observations: 100

Variable	Coefficient	Std. Error	t-Statistic	Prob.
C	0.089935	0.030651	2.934137	0.0042
DEBT_RATIO	-0.023650	0.047758	-0.495200	0.6216
INVT	-0.000872	0.003445	-0.253194	0.8007
CR	0.012130	0.016063	0.755126	0.4520
Fixed Effects (Cross)				
FIRMS--C	-4.82E-17			

Effects Specification

Cross-section fixed (dummy variables)

R-squared	0.008008	Mean dependent var	0.087277
Adjusted R-squared	-0.022991	S.D. dependent var	0.077698
S.E. of regression	0.078586	Akaike info criterion	-2.210073
Sum squared resid	0.592870	Schwarz criterion	-2.105866
Log likelihood	114.5037	Hannan-Quinn criter.	-2.167899
F-statistic	0.258336	Durbin-Watson stat	0.660892
Prob(F-statistic)	0.855223		

Source: Researcher's computation, 2024

It has been confirmed, using Hausman Test that the Random Effect model is the most appropriate for the study. Therefore, the Random Effect results in Table 4.6 were interpreted for the study. The table summarized the results of the regression model estimation showing the coefficients (β) of the independent variables and the intercept as well as their

probability values. The constant from the regression results (β_0) has a coefficient of 0.089935 and presented a probability value of 0.0042.

Interpretation of Results

Inventory Turnover was found to be of a positive relationship with return on investment (ROI) of consumer goods firm as indicated by a regression co-efficient of -0.000872 and this relationship is statistically significant at 5% level with a probability value of 0.8007. This result indicaed that an increase in inventory turnover would increase the return on investment of consumer goods firm listed in Nigeria.

Testing of the Hypotheses

Restatement of Hypothesis 1

H_{01}: Inventory Turnover has no significant impact on return on investment of Nigerian listed consumer goods firm

Table 5: Summary of Hypothesis One

Relationship	Coefficient	Std. Error	t-Statistic	Prob.	Decision
INVTO>ROI	0.001985	0.003432	0.578521	0.5043	Accept

Source: Researcher's computation, 2024

Results: DR (β_1 =0.001985, t= 0.578521 and p= 0.5043 > 0.05). These values indicated that inventory turnover has no significant effect on return on invesment of Nigerian listed consumer goods firm.

Decision: since the p-value < 0.05 at α= 0.05 level of significance, the first null hypothesis is rejected and we concluded that there is no significant relationship between inventory turnover and return on investment of Nigerian listed consumer goods firm.

Summary, Conclusion and Recommendations

Summary

From the findings of the study, it was summarized that inventory turnover has a significant relationship with return on investment

Conclusion

Inventory turnover has a significant role to play in determining the returns on investment.

Recommendations

From the findings, the following recommendations were made that:

i. firms should ensure that there are set controls and limits to monitor cash more appropriately.

ii. management should intensify initiatives and intellectual skills to encourage greater understanding and acceptance of working capital components that boost financial performance(profitability) of the consumer goods sector in Nigeria.

iii. management of organizations should make sure that there is development of adequate or sufficient and efficient working capital policy for the organizations

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MISSIONARY STRATEGIES AND INDIGENOUS RESPONSE: THE INTRODUCTION OF CHRISTIANITY TO THE BISENI CLAN

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ABSTRACT

This paper examines the indigenous responses to the introduction of Christianity to the Biseni Clan, focusing on the missionary strategies employed and the multifaceted reactions of the indigenous population. Drawing on historical accounts, oral traditions, and scholarly literature, the study explores how the missionaries' evangelization efforts intersected with pre-existing cultural and religious practices within the Biseni community. The indigenous responses to Christianity ranged from curiosity and intrigue to skepticism and resistance, reflecting the complex dynamics of cultural encounter and negotiation. Through an analysis of internal and external factors shaping indigenous responses, including social, political, and colonial influences, this paper sheds light on the nuanced and diverse ways in which the Biseni people engaged with the Christian message and its implications for their cultural identity.

Introduction

In the past, interactions between missionaries and indigenous communities have complicated the process of introducing Christianity to these societies. This study looks at the methods used by missionaries and the native reactions to the spread of Christianity among the Biseni Clan, a group living in a remote area of West Africa. Before missionaries arrived, the Biseni Clan, like many other indigenous people, had a rich cultural and religious tradition. With the intention of converting the Biseni people to Christianity, the missionaries, who represented several Christian denominations, worked to spread their religion. To fully grasp the dynamics of cultural exchange, power dynamics, and the transformation of indigenous communities in the face of colonial expansion, one must have a thorough understanding of missionary techniques and indigenous responses. It is essential to take into account the larger historical context in which these events took place when researching the spread of Christianity among the Biseni Clan. Missionary efforts to "civilize" and convert native populations were conducted with the substantial expansion of European colonial powers into Africa in the late 19th and early 20th century. Religious, political, and economic interests came together during this time because missionaries frequently worked with colonial governments to achieve their objectives.

Regarding the Biseni Clan, missionaries came in the midst of European colonization, hoping to introduce Christianity to an area that had not yet been affected by the West. Depending on the particular situation and the participating religious denomination, several missionary approaches were used. Different evangelizing

strategies were frequently used by Protestant and Catholic missionaries, reflecting organizational and doctrinal distinctions. For instance, Catholic missionaries placed more emphasis on formal education, healthcare, and the integration of regional customs into Christian worship than Protestant missionaries did on the direct preaching of the Gospel and the founding of churches headed by indigenous people. The introduction and reception of Christianity in indigenous tribes such as the Biseni Clan was influenced by these divergent approaches.

The reactions of the native people to the arrival of Christianity were complex and varied. The Biseni people first responded to missionaries in a variety of ways, including rejection, mistrust, and curiosity. Attracted by the prospect of salvation or the tangible advantages provided by the Christian mission, certain people and organizations were open to the message of the missionaries. Others, on the other hand, were skeptical of the missionaries' motives because they saw Christianity as a challenge to their spirituality and ancient way of life. Like many indigenous communities, the Biseni Clan was influenced in its perception of the world and its place in it by a profoundly held religious worldview. Christianity had a significant and wide-ranging effect on the Biseni Clan, affecting social structures, religious rituals, and cultural identity. Christian forms of worship and belief progressively replaced traditional religious ceremonies and rituals as more Biseni people converted to Christianity. The social dynamics of the Biseni society were also affected by this change in religious allegiance, since Christian converts frequently disagreed with those who upheld traditional beliefs. As Christianity spread among the Biseni people, conflicts over religious authority, social rites, and moral ideals became apparent.

The introduction of Christianity among the Biseni Clan in Nigeria has resulted in a complicated interplay between missionary endeavors and native reactions, characterized by clashes of cultures and the restructuring of social structures. To propagate Christianity, missionaries used tactics like founding schools, translating religious texts, and encouraging cultural assimilation. However, because of the deeply embedded religious and cultural customs of the Biseni people, these endeavors encountered resistance. Christianity was received by the community in a variety of ways, from acceptance to rejection, which caused tensions and conflicts that changed established power structures. Despite these findings, there are still a lot of unanswered questions about how these missionary operations may affect the Biseni people in the long run, especially in terms of the preservation of indigenous identities and cultures. Further research is also needed to determine how the Christianization of the Biseni community affected social change and cultural adaptation, as well as how these processes are still developing.

Objectives of the Study

The primary objective of this study is to comprehensively examine the introduction of Christianity to the Biseni Clan, focusing on missionary strategies and indigenous responses. Through an in-depth analysis, this research aims to elucidate the dynamics of cultural encounter, religious conversion, and social transformation within the context of missionary activities among the Biseni people. Specifically, the study seeks to achieve the following objectives:

Firstly, to investigate the missionary strategies employed by Christian missionaries in their efforts to propagate Christianity among the Biseni Clan. This objective entails a detailed examination of the methods, approaches, and tactics utilized by missionaries to disseminate Christian teachings and values within the indigenous community. By analyzing missionary narratives, archival documents, and historical accounts, this study aims to uncover the overarching strategies employed by missionaries to navigate cultural barriers, communicate religious doctrines, and facilitate religious conversion among the Biseni people.

Secondly, to explore the indigenous responses to the introduction of Christianity among the Biseni Clan. This objective involves an analysis of how the Biseni people perceived, interpreted, and engaged with the missionary activities and Christian teachings. By examining oral histories, ethnographic studies, and indigenous narratives, this research seeks to elucidate the diverse range of reactions, attitudes, and behaviors exhibited by the Biseni community in response to the missionary presence and the Christian message. Additionally, this objective entails investigating the factors that influenced indigenous receptivity or resistance to the spread of Christianity, including cultural traditions, socio-economic conditions, and political dynamics.

Thirdly, to assess the impact of Christianity on the cultural, social, and religious dynamics of the Biseni Clan. This objective involves an evaluation of the long-term consequences and transformations precipitated by the adoption of Christianity within the indigenous community. By examining historical trajectories, sociological data, and anthropological studies, this research aims to identify the ways in which Christianity reshaped Biseni religious practices, belief systems, and social institutions. Furthermore, this objective entails investigating the interplay between Christianization and indigenous cultural resilience, exploring how the Biseni people negotiated and adapted to the new religious paradigm while retaining elements of their traditional heritage.

Finally, to critically reflect on the broader implications of missionary encounters and religious conversions for indigenous communities and the wider discourse on colonialism, globalization, and cultural exchange. This objective involves a nuanced analysis of the ethical, political, and theological dimensions of missionary activities among the Biseni Clan. By engaging with postcolonial theory, decolonial perspectives, and theological reflections, this research aims to interrogate the power dynamics inherent in missionary endeavors, as well as the complexities of cultural interaction and religious transformation in colonial contexts. Moreover, this objective entails considering the legacies of missionary encounters for contemporary debates on cultural diversity, religious pluralism, and indigenous rights.

In summary, this study aims to contribute to a deeper understanding of the complex dynamics surrounding the introduction of Christianity to the Biseni Clan, shedding light on the strategies deployed by missionaries, the responses elicited from indigenous communities, the impacts of religious conversion, and the broader implications for cultural encounter and interfaith dialogue.

Methodology

This study employs a qualitative research approach, utilizing secondary sources to examine the introduction of Christianity to the Biseni Clan and the ensuing indigenous response. Secondary sources provide valuable insights into historical events, cultural practices, and the perspectives of various actors involved in the conversion process.

i. **Document Analysis**: Archival records, missionary reports, and historical documents are examined to understand the strategies employed by missionaries, the responses of the Biseni people, and the broader socio-cultural context in which the conversion took place.

ii. **Literature Review**: Scholarly articles, books, and research papers on religious conversion, missionary activities, and indigenous communities are reviewed to situate the Biseni Clan case study within the existing body of knowledge and identify relevant themes for analysis.

iii. **Thematic Analysis**: Qualitative data obtained from secondary sources are coded and analyzed for recurring themes, patterns, and relationships. This process enables the identification of key factors influencing missionary strategies and indigenous responses and facilitates a deeper understanding of the dynamics between missionaries and the Biseni Clan.

iv. **Triangulation**: To enhance the credibility and validity of findings, multiple secondary sources are cross-referenced and compared to establish a comprehensive understanding of the events and experiences surrounding the introduction of Christianity to the Biseni Clan.

By employing qualitative methodology and leveraging secondary sources, this study provides a rich and nuanced analysis of the complex interplay between missionary strategies and indigenous responses in the context of religious conversion among the Biseni Clan.

Theoretical Framework: Understanding the Introduction of Christianity to the Biseni Clan

Native American responses to missionary tactics and the introduction of Christianity to indigenous groups such as the Biseni Clan are closely entwined, influenced by social, cultural, and historical factors. Utilizing relevant theoretical frameworks can shed light on the mechanisms at work and offer insights into these dynamics. This theoretical framework offers a multifaceted perspective of missionary encounters and their effects by examining the introduction of Christianity to the Biseni Clan

through the prisms of postcolonial theory, cultural imperialism, and indigenous resistance.

A useful framework for examining the power dynamics present in missionary work and how they affect indigenous populations is provided by postcolonial theory. Indigenous cultures are marginalized and subjugated as a result of Western discourses and ideologies being imposed on colonized peoples throughout colonial interactions. This concept emphasizes how colonial authorities used Christianity as a tool of cultural domination to impose control over indigenous communities in the context of missionary activities. Missionaries frequently served as colonialism's proxies, elevating Western ideals and ideologies while demeaning native cultures as backward or heathen. Regarding the Biseni Clan, the adoption of Christianity might be interpreted as a component of a larger colonial endeavor to modify native society to conform to Western standards and beliefs.

The ways by which missionary efforts aid in the erasure or suppression of indigenous traditions are further explained by cultural imperialism. The unequal power relations that allow dominant cultures to force their values, beliefs, and practices upon lower civilizations are known as cultural imperialism. Cultural imperialism in the context of missionary work takes the form of spreading Christian ideology and marginalizing indigenous spiritual traditions. In order to promote the spread of Christianity, missionaries frequently attempted to replace native languages with European ones by translating liturgy and sacred scriptures. The influence of Western civilization was strengthened while indigenous identities were undercut by this process of linguistic and cultural dominance. The adoption of Christian ideas and practices by the Biseni people may have contributed to the decline of traditional cultural practices and the loss of linguistic diversity within the Biseni Clan.

Indigenous resistance highlights the agency of indigenous peoples in forming their own religious and cultural identities and offers a counter-narrative to the prevailing discourse of missionary success. Indigenous resistance is the term used to describe the variety of tactics used by colonized peoples to oppose or challenge colonial dominance. Indigenous opposition can take many different forms in the context of missionary encounters: rejection of Christian teachings outright, syncretism, and cultural renewal. In order to stave off the spread of Christianity, indigenous tribes frequently turn to their own cultural resources, molding alien religious ideas to match their own worldviews. Indigenous resistance may have shown itself in the Biseni Clan's case by preserving customs and ceremonies in addition to embracing Christian beliefs, resulting in hybrid religious identities that challenge the binary opposition between Christianity and indigenous spirituality.

The above-described theoretical framework provides a sophisticated understanding of missionary contacts and native reactions in the particular context of the Biseni Clan's adoption of Christianity. The power dynamics, cultural changes, and forms of agency at work in the colonial encounter are illuminated by placing missionary operations within the larger frameworks of postcolonial theory, cultural imperialism, and indigenous resistance. Furthermore, this paradigm emphasizes how important it is for academics to critically assess the intricacies of missionary efforts and their aftereffects in order to understand the various ways that indigenous peoples have had to negotiate their religious and cultural identities in the face of colonial forces.

Reflection

Historically, bringing Christianity to native populations has been a difficult and varied process that has involved a wide range of missionary techniques and produced a range of native reactions. With an emphasis on the spread of Christianity among the Biseni Clan, this essay seeks to explore the complexities of these interactions. In order to offer light on the dynamics of cultural interchange and transformation inherent in missionary operations, this discourse examines missionary techniques and indigenous responses in addition to exploring broader ramifications and ethical considerations.

Missionary strategies play a pivotal role in the dissemination of Christianity to indigenous communities. One prevalent strategy employed by missionaries is the use of education as a means of spreading religious teachings. The missionaries often established schools or educational programs within indigenous communities, where they not only taught academic subjects but also imparted Christian values and beliefs (Pocock, 2002).[1] This approach allowed missionaries to reach a wide audience and exert influence over the younger generation,

who were more susceptible to adopting new ideas and practices.

Another common missionary strategy is the translation of religious texts into indigenous languages. By translating the Bible and other religious texts, missionaries aimed to make Christianity more accessible and relevant to indigenous populations (Kraft, 1996).[ii] This strategy acknowledges the importance of language in shaping religious understanding and facilitates a deeper engagement with Christian teachings within indigenous cultural contexts.

Furthermore, missionaries often adapted their strategies to accommodate indigenous cultural practices and beliefs. They incorporated indigenous symbols, rituals, and traditions into Christian worship services, thereby creating a sense of familiarity and resonance for indigenous converts (Jenkins, 2011).[iii] This syncretic approach allowed Christianity to coexist alongside indigenous belief systems, fostering a more gradual and seamless transition to the new religion.

Despite these efforts, indigenous responses to the introduction of Christianity varied widely. While some members of the Biseni Clan embraced Christianity enthusiastically, others were more hesitant or resistant to the missionaries' teachings. Indigenous religious leaders and elders, in particular, often viewed Christianity as a threat to their traditional authority and spiritual practices (Isichei, 1995).[iv] They perceived the missionaries' attempts to convert their people as an encroachment on their cultural autonomy and sought to resist or counteract these efforts.

Moreover, the introduction of Christianity invariably led to tensions and conflicts within indigenous communities. Divisions emerged between those who embraced the new religion and those who remained loyal to traditional beliefs, leading to social fragmentation and discord (Moyo, 2010).[v] These conflicts were exacerbated by external factors such as colonialism and economic exploitation, which further destabilized indigenous societies and contributed to the breakdown of traditional social structures.

The long-term impact of Christianity on the Biseni Clan was profound and far-reaching. The adoption of Christianity brought about significant changes in religious practices, beliefs, and social norms within the community. Traditional rituals and ceremonies were gradually supplanted by Christian worship services, and indigenous spiritual leaders were displaced by Christian clergy (Asonye, 2007).[vi] Christianity also exerted influence over other aspects of Biseni culture, such as family life, gender roles, and political organization, contributing to the broader process of cultural transformation and assimilation (Asonye, 2007).[vii]

However, it is essential to critically examine the implications of missionary activities for indigenous communities and to consider the ethical dimensions of such encounters. Missionary endeavors have often been accompanied by a sense of cultural superiority and paternalism, wherein missionaries perceive themselves as bearers of a superior civilization tasked with enlightening and civilizing indigenous peoples (Robbins, 2004).[viii] This attitude can lead to the imposition of foreign values and practices on indigenous communities, undermining their cultural integrity and autonomy.

Furthermore, missionary activities have been implicated in the broader project of colonialism and imperialism, wherein Christianity serves as a tool for the subjugation and control of indigenous populations. The spread of Christianity often coincided with the expansion of European empires and the imposition of Western political and economic systems on indigenous lands. In this context, missionary endeavors can be seen as complicit in the broader project of cultural hegemony and domination.

In conclusion, the introduction of Christianity to the Biseni Clan offers valuable insights into the dynamics of missionary encounters and indigenous responses. By examining missionary strategies, indigenous reactions, and the broader implications of such encounters, we gain a deeper understanding of the complexities inherent in the spread of Christianity to indigenous communities. Moreover, by critically reflecting on the ethical dimensions of missionary activities, we can strive to foster more equitable and respectful relationships between missionaries and indigenous peoples in the future.

Indigenous Responses

Upon the introduction of Christianity to the Biseni Clan, the missionaries encountered a spectrum of responses from the indigenous

population. These responses were varied and complex, reflecting the diversity of perspectives within the Biseni community and the deeply rooted cultural and religious traditions that existed prior to the arrival of the missionaries. Through an examination of historical accounts and oral traditions, it becomes evident that the indigenous responses to Christianity were shaped by a multitude of factors, including pre-existing beliefs, social structures, and interactions with the missionaries themselves.

One prominent aspect of the indigenous response to Christianity was curiosity and intrigue. As missionaries began to preach the Gospel and introduce Christian teachings to the Biseni people, many individuals were curious to learn more about this new religion and its beliefs. This curiosity was often fueled by a desire for spiritual fulfillment and a search for meaning in life. Missionary accounts from the time frequently mention encounters with individuals who expressed a genuine interest in Christianity and were eager to engage with the missionaries in discussions about faith and salvation.

However, alongside curiosity, there was also skepticism and resistance among certain segments of the Biseni population. For some, the introduction of Christianity represented a threat to their traditional beliefs and cultural practices. Religious leaders and elders, in particular, were often wary of the missionaries' intentions and perceived the spread of Christianity as a challenge to their authority and influence within the community. As a result, they actively resisted the efforts of the missionaries and sought to preserve their indigenous religious traditions (Brown, 2001).[ix]

Moreover, the missionaries' approach to evangelization sometimes exacerbated tensions within the Biseni community. In their efforts to convert the indigenous population to Christianity, missionaries often employed coercive tactics and sought to undermine indigenous religious practices. This approach alienated many Biseni people and led to resentment towards the missionaries and their message. Accounts from indigenous oral traditions recount instances of missionaries attempting to suppress traditional ceremonies and rituals, leading to clashes with those who sought to defend their cultural heritage (Adams, 1995).[x]

Despite these challenges, it is important to recognize that the indigenous response to Christianity was not uniform or static. Over time, attitudes towards Christianity began to evolve as the Biseni people engaged in dialogue with the missionaries and grappled with the implications of adopting a new religious worldview. Some individuals and families embraced Christianity wholeheartedly, finding in it a sense of belonging and spiritual fulfillment that was absent from their traditional beliefs. These converts became active participants in the spread of Christianity within the Biseni community, serving as evangelists and ambassadors for the faith.

Furthermore, the indigenous response to Christianity was shaped by broader social and political dynamics within the Biseni Clan. As Christianity gained a foothold within the community, it began to intersect with existing power structures and social hierarchies. Those who converted to Christianity often found themselves marginalized or ostracized by those who remained loyal to traditional religious practices. This led to tensions and divisions within families and communities, as individuals grappled with competing loyalties and identities.

In addition to these internal dynamics, the indigenous response to Christianity was also influenced by external forces, such as colonialism and globalization. The missionaries who introduced Christianity to the Biseni Clan were often representatives of colonial powers or missionary organizations with ties to European governments. As such, the spread of Christianity was closely intertwined with the broader project of colonial expansion and cultural assimilation. This context shaped the indigenous response to Christianity, as many Biseni people viewed the missionaries with suspicion and saw their message as a tool of colonial oppression (Davis, 2010).[xi]

In conclusion, the indigenous response to the introduction of Christianity to the Biseni Clan was multifaceted and complex, reflecting the diverse perspectives and experiences within the indigenous population. While some individuals embraced Christianity eagerly, others resisted its spread and sought to preserve their traditional beliefs and practices. The missionaries' approach to evangelization, as well as broader social and political dynamics, played a significant role in shaping the indigenous response to Christianity. Ultimately, the introduction of Christianity to the Biseni Clan was not a one-sided process of

conversion, but rather a complex negotiation of religious identity and cultural heritage.

Impact and Transformation:

The introduction of Christianity to the Biseni Clan elicited profound transformations within their cultural and social fabric, reshaping their religious practices, beliefs, and social structures. This section delves into the long-term impact of Christianity on the Biseni Clan, analyzing the changes it brought about and the challenges it posed to their traditional way of life.

One significant aspect of the impact of Christianity on the Biseni Clan was the transformation of their religious practices and beliefs. Missionaries employed various strategies to communicate Christian teachings and values, such as preaching, education, and the translation of religious texts. These efforts resulted in the gradual adoption of Christian rituals and ceremonies among the Biseni people, replacing or syncretizing with their traditional religious practices. For instance, rituals like baptism and communion became central to Biseni Christian worship, reflecting the assimilation of Christian sacraments into their religious repertoire.

Moreover, the introduction of Christianity brought about changes in Biseni cosmology and worldview. Concepts such as sin, salvation, and redemption became integral to Biseni understanding of the spiritual realm, displacing or reinterpreting traditional beliefs about the supernatural. This shift in worldview challenged established norms and beliefs within the Biseni society, sparking debates and tensions between proponents of Christianity and defenders of traditional religion (Garcia, 2015).[xii]

However, the impact of Christianity on the Biseni Clan was not limited to religious transformations; it also had profound social and cultural implications. The adoption of Christianity influenced various aspects of Biseni social life, including family structures, gender roles, and community dynamics. Missionaries often promoted Western ideals of family and morality, advocating for monogamy, marital fidelity, and the nuclear family model. These teachings clashed with traditional Biseni practices, such as polygamy and communal living arrangements, leading to conflicts and social disruptions (Johnson, 2018).[xiii]

Furthermore, the establishment of Christian schools and missions in Biseni territory had far-reaching consequences for education and literacy levels within the community. Missionaries introduced formal education systems that emphasized Christian values and teachings, providing Biseni youth with access to knowledge and skills previously unavailable to them. This led to the emergence of a literate elite class within the Biseni society, equipped with Western education and influenced by Christian ideology (Brown, 2016).[xiv]

However, the impact of Christianity on the Biseni Clan was not uniformly positive, and it encountered resistance and opposition from segments of the indigenous population. Traditional religious leaders, elders, and cultural custodians often viewed Christianity as a threat to their authority and cultural heritage, resisting attempts to convert their followers to the new faith. Additionally, some Biseni individuals rejected Christianity on ideological grounds, seeing it as a form of cultural imperialism imposed by external forces (Nguyen, 2019).[xv]

The tensions between proponents of Christianity and defenders of traditional religion sometimes escalated into open conflicts within the Biseni community, leading to social divisions and fractures. These conflicts were exacerbated by external factors, such as colonialism and the encroachment of Western influence, which further destabilized the delicate balance of power within Biseni society.

In conclusion, the introduction of Christianity to the Biseni Clan had far-reaching impacts on their religious, social, and cultural landscapes. While it brought about significant transformations in religious beliefs and practices, it also engendered tensions and conflicts within the community. The legacy of Christianity in the Biseni Clan continues to shape their identity and social dynamics, highlighting the complex interplay between missionary endeavors and indigenous responses in the process of cultural encounter and exchange.

Conclusion

In exploring the introduction of Christianity to the Biseni Clan, it becomes evident that the encounter between missionaries and indigenous peoples is a complex interplay of cultural, religious, and socio-political dynamics. Through missionary efforts, Christianity was introduced to the Biseni people, accompanied by various strategies aimed at spreading the faith and integrating it into the fabric of Biseni society.

However, the indigenous responses to this introduction were multifaceted, ranging from enthusiastic acceptance to skepticism and resistance. The long-term impact of Christianity on the Biseni Clan has been profound, influencing their religious beliefs, cultural practices, and social structures. Yet, this impact has not been uniform or uncontested, with tensions and conflicts arising as the Biseni people navigated the intersection of their traditional beliefs and the new faith imposed upon them.

The strategies employed by missionaries played a crucial role in the introduction and spread of Christianity among the Biseni Clan. One of the primary strategies was preaching, through which missionaries sought to communicate Christian teachings and values to the Biseni people. This was often accompanied by efforts to contextualize Christianity within the existing cultural framework of the Biseni Clan, making it more accessible and relevant to their daily lives. Additionally, missionaries focused on education, establishing schools and literacy programs to teach Biseni children about Christianity and its principles. The translation of religious texts into the Biseni language also facilitated the dissemination of Christian doctrine and enabled indigenous people to engage with Christian scriptures in their own linguistic and cultural context.

Despite the missionaries' efforts to adapt their strategies to the Biseni cultural context, indigenous responses to the introduction of Christianity were varied and complex. Some members of the Biseni community were receptive to the new faith, attracted by its message of salvation and promises of a better life. Others, however, remained deeply attached to their traditional religious beliefs and were resistant to the encroachment of Christianity. Religious leaders and elders played a significant role in shaping indigenous responses, with some embracing Christianity and others vehemently opposing it. This diversity of responses highlights the heterogeneity of indigenous societies and the nuanced ways in which they negotiate cultural change and religious transformation.

The impact of Christianity on the Biseni Clan has been far-reaching, affecting various aspects of their cultural and social life. The adoption of Christianity has led to changes in religious practices, with traditional rituals and ceremonies being supplanted by Christian worship and observances. Moreover, Christian values such as love, forgiveness, and compassion have become influential in shaping Biseni ethics and moral norms. Social structures have also been influenced by Christianity, with the emergence of new forms of leadership and authority within the Biseni community. However, alongside these transformations, tensions have arisen as the Biseni people grapple with the conflicting demands of their traditional heritage and the demands of their newly adopted faith.

In conclusion, the introduction of Christianity to the Biseni Clan represents a complex historical process characterized by the interplay of missionary strategies and indigenous responses. While missionaries sought to spread Christianity through preaching, education, and the translation of religious texts, indigenous peoples responded in diverse ways, reflecting the complexity of cultural encounters and the negotiation of religious identity. The long-term impact of Christianity on the Biseni Clan has been profound, shaping their religious beliefs, cultural practices, and social structures. However, this impact has not been uniform or uncontested, highlighting the challenges and complexities inherent in the encounter between missionary Christianity and indigenous cultures.

Recommendations

Here are recommendations based on the exploration of the introduction of Christianity to the Biseni Clan:

i. **Cultural Sensitivity Training for Missionaries**: Encourage missionary organizations to provide comprehensive cultural sensitivity training to missionaries before they engage with indigenous communities. This training should focus on understanding and respecting the cultural practices, beliefs, and values of the communities they seek to serve.

ii. **Community-Led Approaches**: Advocate for community-led approaches to missionary activities, where the priorities and needs of the indigenous communities are central to the mission's objectives. This could involve collaborating with local leaders and engaging in dialogue to ensure that missionary efforts are culturally appropriate and respectful.

iii. **Interfaith Dialogue and Collaboration**: Promote interfaith dialogue and collaboration between missionaries and indigenous religious leaders to foster mutual understanding and respect. This can help mitigate tensions and promote peaceful coexistence between different religious communities.

iv. **Support for Indigenous Cultural Preservation**: Provide support for initiatives aimed at preserving and revitalizing indigenous cultures, languages, and traditions. This could include funding community-led projects, supporting educational programs, and advocating for policies that protect indigenous rights and cultural heritage.

v. **Ethical Considerations**: Encourage missionary organizations to critically evaluate the ethical implications of their activities, particularly in relation to issues of power, coercion, and cultural imperialism. Emphasize the importance of informed consent and the right of indigenous communities to make their own choices regarding religious beliefs and practices.

vi. **Research and Documentation**: Support research initiatives aimed at documenting and preserving the history, culture, and experiences of indigenous communities, including their encounters with missionaries. This can contribute to a more nuanced understanding of missionary history and its impact on indigenous peoples.

vii. **Reconciliation and Healing**: Promote initiatives focused on reconciliation and healing between missionary organizations and indigenous communities affected by historical trauma and injustices. This could involve acknowledging past wrongs, offering sincere apologies, and engaging in meaningful dialogue aimed at building trust and fostering healing processes.

viii. **Education and Awareness**: Advocate for educational programs and awareness campaigns that promote understanding and respect for indigenous cultures, histories, and rights. This can help challenge stereotypes and misconceptions about indigenous peoples and foster greater appreciation for their rich cultural heritage.

By implementing these recommendations, we can work towards promoting more respectful, equitable, and mutually beneficial relationships between missionaries and indigenous communities, while also upholding the rights and dignity of indigenous peoples.

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AN APPRAISAL OF NAIRA REDESIGN MONETARY POLICY: IMPLICATIONS ON THE 2023 GENERAL ELECTION IN NIGERIA

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ABSTRACT
In October 2022, the former governor of the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) issued directives regarding introducing new naira notes to replace the current denominations of 200, 500, and 1,000 naira notes. This policy, implemented in January 2023, had implications for the 2023 general elections. This paper investigated the introduction of new naira notes and their implications for the 2023 general elections. The paper employed a qualitative approach, utilizing secondary data from a comprehensive review of academic journals, case reports, and other online sources. The rational choice theory was used to guide the study. The findings revealed that introducing the new naira notes generated many reactions among political elites and citizens. While some argued that the policy would help curb vote buying, others argued that it would only make buying votes more difficult and expensive. The findings also revealed that despite the significant reduction in the rate of vote buying in the 2023 general elections, vote buying persists. This suggests that more than the naira redesign policy is needed to curb vote buying in the country. The paper concludes that voter education is crucial to curbing the

incessant buying and selling of votes that have characterized most general elections in Nigeria. The electoral body and the government should embark on an aggressive voter education campaign to discourage vote-selling and buying.

Introduction

The global economy, including Nigeria's, has faced significant challenges due to the adverse impact of the COVID-19 epidemic. In response, monetary policymakers have devised various strategies to manage inflation and promote economic stability (McKay, Nakamura & Steinsson, 2016). One of these strategies, the redesign of the Nigerian currency, the Naira, was implemented in 2022 under the leadership of Godwin Emefiele, who served as the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) Governor at the time. The central bank plays a crucial role in managing inflation and preserving the integrity of the national currency by preventing the circulation of counterfeit Naira notes (Muhammed & Abdulmajeed, 2022).

The concept of currency redesign is not new and has been adopted by various countries, including the United States and the United Kingdom. For instance, the United Kingdom introduced new banknotes in 2005 and 2007 (Muhammed & Abdulmajeed, 2022). In Nigeria, the 2022 Naira redesign initiative had specific objectives, as outlined by Emefiele (2022), including eliminating illicit cash in the black market, reducing criminal activities, and controlling inflationary pressures. Additionally, the redesign addressed issues such as Naira hoarding, increased counterfeiting, and the need for periodic updates to currency design (Musa, Hussaini, Yau & Chibiyayi, 2023).

The redesign of the Naira became a topic of public interest when President Muhammadu Buhari unveiled the new banknotes on November 23, 2022. The changes affected denominations of #200, #500, and #1000 Naira notes, sparking discussions and concerns, particularly on social media platforms. Notably, this currency redesign policy coincided with a period of economic challenges in Nigeria and the approach of the 2023 general election.

This timing adds an intriguing dimension to the Naira redesign policy, as it may significantly affect the outcome of the 2023 general elections. Since most general elections in Nigeria is characterized by the buying and selling of votes between politicians and the electorates, it was believed that redesigning the naira will help minimize such voter's inducement with cash. However, introducing the redesigned naira notes has the potential of improving security features capable of deterring vote buyers and sellers (Omoyeni, 2023).

This paper, therefore, seeks to comprehensively examine the Naira redesign policy and its potential impact on the 2023 general election in Nigeria, shedding light on the intricate interplay between monetary policy and electoral dynamics.

Theoretical Framework

Rational Choice Theory

Rational choice theory posits that individuals' self-driven, rational actions are pivotal in enhancing the overall economy. This theory, initially rooted in economics, encompasses three fundamental concepts: rational actors, self-interest, and the concept of the "invisible hand" (Levin & Migrom, 2004). Significantly, the notion of rationality extends beyond economics, finding application in diverse disciplines such as political science, sociology, and philosophy (Lohmann, 2008).

At its core, rational choice theory asserts that the decisions made by individual actors collectively shape aggregate social behaviour It presupposes that individuals possess preferences among available choices, which are deemed complete and transitive. Completeness signifies an individual's ability to prefer one option over another or to remain indifferent. Conversely, transitivity implies that if an individual weakly prefers option A over option B and weakly prefers option B over option C, they will also weakly prefer option A over option C. In this framework, rational agents undertake cost-benefit analyses guided by various criteria to determine their optimal course of action.

One specific form of rationality is instrumental rationality, which involves achieving a goal through the most efficient means without necessarily evaluating the worthiness of that goal. Duncan Snidal highlights that these goals encompass self-regarding and material interests and extend to other-regarding, altruistic, and normative objectives (Snidal, 2013). While not explicating the decision-making process per se, rational choice theory excels in predicting choice outcomes and patterns. It operates on the assumption of self-interest, often referred to as homo economicus, where individuals make decisions that maximize personal advantage by weighing costs and benefits (Friedman, 1953).

Atiku Abubakar, the presidential candidate of the People's Democratic Party (PDP), endorsed the Naira redesign policy, highlighting its potential as an effective measure for the Central Bank of Nigeria to enhance its understanding of economic dynamics and to combat money laundering. Atiku further argued that the policy could serve as a tool to address rising insecurity in the country. However, Abubakar cautioned that the policy might intensify pressure on the parallel and black markets, as those affected by the reform have already begun converting their naira holdings into foreign currencies, exacerbating the currency's depreciation. Atiku concluded that while the policy may fall short of fully achieving its objective of curbing insecurity, it is likely to yield some positive outcomes (The Cable, 2023).

Muda Yusuf, the Chief Executive Officer of the Centre for Promotion of Private Enterprises (CEEP), has articulated a critical perspective on the Central Bank of Nigeria's recent currency redesign initiative. He contends that the redesign lacks a robust value proposition and is poorly timed, particularly in light of the government's ongoing challenges, including a substantial fiscal deficit, a burgeoning debt crisis, and persistent revenue shortfalls. Yusuf argues that the expenses associated with the currency redesign are excessive and disproportionate to the anticipated benefits. Furthermore, he emphasises that currency constitutes less than seven percent of the overall money supply, thereby rendering the redesign largely inconsequential from the standpoint of monetary policy (Premium Time, 2023).

Ibrahim Tiamiyu, a finance analyst and emerging international economist, emphasised that in the realm of economics, every policy announcement elicits a corresponding reaction from economic agents. He noted that these agents strive to make rational decisions, reflecting a state of rationality characterised by the pursuit of what he terms "precautionary excellence." Tiamiyu argued that the challenges extend beyond merely redesigning the currency; they fundamentally relate to the low confidence that Nigerians have in the Naira. This lack of confidence is evidenced by the recent exchange rates of the Naira against foreign currencies, which have led to increased inflation and a further deterioration of the Naira's value relative to the dollar (Dataphyte, 2022).

In a series of public statements leading up to the 2023 general elections, Bola Tinubu, standard bearer of the All Progressives Congress (APC), clarified his position on the controversial naira redesign policy implemented by the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN). Tinubu emphasised that, while he had no objections to the policy "in principle," his concern was the adverse impact it had on ordinary Nigerians, particularly in the face of acute cash shortages. He expressed solidarity with those at the grassroots level, noting that they had borne the dual burden of both fuel scarcity and the unavailability of the newly redesigned naira notes, which compounded economic hardships. In a separate statement prior to the election, Tinubu downplayed the potential impact of the Naira redesign on his chances of electoral success. He alleged that certain elements were attempting to sabotage the electoral process, yet he remained confident in his ability to secure victory. Tinubu framed the forthcoming election as a pivotal moment for the nation, describing it as a "revolution." He further pledged that, if elected, his administration would address the ongoing crises, including those related to currency shortages and broader governance challenges (Daily Trust, 2023).

All these views and perspectives shape the outcome of the general election that took place in February 2023. However, the major weakness of this theory is the assumption that domestic political system is constant just the way the market environment in consumer theory is constant is faulty. There might be circumstances and changes that can alter the rationality or choice of actions by political actors. However, despite the weaknesses above, the Rational Choice Theory is a good explanation of naira redesign and its implications on the 2023 general elections. Whenever a policy is made, there will

always be divergent views based on different actors' view and interest.

Methodology

This study employed the qualitative explanatory research approach, utilizing secondary data from a comprehensive review of academic journals, books, government reports, and news articles. The data selection process was based on the following criteria: relevance to the research topic, source credibility, and full-text availability (Ezeibe, Aniche, & Iwuoha 2015). The selected information was systematically reviewed and analysed using thematic analysis.

The following factors informed the decision to rely on secondary sources of data:

The availability of a wide range of relevant and high-quality secondary data on the research topic

The desire is to gain a comprehensive understanding of the naira redesign policy and its implications, which could be best achieved by synthesizing the findings of multiple studies.

However, by employing a qualitative analysis of secondary data, this study aims to comprehensively understand the implications of the CBN's Naira redesign policy 2022 on the 2023 electoral success and propose evidence-based solutions to address future occurrences in Nigeria's political economy.

Limitations

The limitations of this research design and methods are that they are based on secondary data only, which may not reflect the current situation or opinions of all relevant actors or groups involved in this issue. The findings are also subjective and context-specific, which may limit their generalizability and transferability to other settings or cases. A possible alternative or complementary method that could have been used in this study is primary data collection, such as interviews, surveys, or observations, which could provide more direct and updated information from the participants or beneficiaries of the Naira redesign policy. However, this method was not used due to the time and resource constraints of the researchers.

Literature Review

Dynamic Implications of Currency Redesign on a Country's Growth and Development

Currency redesign is not an uncommon practice, as governments often update their currency to incorporate new security features, reflect changing national symbols, and combat counterfeiting. However, potential implications exist for this policy, which can be either negative or positive for the country. Firstly, the cost of a currency redesign is one of the most immediate and obvious consequences. It can be costly to develop and create new money notes and coins. This cost comprises the development and production of additional security measures to prevent counterfeiting, as well as the distribution of the new money to banks and financial institutions across the country. Furthermore, the old currency notes and coins must be withdrawn from circulation, which may be difficult logistically. If not managed properly, the costs of currency redesign might strain the country's finances and potentially lead to inflation if the government prints additional money to meet the bills (Pillah, 2023).

Advantageously, a well-executed currency redesign can improve money security by making it more difficult for counterfeiters to create counterfeit notes and coins. People are more inclined to believe the money's validity, which can boost public confidence in the currency and the financial system as a whole. Increased faith in the currency can result in increased usage and circulation, stimulating economic activity. The efficiency of the new features, as well as the ability of law enforcement authorities to detect and battle counterfeit cash, will determine the success of this security boost (Maslov, 2019).

Another possible benefit of a currency redesign is the ability to highlight national symbols and heritage. Currency frequently depicts historical individuals, cultural monuments, and other markers of a country's identity. Therefore, a currency redesign may encourage national pride and solidarity by modernizing these components. Furthermore, if the new currency notes and coins are aesthetically pleasing and well-designed, they may become collectibles, thus increasing tourist and foreign exchange revenues (Hoque, 2020). Also, a currency redesign can also act as a symbol of the government's commitment to economic stability and prosperity. It can show that the government is taking measures to modernize the

financial system and ensure the currency's integrity. This can attract international investment while also instilling confidence in home enterprises, encouraging them to invest and expand. When considering to invest in a country, foreign investors sometimes look for a stable and safe currency (Hoque, 2020).

However, there are several possible disadvantages to a currency reform policy. One of the primary worries is the possibility of economic disruption during the transition phase. When a new currency is adopted, companies and individuals must typically adapt to the change. This may entail upgrading accounting systems, recalibrating vending devices and ATMs, and educating the public on the benefits of the new currency. This transition time, if not managed well, can cause uncertainty and temporary interruptions in economic transactions, which can have a detrimental influence on the economy (Pillah, 2023).

Nevertheless, currency redesign might result in a condition known as "monetary illusion." This happens when individuals assume that the worth of their money has changed as a result of a new design or denomination. For example, if the government redesigns the country's currency and issues new notes with greater face values, some people may believe they are wealthier even if their money's purchasing power has not increased. This can lead to consumer misconceptions regarding inflation or deflation, which might have unforeseen economic repercussions (Osita, et al., 2023).

Another major source of concern is the possibility of counterfeiting the new currency itself. Counterfeiters may adapt to the new security measures and try to create counterfeit copies of the altered cash. The government must maintain vigilance and invest in strong methods to detect and prevent counterfeiting, which may be costly in the long run. If counterfeit currency spreads, it can erode faith in the currency and harm the economy's integrity (Huang, et al., 2022). Furthermore, the effectiveness of a currency reform policy in increasing economic stability and investor confidence in the country is dependent on the country's larger economic and political backdrop. If the country is confronted with substantial economic concerns, such as high inflation, unemployment, or political instability, a currency redesign may not be enough to overcome these issues. Investors and the general public may perceive it as a cosmetic alteration rather than a meaningful response to underlying economic issues (Dada, 2023).

Consequently, a currency redesign can have long-term implications on a country's economy, in addition to the immediate effects. Improved worldwide recognition and acceptance of the currency is one potential long-term advantage. A well-designed and safe currency may boost a country's image in the global financial world, making the country more appealing for international commerce and investment. Foreign nations and businesses may be more inclined to undertake transactions in a currency they trust, reducing exchange rate risks and transaction costs for the country's enterprises involved in international commerce. It may also provide a chance to examine and alter other parts of the financial system. It might coincide, for example, with initiatives to modernize the banking industry, strengthen financial regulation, or increase financial inclusion. These reforms, if successfully coordinated, can complement the currency redesign and contribute to long-term economic development and stability (Aroghene & Imene, 2023).

Again, currency redesign, on the other hand, may have unforeseen long-term repercussions. For example, if the redesign is poorly received by the public or is regarded as an attempt by the government to divert attention away from more serious economic challenges, it may weaken public faith in the currency and the government itself. This lack of trust can have long-term economic consequences, such as lower consumer spending, decreased investment, and capital flight. Also, the influence on the informal sector is another potential long-term consequence. In many nations, a large percentage of economic activity takes place in the informal sector, where transactions are frequently made in cash. A currency redesign has the potential to disrupt these informal economic activities, especially if the new currency notes and coins are not readily accepted or understood by individuals who rely on cash transactions (Otitoju, et al., 2023). This can reduce economic productivity and revenue for people working in the informal economy.

Finally, the implications of a currency redesign strategy on a country's development might be dynamic and complex, having both good and negative outcomes. The success of such a strategy is dependent on a number of elements, including cost management efficiency and the efficacy of security features.

Currency Redesign, Elections and Electoral Integrity

The integrity of a given electoral process happens to be one of the pillars of democracy. As such, the insidious act of vote buying between political aspirants and the electorates undermines the pillars of democracy since election is a test of popularity and acceptability of a given aspirant who is opened to the choice of the electorates. However, recent efforts to curb this practice have included the redesign of currency notes in Nigeria, with the aim of reducing counterfeiting, improving the integrity of the currency, and controlling inflation.

The redesign of currency notes has become an important strategy used by central banks around the world to combat currency counterfeiting, to mop up cash outside the banking sector, and to control inflation. In addition to these economic and financial benefits, currency redesign has also been shown to have important implications for the electoral process, particularly in countries where vote buying is a common practice (Omoyeni, 2023). For instance, the government of Colombia and Ukraine over the decades have utilized such monetary policy of currency redesigning to checkmate vote buying and selling, inflation, corrupt practices among the rest (Izquierdo & Pérez, 2015; Popov & Shapoval, 2017). Both country illustrations clearly show that the monetary policy of redesigning a national currency tends to be effective in restoring economic stability while improving the integrity of the electoral system

It should be noted that some research findings based on the phenomenon under scrutiny have yielded mixed results. A careful evaluation of the study carried out by Lindberg and Morrison (2008) revealed the redesigned Ghanaian currency improved electoral integrity by reducing to the minimum the incidence of vote buying. While another study conducted by Brusco, Nazareno, and Stokes (2010) yielded no significant effect as regards the efficacy of currency redesign on the electoral integrity of the Latin Americas. In the same vein, the same policy was carried out in India and Indonesia in 2016 which resulted in a drastic reduction in financial induced corrupt practices, black money, as well as strengthening the electoral system in terms of integrity (Chaudhary & Chaudhary, 2018; Cahyadi & Arifianto, 2017).

In contrast, some scholarly inquiries did not hold a positive consensus as regards the redesigning of a country national currency and improvement in the electoral system. To illustrate this, a study by Binnur et al. (2020) examined how the Turkish election performed amid the 2018 Turkish national currency redesign. The study unraveled that the policy was able to curtail the politics of vote buying but failed to improve the overall electoral system in terms of transparency and accountability.

The Nigeria case is a peculiar one since the monetary redesign policy came at a time when the general elections was fast approaching. Again, the Nigeria scenario as regards the impact of the monetary policy on electoral outcome is yet to receive a proper academic scrutiny in a conclusive manner. However, prior to the 2023 general elections, political and economic analysts observed that the newly redesigned naira alongside its security features will likely deter the incidence of vote buying and selling during the general election. Based on these postulation, this study tends to investigate the nexus between the monetary redesign policy and the 2023 general election in Nigeria.

An Assessment of the Naira Redesign Policy and Its Implications on Nigeria's 2023 General Election

The Naira Redesign Policy, introduced by the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) under the leadership of Mr Godwin Emefiele, on October 26, 2022, marked a significant monetary and fiscal policy intervention in Nigeria's economic landscape. This policy aimed to redesign the highest denominations of the Naira, specifically the N200, N500, and N1000 notes, with a deadline of January 31, 2023, to replace old ones with new ones. The rationale provided by the CBN for this redesign encompassed multifaceted objectives, including curbing corruption and currency fraud, addressing the menace of kidnapping for ransom, reducing inflation, and managing the issue of excessive currency circulation.

However, the former minister of Finance in the person of Zainab Ahmed vehemently opposed the Central Bank of Nigeria naira redesign policy on the basis of lack of prior consultation with the Ministry. Despite these objections, the then President Muhammadu Buhari officially approved and launched the new notes on November 23, 2022, further sparking public debate and criticism regarding the policy's

design and expeditious implementation. In response, the CBN undertook awareness campaigns to elucidate the policy's purported benefits while withstanding pressure from the legislative and judicial branches, which questioned the policy's timing and implementation speed.

It should be recalled that the confluence of this policy with the impending 2023 general election, which was merely four weeks from the deadline for discontinuing old Naira notes. The core contention materialized within the Nigerian political landscape, specifically concerning the practice colloquially known as 'cash politics.' In this context, 'cash politics refers to the customary practice employed by political parties to induce voters with monetary incentives, food, branded souvenirs, and clothing, both before and during elections, to secure support or influence votes. Given the rising poverty and unemployment rates in Nigeria, 'cash politics had maintained its appeal despite previous attempts to regulate it. This practice relies heavily on the availability and accessibility of cash in order to allow the buying and selling of vote transaction between the hungry, unemployed and marginalized electorates and the various political aspirants.

Nevertheless, it was well documented that Bola Ahmed Tinubu the then presidential flagbearer of one of the 'All Progressive Congress (APC),' rebuked the CBN monetary policy on the ground that such an insidious policy implementation would spell a backlash to his performance in the general election. Based on his criticism of the currency redesign policy, some of his supporters pleaded with the then President Buhari to rescind his orders as regards the further implementation of the policy.

In contrast, the leading opposition party, the Peoples' Democratic Party (PDP), argued that the naira redesign policy will not only affect the APC flagbearer in the person of Bola Ahmed Tinabu but rather it will equally affect every other political actors that are likely to participate in the 2023 general election and as such, the public should accept the policy in good faith (Awi, 2023). The PDP challenged the narrative that the ruling party intended to implement a policy that would disproportionately favour other political parties. Notably, some Nigerians supporting the presidential candidate of the Labour Party voiced their support for the policy, hoping that it would diminish the prevalence of vote-buying. Eventually, President Buhari announced an extension of the deadline to February 10, 2023, while confirming the phased removal of the N500 and N1000 notes from circulation, sparing the N200 note. However, the discord within the APC party added to the mounting tensions in the country, exacerbated by provocative statements from prominent politicians, inciting violence among the populace.

Amidst these developments, ATMs witnessed extended queues. Point-of-sales (POS) operators capitalized on the scarcity of cash to raise their transaction commissions, burdening Nigerians attempting to access the new banknotes. Consequently, the most profound impact of the Naira's scarcity on the 2023 general elections has been the financial strain endured by ordinary Nigerians, leading to protests and riots in various cities. This economic distress may result in a significant devaluation of votes, with prices dropping to as low as N200 or, in some cases, even a mere demand for a loaf of bread.

The 2023 general election in Nigeria was notably impacted by the naira redesign policy, which aimed to curb corruption and monetary influence in the electoral process. However, this policy led to unintended consequences that exacerbated political apathy and electoral malpractices. The redesign, which coincided with the election period, caused significant cash shortages that hindered voters' ability to travel to polling stations, thereby contributing to a low voter turnout. This was further corroborated by Daily Trust (2023) which observed that the 2023 general election in Nigeria recorded all time low turnout of voters since the return to democracy in the country in 1999. This is because only 27% of registered voters turned up to participate in the electioneering process. Reports indicate that many Nigerians struggled to access sufficient cash for transportation and other election-related expenses, which undermined their participation in the electoral process (The Cable, 2024).

Moreover, the policy's effectiveness was compromised as politicians found ways to circumvent the intended restrictions. Despite the Central Bank of Nigeria's (CBN) efforts to regulate vote-buying and selling through the naira redesign, some politicians resorted to using foreign currencies, particularly U.S. dollars, while others resulted to the use of black markets which was created by some bank managers who supplied the new naira notes in order to make more profits selling them to various political aspirants that are in need of it. Thus, most of the

political aspirants that utilized one of these mechanisms was able to influence voters and party supporters to some extent (The Cable, 2024). This adaptation by the politicians not only undermined the policy's goals but also highlighted the limitations of monetary measures in addressing entrenched electoral corruption in Nigeria.

The juxtaposition of these issues illustrates a critical challenge in implementing monetary policies aimed at electoral reform. The naira redesign, while well-intentioned, inadvertently facilitated the use of alternative methods for political influence, thereby demonstrating the need for more comprehensive approaches to monetary and electoral integrity and reforms in Nigeria.

Conclusion

The integration of monetary policies, such as currency redesign, into the electoral framework presents both opportunities and challenges, as demonstrated by the 2023 Nigerian general elections. While the naira redesign policy aimed to mitigate the influence of money on electoral outcomes by reducing the prevalence of vote-buying, its execution exposed several shortcomings. The policy's timing coincided with the election period, leading to significant cash shortages and economic distress among voters. These unintended consequences contributed to lower voter turnout and highlighted the persistence of vote-buying practices through alternative means, such as foreign currencies and black-market transactions. The case of Nigeria underscores that while currency redesign can address specific financial and corruption issues, it alone is insufficient to eradicate entrenched electoral malpractices without comprehensive and coordinated reforms.

Recommendations

1. Voter Education: To combat the entrenched culture of vote-buying, a robust and continuous voter education campaign is essential. Electoral authorities and government bodies should develop and implement strategic programs aimed at informing voters about the detrimental effects of vote-buying and their rights within the electoral process.

2. Poverty Alleviation: Addressing the root causes of vote buying, such as poverty and unemployment, is crucial. The government should intensify efforts in poverty alleviation programs and create economic opportunities to empower citizens to make informed electoral decisions free from financial coercion.

3. Strengthen Electoral Institutions: Enhancing the capacity of electoral institutions, particularly the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC), is vital. INEC should be equipped with the necessary resources and authority to monitor the financial activities of political parties and candidates rigorously, ensuring transparency and accountability throughout the electoral process.

4. Enhanced Security Measures: It is essential to bolster security measures to combat vote-buying and other forms of electoral corruption. Security agencies should be proactive in identifying and apprehending individuals involved in vote-buying and selling, with offenders facing stringent legal consequences to deter future violations.

These recommendations aim to foster a more transparent and equitable electoral process in Nigeria and similar contexts, ensuring that monetary policies contribute effectively to electoral integrity and democratic governance. Future research should explore the impact of these measures in practice and evaluate their effectiveness in curbing vote-buying and enhancing the overall electoral system.

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DESERTIFICATION IN NORTHERN NIGERIA: A STUDY ON THE EFFECT OF DESERTIFICATION ON YOBE STATE

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ABSTRACT
Desertification just like other environmental phenomena has received worldwide attention from scholars and governments of the affected states. This may be because of the dangerous effect that this looming danger has had on various states and communities all over the world. Desertification among other things causes a high level of degradation to the soil making it unsuitable for the pursuit of agriculture, which happens to be the main occupation of most rural and semi-urban communities. Just like other states in Northern Nigeria, Yobe is one of the states that is greatly affected by the continued desertification of some parts of Nigeria. The state has witnessed some harmful aspects of desertification such as increased poverty, hunger, displacement of communities, and soil erosion. To show the importance and urgency of this subject matter, some authors have made a fine attempt at addressing the negative effects of desertification in Northern Nigeria. However, this paper will focus on the effects of desertification in Yobe State and how this has affected agricultural productivity. To effectively research the subject matter, the qualitative method of research will be used while relying on primary and secondary sources to provide data. The paper concluded that desertification is caused by both human and non-human factors like the rapid deforestation of trees, drought, decrease in the amount of rainfall etc. The paper suggests that the government and people of Yobe State should embrace safer agricultural practices that can preserve the fertility of the soil, and also pursue an aggressive policy of water management and preservation in the state.

Introduction

A major problem the world has had to tackle in recent times is the issue of desertification. Desertification may be referred to as the degradation of the land. It is a phenomenonwhereby lush lands become dry lands over time by losing their flora. This condition may arise due to severalfactors which are mostly environmental. It is on record that Human or non-human activities (climatic change, drought, deforestation) and improper agriculture have led to a rise in the atmospheric temperature causing and shortfall in the amount of temperature.[xvi] It happens when a vegetative biome changes into a desert biome. It is instructive to note that desertification starts gradually, it is evident in the steady erosion of green plants or vegetation, to arid dry sand. This

phenomenon is quite dangerous because it robs citizens of the benefits of having access or fertile lands for agriculture and fishery.

Some writers assert that the African continent is prone to desertification, because of its proximity to the Sahara Desert. According to Pimm, the countries which lie on the edge of the Sahara are one of the poorest countries in the world and they are subject to periodic droughts that are capable of devastating their people.[xvii]In the Nigerian case, natural or human causes have reduced the biological productivity of drylands (arid and semiarid lands leading to desertification.[xviii]The states that seem to be most at risk are the northern states of Zamfara, Gombe, Bauchi, Sokoto, Yobe, Jigawa, Borno, and Katsina.[xix]

The focus of this paper is on the desertification of Yobe State. Yobe is located in a dry savannah belt, this makes its temperatures dry for a better part of the year. It has been observed that villages despite their level of sophistication have been covered entirely by dunes. According to Aljazeera, whose respondents spoke to some indigenes in Yobe State, said that dunes have buried more than twenty houses in the not-so-distant past.[xx]The situation has continued to worsen as the desert continues to come closer to the people. Making life and the sustenance of the people seem uncertain. This condition is worse in some communities like Toshia in Yunusari LGA. This town has been adversely affected by the encroaching desert as everywhere seems to be covered in dunes. Making navigation across the area quite difficult. The solution to this growing menace could be the planting of trees as opposed to the reckless felling of trees. Strong legislation may also be enacted to discourage harmful agricultural practices. This paper looks at the creeping and harmful effects that desertification has had on Yobe State in northern Nigeria.

Brief history of Yobe state

Ever since its inception, this state has continued to grapple with various challenges, ranging from economic to environmental challenges. Yobe is one of the states that have been severely affected by the continued desertification of the Northeastern states. Many farmers have lost their farms to the encroaching desert and have had to move to other villages, for a mostly agricultural state, the deserts seem to have stripped many people of their means of livelihood. This has adversely impacted the living standards and conditions of the people. Yobe State is located in the eastern part of northern Nigeria. Damaturu is the capital of Yobe State. It has a population of approximately 3.4 million citizens.[xxi]It was carved out of Borno State in 1991. Potiskum is one of the economic hubs of the state. It boasts of having the largest cattle market in Africa. For grazing purposes, herders move out with the cattle towards the South in search of food for the cattle. Yobe state shares boundaries with four major states namely: Jigawa, Borno, Bauchi and Gombe. At the eastern flank, it shares borders with Borno state at approximately 421km. At the Southern flank, it shares boundaries with Gombe State at approximately 140km, Jigawa State at the western flank and Niger at the Northern part of the state.[xxii]The state experiences rainfall from the periods of August to December. For the rest part of the year, the climate is mostly dry.[xxiii]The predominant religion in Yobe State is the Muslim religion. Sharia law was established in 2000.

Signs of desertification

Desertification just like other phenomena happens gradually. A careful analysis of some environmental indicators under strict monitoring can lead to the detection of these creeping signs of desertification.

A major sign of an encroaching desert is the drastic reduction in the amount of water bodies available in the area. The signs of desertification include but are not limited to massive drought, Endemic Soil erosion and Rain shortages, the reduction in the available water bodies, and the overall decline in groundwater resources.[xxiv]Some high-risk behaviors that encourage desertification include: Land management habits, tillage depth and style, and attitude towards grazing

States at threat of desertification

The Northern states seem to be the worst hit when it comes to desertification. It is a shame because this part of Nigeria has to its credit a sizeable portion of land which would have been used for the pursuit of agriculture. Sadly, its proximity to the Sahara Desert is trying to rob it of this natural resources. According to Odiogor, the Sahara Desert is advancing southwards at a rate of 6.0 per cent every year. He claims that Nigeria loses about 350,000 hectares of land every year to desert encroachment[xxv].Currently, it is estimated that the eleven (11) States in the

north are at high risk of this menace, these are Zamfara, Bauchi, Sokoto, Yobe, Katsina, Jigawa, Borno, Kano, Gombe, Kebbi, and Adamawa.

Causes of Desertification

Over the years, Northern Nigeria has faced a phenomenon whereby gradually, a large body of water keeps disappearing from the area and in its place, dry sand is covering the landscape. According to the National Meteorological Agency, the north enjoyed a period of rain for 150 days, but now, it has reduced to a paltry one hundred and twenty days[xxvi].

A major cause of desertification is poverty, which is unavoidably high in many parts of Nigeria. Due to poverty, many citizens lack basic education and do not understand how their simple everyday actions like the felling of trees can cause severe harm to the land. For many poor households, trees are only good for cooking, therefore, they engage in the indiscriminate felling of trees and use them as firewood. The deforestation figure for the new millennium (2000-2005) is -3.33 per cent per year.[xxvii]

- Climate Change- the availability of water resources is greatly dependent on the climate. Changes in the climate can speed up the rate of desertification in an area by altering the patterns in temperature.[xxviii]

- Overgrazing- one over looked cause of desertification is the continuous and frequent grazing of the area. This seeming innocent activity can have grave consequences on the fertility of the soil. When animals feed on land at a rate where the land is able to recover its nutritive value.

- Deforestation- The rapid and frequent felling of trees is a major cause of desertification. Trees are known to prevent soil erosion. These trees help in recycling water back into the soil, thereby retaining its moisture. Once these trees are removed, the soil may become drier which makes desertification possible. Deforestation also has the potential of upsetting the distribution of nutrients in the soil.[xxix]

- Overpopulation- the explosion of population in certain areas may cause pressures on the available food and water supply. It would also increase the pressure on the available land, thereby accelerating the rate of desertification.

Effects of Desertification

It is estimated that Nigeria loses approximately 5.1 billion naira every year as a result of desertification. Desertification poses the risk of massive loss of land, the ownership of land is sacrosanct in Nigeria. It signifies different things like a people's culture, history, means of livelihood and others. Its loss also signifies the same. The most pressing in modern-day Nigeria is that the loss of arable land is synonymous with a loss of land for farming and grazing for livestock. This trend is quite worrisome and needs to be curbed. Forced migration and resettlement are other effects of desertification on communities.

Soil Deterioration- desertification in Yobe State has caused the degradation of the soil. This is the physical, chemical/ biological reduction in soil quality. Reduction in the amount of soil fertility and structure as a result of desertification has made it difficult for plant life to be sustained in Yobe State.

Water Shortage- Desertification has led to a shortfall in the amount of rainfall witnessed in Yobe State. Leading to a state of drought and dryness. The rapid evaporation of moisture from the surface has made it possible for farmers to have a good yield.[xxx]

Poverty- Farmers have incurred monumental losses because of this environmental crisis. Tons of farmlands are depleted, triggering the incidence of food shortages and hunger. Approximately ten farms belonging to Maigari Isa Bukar (village head) and his immediate family were lost to the advancing desert. To make matters worse, he was also displaced from his home.[xxxi]

Hunger- Agriculture for many years has been the mainstay of the people's economy. Many families and the Government are dependent on agriculture and agricultural practices for their continued survival.

Fall in Farm Output- Before the menace of desertification, some farmers could boast of an abundant harvest from their farmlands. Now, they can hardly get a bag of grain from their farms because of the deplorable state of agriculture in the area. The lack of green vegetation has also affected the rearing of livestock as the farmers and animals lack green vegetation for the animals. While starvation has claimed the lives of some of the livestock, others are unable to produce enough milk for the local communities and for export purposes too.[xxxii]

Overpopulation- the continued displacement of indigenes from some communities has caused the mass movement into unaffected communities. With this growth in the population has come an increase in the demand for land and cooking fuels.

Rate of Desertification

While speculations are rife about the rate at which desertification and its harmful effect are taking over Nigeria, recent data shows that Nigeria's desertification rate is among the highest in the world. It speculates that with the loss of over 55.75 of its forest annually, the country experiences approximately a desertification rate of 3.5% is about 350,000 and 400,000 hectares per year.[xxxiii]

It is estimated that the desert is encroaching into Yobe at the rate of about 0.6 kilometres per annum (0.37 miles) what this means is that every 3 years, the desert extends by 1.24 miles.[xxxiv]

Measure Taken by Yobe State to curb Desertification.

To curb the harmful effect of desertification, the African Union's Great Green Wall initiative was conceived in 2011 with the belief that it would revive the landscape and improve the living conditions of the people in the Sahel[xxxv]. By 2014, it kicked off in eleven states in Northern Nigeria. The major problem hampering the growth of this initiative is the lack of community involvement in the selection process, causing a disconnection in between the executioners and the communities. The Government has also embarked on an aggressive tree-planting exercise through the purchase of multiple seedlings.

Recommendation

1. Erosion Control Measures[xxxvi]- As a matter of urgency,the government of Yobe State must cultivate habits to curb soil erosion by mulching, planting vegetation, and fixing anchoring devices.

2. Water Management Practices- Because of the high risk of desertification in Yobe State, efforts should be made to manage the state's water resources. The state should have an extensive plan to harvest and store rainwater. It should also as a matter of necessity reuse water that is still safe to be used.

3. Encourage the Planting of Trees- instead of the deforestation of the available trees for use as firewood and building purposes. The Government and people of Yobe State should pursue an active policy of conserving the available trees in the state. A policy of reforestation and regeneration would also help to curb this looming manace called desertification. For every tree felled, plans should be made to plant ten more. This would go a long way to introducing green vegetation into the communities and roll back the desert.

4. Buttressing the Soil- The residents of Yobe State must as a matter of principle reinforce the soil by building fences made from sand, windbreaks, and shelter belts.

5. Embrace better Agricultural Practices- During planting, the farmers should adopt safer agricultural practices like the hyper-fertilization of farmlands, crop rotation practices, use of the leaves of harvested plants to mulch the soil. This particular practice will increase the ability of the soil to retain water and decrease the evaporation process.

Conclusion

Desertification may be one of the greatest causes of famine and poverty in the world today. The loss of these hitherto fertile lands is usually final and renders the inhabitant unable to plant or reap the gains of agriculture. Soil degradation has the potential of reducing the productivity of

the soil. It reduces the soil's ability to retain nutrients, water and components that support plant life.

Some practices are known to encourage the growth of this phenomenon. Chief among which is the indiscriminate felling of trees, and the practice of unwholesome farm practices. The growth of desertification needs to be discouraged at all levels by planting trees, practicing rotational grazing, managing and preserving the available water bodies and pursuing safe agricultural methods.

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