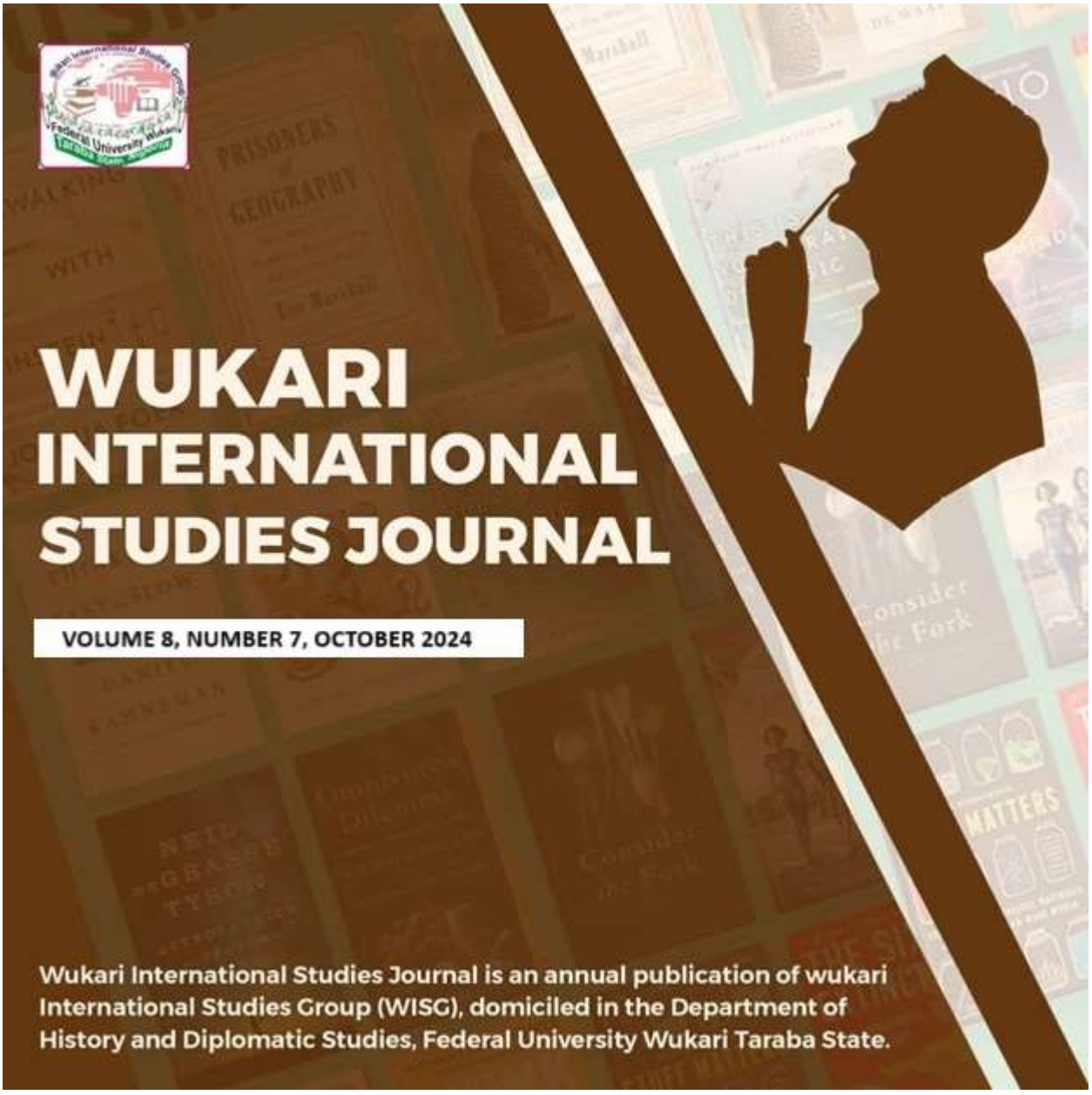
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TABLE OF CONTENT

EDUCATIONAL LEVEL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH OF RURAL WOMEN IN NOTHERN CROSS RIVER STATE, NIGERIA 1

RETHINKING CLIMATE CHANGE AND NATIONAL SECURITY: IMPLICATIONS FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN NIGERIA 16

THE FUTURE OF AFRICAN THEOLOGY IN THE GLOBAL CHRISTIAN CONFIGURATION: PROSPECTS AND CHALLENGES 37

INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL POLICE ORGANISATION STRATEGIES AND THE NATIONAL EFFORT IN THE FIGHT AGAINST CYBERCRIME IN NIGERIA 46

ARE MONETARY AUTHORITIES' ACTIONS (MONEY SUPPLY) FACTORED INTO NIGERIA'S GOVERNMENT REVENUE STREAMS? 60

IMPACT OF FLOODING ON HUMAN SECURITY IN NORTHERN NIGERIA 68

EFFECT OF STUDENTS DISPOSITION ON THE CHOICE OF ACCOUNTING AS A SUBJECTS IN PRIVATE SECONDARY SCHOOLS IN CALABAR SOUTH LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA OF CROSS RIVER STATE, NIGERIA 79

ACCOUNTING SERVICES AND THE FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE OF SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES IN CALABAR SOUTH LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA OF CROSS RIVER STATE, NIGERIA 90

ACHIEVING SUSTAINABLE FOOD SECURITY IN EBONYI STATE THROUGH URBAN AGRICULTURE 98

A PERISCOPE INTO THE PSYCHO-SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CHALLENGES EXPERIENCED BY FAMILIES OF PERSONS WITH MENTAL DISORDERS IN KADUNA STATE 107

"ADAPTING TO A CHANGING WORLD: STRATEGIES FOR MITIGATING THE GLOBAL CONSEQUENCES OF CLIMATE CHANGE" 117

EXAMINING THE IMPACT OF EXCHANGE RATE REGIMES ON INFLATION IN NIGERIA 125

ADMINISTRATIVE LEADERSHIP CONFLICTS AND CAUSES IN NIGERIA'S HEALTH SYSTEM 138

ANALYSIS OF *EKE – UNE*: AN ECOCRITTCISM APPROACH 146

HUMAN SECURITY AND LAND BORDERS CLOSURE: A HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE 155

THE ROLE OF DEVELOPMENT COMMUNICATION IN NIGERIAN NATIONAL INTEGRATION 162

EVALUATING DEBT BURDEN AND REVENUE LEAKAGES ON HUMAN DEVELOMENT IN NIGERIA 173

TEACHING METHODS IN SOME SELECT SECONDARY SCHOOLS IN YOLA: A BEHAVIORIST OR MENTALIST APPROACH? 182

STRATEGY AND CHALLENGES OF`ECOWAS PROTOCOL ON TRADE LIBERALIZATION AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN NIGERIA 193

THE ROLE OF PEER INFLUENCE IN SPORT SELECTION DECISIONS AMONG STUDENT-ATHLETES OF THE UNIVERSITY OF BENIN 208

GENDER INEQUALITY AND WOMEN'S INCLUSIVENESS IN POLITICS: AN ASSESSMENT OF THE 2024 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION IN ADAMAWA STATE 221

EX-OFFENDER REINTEGRATION IN CONFLICT-AFFECTED AREAS OF NIGERIA: PUBLIC PERCEPTIONS, POLICY CHALLENGES, AND SOCIAL INFLUENCES IN MADAGALI AND GWOZA 230

THE ROLE OF ETHICS AS A COMPONENT OF PHILOSOPHY IN HISTORY-THEMED DOCUMENTARIES 242

MILITARY IN POLITICS AND NIGERIA'S POLITICAL EVOLUTION, 1966-1979 251

EDUCATIONAL LEVEL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH OF RURAL WOMEN IN NOTHERN CROSS RIVER STATE, NIGERIA

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KEYWORDS
Education, Reproductive health, Family planning, Social Worker

ABSTRACT
This study investigated educational level and reproductive health of rural women in Northern Cross River State, Nigeria. It explored how educational level influence reproductive health outcomes. The study identified key challenges faced by rural women to include limited educational opportunities, inadequate family planning services, unsafe abortions, untreated sexually transmitted infections (STIs), poor prenatal and postnatal care, and barriers to cervical cancer screening. These challenges are compounded by economic instability, poor healthcare infrastructure, educational gaps, religious barriers, and traditional norms related to early childbearing. Utilizing a cross-sectional research design, the study targeted women of reproductive age (18-54 years) across the five Local Government Areas in the northern Cross River State. A sample size of 400 respondents were used. Quantitative data were collected through structured questionnaires and analyzed using descriptive statistics and Pearson Product Moment correlation Coefficient. Qualitative insights were gained through Key Informant Interviews (KII) with healthcare professionals, community leaders, and local stakeholders, and were analyzed thematically. The study was theoretically guided by the Health Belief Model, to understand how educational level influence reproductive health decisions. Findings revealed significant relationships between education level with reproductive health outcomes. Higher educational

attainment is associated with improved reproductive health, while living in rural areas. Based on the findings, the study recommends targeted interventions, including expanded educational opportunities, improved healthcare infrastructure, economic empowerment initiatives, community-based programmes promoting delayed marriage, family planning, and Social Workers advocacy for policies that can address these challenges, ensuring that interventions are tailored to the unique needs of rural women.

Introduction

The study on educational status and reproductive health of rural women in northern Cross River State, stems from a sobering backdrop of health challenges and inequalities that have persisted in the State, and in the Country. As observed by Kingsley (2023), Nigeria's overall health performance has ranked among the lowest globally, marked by a high prevalence of preventable diseases including HIV/AIDS and Tuberculosis, poor utilization of maternal health services, including postnatal checks and delivering in a health facility. Within this challenging health landscape, reproductive health takes center stage as a critical element in securing the well-being of communities, with a particular focus on the health of women (James & Miteu, 2022; Ojoniyi & Frade, 2023). Reproductive health is of most importance because it directly impacts not only the women themselves but also the overall health and prosperity of families and communities. Understanding the educational status as it influences reproductive health among rural women is essential in addressing these persistent health challenges, reducing disparities, and fostering a healthier, more equitable society in Nigeria.

The World Health Organization (WHO) and the Commission on Population and Development have recognized reproductive health as a pivotal development indicator since 1994. This comprehensive area of health encompasses a wide range of services, from safe motherhood and family planning counselling to the prevention and treatment of reproductive system infections, sexually-transmitted diseases, and gender-based violence. Unfortunately, reproductive health problems represent a leading cause of illness and death among women of reproductive age globally. Annually, millions of women face unwanted pregnancies, and a significant number of these pregnancies lead to unsafe abortions, further jeopardizing women's health. Shockingly, hundreds of thousands of women lose their lives due to complications during pregnancy, childbirth, and the postpartum period, while millions suffer from sexually-transmitted diseases (Roy & Roy, 2022). Equally alarming is the escalating problem of violence against women, resulting in severe psychological and physical consequences (Miltenburg, Kvernflaten, Meguid, & Sundby, 2023). Educational status is among other socio-economic determinants, identified by World Health Organisation as critical drivers of reproductive health outcomes (Khannah, Lu & Warrier, 2022). These factors, both individually and in combination, contribute to health inequities, particularly in the context of reproductive health (Simoncic, Deguen, Enaux, Vandentorren & Kihal-Talantikite, 2022). It is clear that low literacy rates, unfavourable socio-economic conditions, and gender-based disparities are underlying factors that hinder women's ability to access and promote their reproductive health (Diress, Seid, Kibret et al., 2023). These barriers have been seen to prevent women from maximizing their health outcomes and accessing necessary healthcare services (Umoh, 2022). Addressing this social determinant of health is crucial in order to reduce health inequities and improve reproductive health outcomes for women (Arun & Prabhu, 2022).

Notably, Nigeria faces dire challenges related to maternal health, accounting for approximately 14% of global maternal health issues (Mao, Watkins, Sabin et al., 2023). The maternal mortality rate remains alarmingly high, and both under-five and newborn mortality rates are significantly elevated. There are substantial variations in health indicators across different geographical areas in the country (Obubu, Chuku, Ananaba et al., 2023). These

variations underscore the complex and multifaceted nature of the health challenges faced by Nigeria, which can vary significantly from one region to another. While efforts have been made to improve medical services and health policies, reproductive health outcomes continue to languish (James & Miteu, 2022). The overarching objective of improving reproductive health and reducing maternal mortality has proven elusive, even with the increased budgetary allocations in medical services and healthcare spending. Despite increases in medical services and health spending, health status improvements remain elusive, pointing to the presence of intermediate socio-economic determinants of health.

This study takes inspiration from a growing body of literature on the socio-economic determinants of health, with particular attention to the impact of educational level. Various health indicators, including maternal and infant mortality, reveal a pronounced impact of educational level among other socio-economic characteristics (Kino & Kawachi, 2020; Huang, Pei, Jian & Xu, 2023). Moreover, provincial disparities further exacerbate health outcomes, as individuals in the rural regions of Nigeria, characterized by poverty and illiteracy, face significantly worse health conditions.

The study explores into the interactions between educational level and reproductive health. This determinant interacts with a myriad of factors, from income to regional disparities and cultural contexts. This study therefore seeks to explore the influence of these socio-economic factor on reproductive health among rural women in Northern Cross River State, Nigeria, emphasizing the urgent need to address these issues and promote equitable health outcomes among rural women.

Statement of the Problem

The problem of reproductive health in rural areas of Nigeria is a pressing concern, characterized by limited access to education, inadequate healthcare infrastructure, and socio-economic barriers. This situation manifests in poor maternal and neonatal health outcomes, high rates of unsafe abortions, untreated sexually transmitted infections (STIs), and inadequate family planning services. These challenges are further compounded by cultural practices such as early marriage, female genital mutilation (FGM), and poor menstrual health management. Lack of education and awareness among rural women intensify these issues, as it poses a constraint that often prevent them from seeking necessary reproductive healthcare during pregnancy and childbirth. This is a significant problem because it directly impacts maternal and infant mortality rates, particularly in rural areas where healthcare facilities are sparse, and access to trained medical personnel is limited. The problem is further exacerbated by socio-economic disparities, leaving rural women in a precarious position regarding their reproductive health. Rural women's educational status is closely tied to their reproductive health, and the lack of awareness and exposure to information exacerbates their vulnerability. The scarcity of healthcare facilities, trained medical personnel, and transportation options hinders timely prenatal care and skilled birth attendance.

Consequently, maternal mortality rates in rural areas are disproportionately high compared to urban areas, primarily due to educational disparities and other socioeconomic factors (NDHS, 2018). Using the Health Belief Model, one can see that rural women are likely not to seek healthcare services because they do not perceive the severity of their reproductive health issues or may not believe that available services will adequately address their needs.

While the influence of educational level on reproductive health is well-documented, there is a lack of in-depth analysis specific to rural areas of Northern Cross River State. This study therefore addressed this knowledge gap by focusing on rural women, where educational disparity is often exacerbated. The ultimate goal is to improve the reproductive health of rural women and reduce the prevailing disparities in maternal and child health outcomes in Nigeria's rural area

Research Question

Is there a significant relationship between the educational level of rural women and reproductive health in Northern Senatorial District of Cross River State, Nigeria?

Objective of the Study

To investigate relationship between educational level and reproductive health of rural women in Northern Cross River State, Nigeria.

Research Hypothesis

There is no significant relationship between educational level of rural women and reproductive health in Northern Cross River State, Nigeria.

Literature Review

Reproductive Health

Reproductive health is a state of mental, physical, and social well-being in all aspects relating to the reproductive system, at all stages of life. It consists of the ability to have a satisfying and safe sex life, the capability to reproduce, and the freedom to decide when, and how often to be engaged (Anyatonwu, & San Sebastián 2022; Imo, 2023).

Reproductive health is a fundamental human right issue, and a key component of overall health and well-being. Key components of reproductive health according to Bassey, Abonor, and Clement (2023), include: family planning, maternal and child health, sexual health, and adolescent reproductive health. In various communities especially in rural areas, certain factors are believed to pose serious challenges in the reproductive health of the rural women; these are, cultural and religious barriers, lack of access to services, policy and legal barriers, and above all, educational gaps. Addressing these barriers and challenges will ensure a better reproductive health and empowerment for individuals and members of the community.

Education and Reproductive Health

The educational level of rural women is a fundamental socio-economic determinant that significantly impacts their reproductive health. Education plays a pivotal role in empowering women to make informed decisions about their health, including family planning, pregnancy, and childbirth (Arun & Prabhu, 2023). Several studies have shown a positive correlation between higher levels of education among women and better reproductive health outcomes, such as improved knowledge which increases awareness about reproductive health, family planning, and contraception, better decision-making including timing and spacing of pregnancies, lower maternal mortality rates, decreased fertility rates, and improved access to reproductive health services (Li, Wu, Yang, et al., 2022). Education also empowers women to assert their reproductive rights and make choices about their own body.

Educational level and reproductive health

A substantial body of literature has explored the relationship between educational level and reproductive health behaviours. Studies have consistently demonstrated that higher levels of education are associated with better reproductive health outcomes. For example, Berhe, Ayene, Gebregyorgis, Hagos, and Gebremeskel (2022), conducted a study to evaluate the knowledge of sexual and reproductive health rights among university students in Ethiopia. The research revealed that awareness of reproductive health rights, which are often violated, particularly among young people, is limited. Their study employed a cross-sectional approach involving interviews with structured questionnaires, targeting students in a specific department. The findings indicated a low knowledge level, with only 16.4% of respondents demonstrating adequate awareness. Several factors were associated with better knowledge, including gender, urban background, receiving sexuality education or lectures within the department, and discussing reproductive health with others. The study suggests that enhancing reproductive health education within high school curricula and encouraging conversations with parents and others could help improve knowledge of sexual and reproductive health rights among students in Ethiopia.

This lack of education contributes to the high rates of unsafe reproductive health behaviour among adolescents, including premarital sex and low contraceptive use, which in most cases lead to high maternal mortality and morbidity (Bassey, Abonor, & Ejeje) Gribble and Haffey (2008), highlighted the complex demographic trends in Africa, where family planning usage and declining fertility rates contrast with a youthful population. The study drew from data provided by the Population Reference Bureau (PRB) and the African Population and Health Research Center (APHRC), projecting Africa's population to reach 1.9 billion by 2050, up from 967 million. Notably, there were regional disparities, with Northern and Southern Africa experiencing a rapid increase in contraceptive use and a decrease in the average number of children per woman, slowing population growth. However, family planning usage and fertility rates remained higher in Eastern, Western, and Middle African countries. While primary education access had improved in some nations,

secondary school enrolment lagged behind, with an average of only 28 percent for all of sub-Saharan Africa. These findings underscored the diverse demographic challenges facing the continent.

Peri-Rotem (2023), investigates the relationship between educational attainment, health behaviours, and fertility outcomes among couples. Previous research has shown that highly educated women are more likely to achieve their fertility aspirations or have a faster progression to higher-order births. However, even after considering male and female health indicators, education remains a substantial predictor of the transition to higher-order births. The study underscores the importance of considering educational status and health factors in understanding variations in fertility outcomes.

A study conducted by Olayinka, Achi, Amos, and Chiedu (2014), addresses the critical issue of maternal health care services utilization among reproductive women in Amassoma, Bayelsa State, Nigeria. The research aims to understand the awareness and barriers that affect the utilization of maternal health care services in a region facing high maternal mortality rates. The findings revealed that while a majority of the respondents had heard of maternal health services, they had limited knowledge about the specific services provided. Significantly, the study identified associations between educational status, parity, age, and the utilization of maternal health care services. Barriers to utilization included factors like inadequate knowledge of available services, past obstetric history, healthcare providers' attitudes, service availability and accessibility, as well as the husband's acceptance of maternal healthcare services.

A study by Adedayo, Oladapo, and Fagbamigbe (2022), found that women with higher levels of education were more likely to use contraception and less likely to have early pregnancies. Another study by Adebayo, Oladokun, and Omigbodun (2021), found that men with higher levels of education were more likely to use condoms and less likely to engage in multiple sexual partnerships. Moreso, Ahmed, Hossain, and Razzaque (2011), highlights the link between early marriage and lower educational attainment, demonstrating that women with limited education are more likely to engage in early marriages, which can have negative consequences for reproductive health. Similarly, Cleland, Ali, Benova, et al. (2015), highlighted that women with higher education tend to have more knowledge about family planning and are more likely to use contraceptives effectively, as education often empowers women to make informed decisions about family planning. This is further supported by a study by Wado and Afework (2013), which found that low levels of education are associated with a higher likelihood of not using contraceptives. Educational interventions have been shown to improve reproductive health behaviours, as illustrated by Upadhyay et al. (2017) who reported that women with higher education levels are more likely to use maternal healthcare services, including antenatal care and skilled birth attendance. The findings underline the critical role of educational attainment in influencing reproductive health behaviours. However, there are a number of possible explanations for the association between educational level and reproductive health behaviours Martins, Martins, Nunes, and Costa (2023), One possibility is that people with higher levels of education have better knowledge about reproductive health and the risks of unhealthy reproductive behaviours. Another possibility is that people with higher levels of education have more resources and opportunities to access reproductive health services. Similarly, a Study conducted by Bassey, Abonor, and Clement (2023), indicated that, people with higher education do not frequently attribute illness to both natural and supernatural forces.

Theoretical Framework

Health belief model

The Health Belief Model (HBM) was developed in the mid-20th century, around the year 1956, by a group of social psychologists, including Hochbaum, Irwin Rosenstock, and Kegels. The Health Belief Model is a psychological framework that seeks to explain and predict health-related behaviours. The model is designed to explain why individuals take specific actions, or fail to take actions, to prevent or manage their health conditions. The model is therefore based on several core ideas:

- Perceived Susceptibility: This element of the model relates to an individual's perception of their susceptibility to a particular health condition or disease. People who believe they are at risk of a health problem are more likely to engage in preventive actions. For example, if someone believes they are at high risk of

developing diabetes due to their family history, they are more likely to adopt healthier eating habits.

- Perceived Severity: The perceived severity of a health condition refers to an individual's assessment of the seriousness and potential consequences of the condition. If people believe a disease can result to severe or life-threatening consequences, they are more likely to take preventive measures.

- Perceived Benefits: People weigh the perceived benefits of taking a specific health action against the perceived costs. The perceived benefits include the individual's belief that taking the recommended action will reduce the risk of a health problem or mitigate its severity.

- Perceived Barriers: Perceived barriers refer to the obstacles and challenges that individuals associate with taking a specific health action. These can be practical, psychological, or social barriers. People are less likely to engage in health-promoting behaviours if they perceive numerous or insurmountable barriers. Reducing these barriers can be an effective way to promote health behaviour change

- Cues to Action: Cues to action are triggers or prompts that encourage individuals to take a particular health action. These cues can be internal (e.g., symptoms or personal experiences) or external (e.g., a doctor's recommendation, health campaigns, or media messages). Effective communication and reminders play a critical role in motivating people to take action.

- Self-Efficacy: Self-efficacy is an individual's confidence in their ability to execute a recommended health action. People with high self-efficacy are more likely to take steps to protect or improve their health. Self-efficacy can be strengthened through education, skill-building, and positive reinforcement.

The HBM therefore provides insights into how individuals perceive health risks and the factors that influence their decision-making. This model has been widely used in health education and promotion programmes.

Some critics argue that the model oversimplifies the decision-making process and does not consider emotional and social factors adequately. It assumes that individuals make rational decisions based on a straightforward assessment of perceived risks and benefits, which is not always the case. The model does not account for cultural and social influences on health behaviour adequately. Nonetheless, the theory remains a foundational framework for understanding and influencing health-related behaviours and continues to inform public health campaigns and interventions. According to the Health Belief Model, individuals are more likely to take action to protect their reproductive health if they perceive themselves as susceptible to reproductive health issues, believe in the benefits of specific actions, and consider potential barriers to be manageable.

In summary, the Health Belief Model is used to understand educational level and other socio-economic determinants affecting reproductive health behaviours of rural women. It underscores the importance of addressing this socio-economic factor to promote better reproductive health outcomes.

Methodology

Research design

This study utilized a cross-sectional survey research design to investigate educational level and reproductive health among women in the north of Cross River State, Nigeria.

Study area

The study was conducted in Northern Senatorial District of Cross River State, Nigeria, which serves as the geographical area for data collection. This region was chosen due to its diverse socio-economic and demographic characteristics, making it a suitable location to examine the impact of educational level on reproductive health.

Population of the study

The population of the study comprises women of reproductive age (18-54 years) residing in the Northern Senatorial District of Cross River State, Nigeria. This population is of interest because they represent the demographic most affected by reproductive health issues. The Northern Senatorial District has a projected population of 1,196,900 people (NPC projected, 2022).

Sample Size

The sample size for the study was determined using Taro Yamani formula: Taro Yamane's formula for sample size:

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

Where:

n is the sample size.

N is the population size.

e is the margin of error (expressed as a decimal).

Therefore, calculating the sample size:

$$n = \frac{1196900}{1 + 1196900\ (0.05)^2}$$

$$n = \frac{1196900}{1 + \ 1196900\ (0.0025)}$$

$$n = \frac{1196900}{1 + \ 2992.25}$$

$$n = \frac{1196900}{2993.25}$$

$$n = 399.96 \ \cong 400$$

So, the sample size calculated using Taro Yamane's formula was approximately 400.

Sampling Technique

A multistage sampling procedure was used to select the study participants. At the first stage, the Northern Senatorial District was stratified into Local Government Areas (LGAs) to account for differences in areas. Each stratum was considered separately during the sample selection process. In stage two, within each stratum, a simple random sampling technique was used to select one community from each stratum to ensure representation from various areas. The hat and draw method of random selection was adopted to select the communities for each LGA. For stage three, the actual respondents were selected using purposive sampling to target women of reproductive age within the selected communities. Given a total sample size of 400, each of the five communities had 80 respondents selected.

Instrument for Data Collection

The primary instrument for data collection was a structured questionnaire and Key Informant Interview designed to capture information from respondents.

Data Presentation

TABLE 1: Responses on educational level and reproductive health

S/N	Questions	Response options				
		SA	A	D	SD	Not sure
1.	I know various reproductive health services available in my community	87 (23.4)	215 (57.8)	62 (16.7)	5 (1.3)	3 (0.8)

2.	My decisions to health care service are determined by my immediate family member	67 (18.0)	203 (54.6)	57 (15.3)	32 (8.6)	13 (3.5)
3.	I have a very good attitude towards family planning	92 (24.7)	231 (62.1)	30 (8.1)	15 (4.0)	4 (1.1)
4.	Education has equipped me with the knowledge to practice safe reproductive health behaviors.	115 (30.9)	208 (55.9)	31 (8.3)	16 (4.3)	2 (0.5)
5.	I have a better understanding of different contraceptive options and their usage	106 (28.5)	221 (59.4)	24 (6.5)	16 (4.3)	5 (1.3)

Source: Field data collected, 2024

Interpretation of responses on educational level and reproductive health

Question 1: Knowledge of reproductive health services available in the community. A significant portion of the respondents, 57.8% (215 respondents), agreed that they are aware of the reproductive health services available in their community. This shows that majority of the respondents are informed about the reproductive health services available in their communities, which reflect the positive impact of educational attainment on awareness levels. Thus, the high percentage of respondents who are knowledgeable about reproductive health services suggests that education plays a critical role in enhancing awareness and accessibility to these services.

Question 2: Decision-making on healthcare services determined by immediate family members. A majority of respondents, 54.6% (203 individuals), agreed that their decisions regarding healthcare services are influenced by immediate family members, with 18.0% (67 individuals) strongly agreeing. However, 15.3% (57 individuals) disagreed, and 8.6% (32 individuals) strongly disagreed. This demonstrates that while family influence plays a significant role in healthcare decision-making, a considerable number of respondents retain autonomy in their decisions. The findings suggest that family dynamics are influential in reproductive health decision-making for many rural women.

Question 3: Attitudes towards family planning. A considerable majority of the respondents, 62.1% (231 respondents) agreed that they have a good attitude towards family planning, while 24.7% (92 respondents) strongly agreed. Only a small minority expressed disagreement, with 8.1% (30 individuals) disagreeing and 4.0% (15 respondents) strongly disagreeing. This indicates widespread positive attitudes towards family planning, which may be a result of educational influences and increased awareness of reproductive health practices. The positive attitudes towards family planning reflect the impact of education on shaping reproductive health behaviours.

Question 4: Education equips respondents with knowledge to practice safe reproductive health behaviours. An overwhelming majority of respondents, 55.9% (208 respondents), agreed that education has equipped them with the knowledge to practice safe reproductive health behaviours, and 30.9% (115 respondents) strongly agreed. This highlights the significant role of education in empowering rural women to engage in safe reproductive health practices. The data confirms that education is a powerful tool in fostering safe reproductive health behaviours.

Question 5: Understanding of different contraceptive options and their usage. A majority of respondents, 59.4% (221 individuals), agreed that they have a better understanding of different contraceptive options and their usage, with an additional 28.5% (106 individuals) strongly agreeing. Only 6.5% (24 individuals) disagreed, and 4.3% (16 individuals) strongly disagreed. This indicates that educational levels have a significant positive impact on understanding contraceptive methods. The strong agreement regarding contraceptive knowledge reflects the role of education in enhancing women's reproductive health literacy.

In summary, the responses indicate that education plays a pivotal role in empowering women with knowledge of reproductive health services, decision-making, and family planning practices. Expanding educational programmes and ensuring accessible reproductive health education for all rural women will likely contribute to improved reproductive health in the Northern Senatorial District of Cross River State, Nigeria.

TABLE 2: Pearson correlation analysis of the significant relationship between educational level of women and reproductive health

Descriptive Statistics

	Mean	Std. Deviation	N
Educational level	20.04	2.994	372
Reproductive health	39.31	5.170	372

Correlations

		Educational level	Reproductive health
Educational level	Pearson Correlation	1	.532**
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.000
	N	372	372
Reproductive health	Pearson Correlation	.532**	1

	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	
	N	372	372

***. Correlation is significant at 0.01 level (2-tailed).*

Data Analysis (Test of Hypothesis)

There is no significant influence between educational level of Rural Women and Reproductive Health in the Northern Senatorial District of Cross River State, Nigeria.

The Pearson Product Moment Correlation analysis conducted on the influence between the educational level of rural women and their reproductive health reveals a positive and statistically significant influence. The Pearson correlation coefficient (r) is .532, with a p-value of .000 (which is less than the 0.01 significance level). This indicates a moderately strong positive correlation between the two variables. Since the p-value is less than 0.01, the null hypothesis is rejected. Therefore, we conclude that there is a significant influence between the educational level of rural women and reproductive health in the Northern Senatorial District of Cross River State, Nigeria. This implies that as the educational level of rural women increases, their reproductive health is likely to improve.

Thematic review of KII responses

Educational level and reproductive health

Can you tell me about your awareness of various reproductive health services available in your community? Probe: How did you learn about these services? Have you ever utilized any of them?

"I wouldn't say for myself cos I'm quite familiar with the reproductive health services available in this community. As a matter of fact, we at the health centre learned about these services through our professional training. Additionally, government health initiatives and collaborations with NGOs have been beneficial in keeping us updated, cos we have a lot of these agencies coming to us to tell us about several health services that are beneficial to our women here. Seeing that it is a good initiative, we endeavour to relate them to the woman here. So, I will say that I have utilized these services in my practice, helping patients access necessary care and treatment." **(KII with healthcare provider)**

''I have a good understanding of the reproductive health services offered in our community, mainly from attending community meetings and local health outreach programmes. This information is often shared during these gatherings, and I also receive updates from healthcare providers. While I haven't personally used these services, I've seen their impact through feedback from community members." **(KII with Community Leader)**

"My knowledge of reproductive health services comes from my work with the NGO, where we frequently collaborate with health agencies and engage in community outreach. I've learned about these services through our projects and programs. In my role, I often utilize these services to support our initiatives and directly witness their impact in the community." **(KII with NGO Representative)**

How do you feel education has influenced your knowledge and attitudes towards family planning and safe reproductive health behaviour? Probe: Can you provide an example of how education has impacted your reproductive health decisions?

"Education has significantly impacted my approach to family planning and reproductive health. My medical training provided me with comprehensive knowledge about various contraceptive methods, their effectiveness, and potential side effects. For example, during my training, I learned about the benefits of long-acting reversible contraceptives (LARCs), which

has influenced how I discuss these options with patients. I often use this knowledge to educate patients and help them make informed choices about their reproductive health." **(KII with Healthcare Provider)**

"My education has broadened my understanding of family planning and safe reproductive health behaviours. I attended several workshops on reproductive health that highlighted the need for family planning and the various methods in use. This education has helped me advocate for these practices within the community. For instance, I organized a community meeting to discuss family planning options and share information from these educational sessions, which led to increased awareness and acceptance of these methods." **(KII with Community Leader)**

"My experience with educational programmes has been pivotal in shaping my knowledge and attitudes towards reproductive health. Working with various educational initiatives, I've gained insight into effective family planning methods and safe reproductive practices. For example, our NGO conducted a series of educational workshops on contraceptive options, which not only increased my knowledge but also empowered me to educate community members and promote the use of these services." **(KII with NGO Representative)**

"Education has profoundly influenced my approach to family planning. My advanced training in reproductive health has equipped me with the knowledge to explain different contraceptive methods and their impacts on health. An example of this impact is when I integrated evidence-based practices into patient consultations, which has led to more patients choosing effective family planning methods and feeling confident about their choices." **(KII with Healthcare Provider)**

"My education has made a significant difference in how I view and promote family planning. After attending a seminar on reproductive health, I became more knowledgeable about the benefits of contraception and safe reproductive practices. This education enabled me to lead community discussions on these topics and provide accurate information, helping to shift attitudes towards more positive and informed views on family planning." **(KII with Community Leader)**

"Education has helped me understand the importance of family planning. I attended a workshop in my community where they explained how spacing pregnancies can help protect a woman's health. After learning this, I started using family planning services at the health center, which has allowed me to better care for my children and myself." **(KII with married community woman)**

Discussion of Findings

Educational level and reproductive health

The Pearson correlation analysis shows a positive and statistically significant relationship between the educational level of rural women and their reproductive health, with a Positive correlation coefficient of .532 and a p-value of .000. This indicates a moderate to strong positive correlation between educational level and reproductive health, leading to the rejection of the null hypothesis. The positive correlation between educational level and reproductive health in this study aligns with existing literature that highlights the influence of education on reproductive health outcomes. Higher educational attainment is often associated with better knowledge about reproductive health, more effective use of healthcare services, and healthier reproductive behaviours.

The findings are consistent with research showing that education significantly impacts reproductive health behaviours. For instance, Berhe et al. (2022), highlighted the limited awareness of sexual and reproductive health rights among students in Ethiopia, suggesting that improved education could address gaps in knowledge. In the context of Northern Senatorial District, improved educational levels among rural women could enhance their knowledge and access to reproductive health services, as evidenced by the significant correlation found in this study.

Similarly, our findings suggest that as educational levels increase, so does access to and utilization of reproductive health services, reinforcing the need for ongoing educational initiatives. Peri-Rotem (2023) discussed how educational attainment influences fertility outcomes through socioeconomic and health behaviour factors. This aligns with our study's results, suggesting that higher education level may contribute to better reproductive health outcomes by providing women with more

resources and opportunities. Our findings support the need for policies that promote educational attainment among rural women as a strategy to enhance reproductive health.

Relevance of the findings to social work practice

Findings from this study on educational status and reproductive health among rural women in Cross River State have significant implications for social work practice. Social workers play an important role in addressing the multi-faceted challenges faced by rural women and can leverage on this information to enhance their interventions and support strategies.

i. Social workers can use the understanding of how educational level impact reproductive health to conduct comprehensive assessments of their clients' needs. Social workers can develop more effective, tailored interventions that address the root causes of reproductive health issues considering this socio-economic determinant.

ii. The study highlights gaps in education, and healthcare access. Social workers can advocate for policies and programmes that address this gap. They can push for increased educational opportunities, better healthcare infrastructure, in rural areas. Social workers can also contribute to policy development by providing evidence-based recommendations and highlighting the needs of underserved populations.

iii. Given the significant relationship between educational level and reproductive health, social workers can design and implement educational programmes for rural women. These programmes could focus on reproductive health education, family planning, and rights awareness. Social workers can also provide support in accessing these educational resources and navigating barriers to participation.

Summary of the Study

Reproductive health in rural areas of Nigeria is significantly impacted by various socio-economic determinants. Key challenges include limited educational opportunities, high rates of unsafe abortions, untreated sexually transmitted infections (STIs), inadequate prenatal and postnatal care, cervical cancer due to lack of screening, poor menstrual health management, the persistence of female genital mutilation (FGM), and insufficient family planning services. These issues are exacerbated by economic instability, poor healthcare infrastructure, and societal norms, particularly regarding marital status and early childbearing.

Conclusion

The study reveals that educational level, plays crucial roles in shaping the reproductive health outcomes of rural women in Northern Cross River State. Specifically, higher educational attainment is associated with better reproductive health outcomes. Conversely, living in rural areas and early marriage present significant challenges, impacting access to and utilization of reproductive health services. These findings pinpoint the need for targeted interventions that address the educational need of the people to improve reproductive health outcomes.

Recommendations

Base on the findings of this study, it is recommended that:

i. There should be an enhanced educational opportunity for rural women, including comprehensive sexual and reproductive health education. Programmes should focus on improving awareness and knowledge of reproductive health and rights.

ii. There should be an improve healthcare infrastructure in rural areas by increasing the availability of healthcare facilities, trained personnel, and transportation options through government initiatives to ensure timely prenatal and postnatal care.

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RETHINKING CLIMATE CHANGE AND NATIONAL SECURITY: IMPLICATIONS FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN NIGERIA

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ABSTRACT
The phenomenon of climate change is providing a melting point to the global community through its pervading and undeniable implications for life on planet earth. The overwhelming impact of this on human interface, no doubt raises concerns that cuts across creed, colour, religion, and regional calibrations. It is generally believed that change remains a constant in human affairs; and all creatures anticipate change in their negative and positive configurations. Climate change is the response of nature to the increasing intervention and interference of man in the natural ecosystem, leading to fluctuations in average global temperatures often described as global warming. The implications of this in the long run remains unpredictable but the effect of this in contemporary times is orchestrating outcomes that offers no heritage of good to all and sundry. This ranges from decreased precipitation to deforestation and desertification, the poleward shift of vegetation and its impact on animal populations, the unmitigated rise in sea levels among others. This study interrogates the concept of climate change in the light of national security with the commitment to underscore its implication for sustainable development in Nigeria. Historical materialism offered the theoretical framework for this investigation under the methodological philosophy of qualitative analysis as obtainable in social inquiry. The study unearthed the economic effects of climate change, and underscored the historical, structural and institutional factors that explains why third world countries are more susceptible to climate change. Such factors like poor and weak governance structures, endemic conflict, among others negatively exacerbate the challenge of climate change in these climes. It was on the basis of this that it interrogated the polemics of climate change to national security, and the unmitigated implications of this to sustainable development in Nigeria. It offered the blueprints on the way forward with a modest conclusion.

Introduction

Every change in human affairs comes at a price. This price could be intentionally accomplished or unintentionally so. Sometimes the choice and preferences of man backed by the corresponding actions we deploy in our interface with the natural ecosystem precipitates the harbinger of change. Creation has empowered man in this light, and accords him the responsibility to push further the frontiers of his natural habitat in the quest for his daily survival. Since the time of the 'Early Man', man has been faced with the responsibility to either discover or rediscover nature or recreate the same to his own advantage, and this process is what defines the concept of change in human affairs. Given this natural tendency, human existence has metamorphosed from one phase to another under the framework of different civilizations. Thus, the recreation of nature from its original premise has become the hallmark of all human interventions in the world of nature.

This perspective explains why climate change is the direct response to the deliberate and most times; the concerted effort of man to make the world a better place to live in for the benefit of humanity. The concept of climate change therefore, is a reflection of the age-long consequences of human interventions in the world of nature which orchestrates a mix of the various gases that make up the earth's atmosphere resulting in the abnormal increase and corresponding fluctuations in global temperature. This tendency has raised awareness about the negative outcome of human interference in the natural ecosystem, and has elicited political discourses that have constituted one of the themes in what is today known as green politics. Prominent among this, is the meeting of 38 industrialised countries in 1997 that produced the famous Kyoto Protocol of 1997. The major resolution from this meeting was the commitment made by the 38 participating industrialised countries to reduce their atmospheric emissions of Carbon dioxide by an average of 5.2 percent from 1990 levels by 2012 (Mclean and Alistair, 2009). From that time till now, the United Nations through the UN Convention on Climate change has championed similar initiatives to this end.

Consequently, several reports and studies have zeroed-in on the existential threat of climate change but mostly to humanity at large thus eliciting global efforts to this end. The report by MSCI (2023) focused on the US homeowner's insurance, while the UNDP casted a shadow account of Africa's vulnerability to this challenge. It was Chavi Meatle's searchlight that highlighted Nigeria's efforts to tackle this challenge. Similarly, the USAID provided another modest attempt albeit, to establish some of the negative implication of climate change on Nigeria. The account by these authors fell short of interrogating specifically the implications of climate change on national security and sustainable development in Nigeria thus leaving a vacuum to fill.

The Nigerian state as an integral component of the global community has not been spared of the negative impact of climate change. This study therefore brings to the fore an appraisal of the dynamics of climate change. It investigates this concept using the qualitative approach to elicit valuable information on the subject matter, and within the framework of Historical materialism, it tried to unearth the implications of climate change on national security vis-a vis sustainable development in Nigeria. It is therefore structured around the framework of an introduction, conceptual clarification, theoretical framework, review of literatures, an excursion into the dynamics of climate change on national security and its implications for sustainable development in Nigeria, with the blueprint on the way forward. All this culminated in the conclusion and reference.

Conceptual Clarification

i) **Climate Change:** Change is a variation in time and space. It is a constant phenomenon in the natural world. The changes that occur in the natural world are either instigated by man, or flow from the prism of an established natural growth process of a particular human species or structural framework. The word climate change is a testament of the law of cause and effect. The ecosystem of the universe as given, maintained an established and predictable pattern of operation that was almost cast in stone until the contemporary time of increased and intensified involvement and interface of man in the process. Consequently, man's drive to rediscover himself, and his determination to win a living from mother earth including space, has thrown up a series of interventions in the world of nature.

Climate change therefore is the direct response by the atmospheric weather system to the aftermath of the artificial 'products' created

by man in the process of earning a living and attaining a fulfilling material existence. The series of deliberate activities of the human element geared towards improving his living conditions and perhaps, achieve a name in the annals of history comes with a price that has drastically altered the sequence of atmospheric weather conditions in what is now known as climate change.

ii) National Security: The dynamics of national security is as old as the birth of the modern state system which took its genesis from the Westphalia peace treaty of 1648. It is often taken for granted that national security is a function of the military strength, capacity and capability of nation-states to protect its sovereign status and territorial boundaries effectively against insidious elements or external aggressors. The concept in contemporary times has gained wider coverage to incorporate other components of national security like environmental security, economic security, security of national resources, political security, energy security, food security, among others. In its composite form therefore, national security encompasses all the measures designed to wade-off all threats both internal and external to a nation's survival. Some of the dimensions of threat today are predominantly man-made as well as naturally orchestrated. The emerging existential threat today to national security are those which hails from the economic adventures of man leading to incidence of outbreak of diseases, adverse weather conditions, food shortages, and many more which impinge on the survival of nation-states. In this context, national security can be defined as the safekeeping of the nation as a whole. It is an all-important duty of the state to its citizens as it embodies their protection from direct military confrontation/assault and other factors that poses a danger to their collective wellbeing and survival (Holmes, K.R, 2005).

iii) **Rethinking:** Rethinking is a word that implies the review of a phenomenon, or an idea with the goal of re-inventing it for the benefit of a social group or interested party/parties. It is an appraisal of what is known, to establish its benefit or otherwise. It is a logical process that applies itself to the act of reasoning in the face of a teething challenge. Rethinking is the domain of social inquiry that is given to asking intrinsic questions about social phenomena with the aim of providing valuable answers to them. This process is synonymous with interrogating an existing idea or situation in order to determine the identified and unidentified implications.

iv) Sustainable Development: The keyword 'development' is a many-sided process that transcends the individual, group and national levels. On these premises, development implies increased skills and capacity; greater freedom, creativity, self-discipline, responsibility and material wellbeing (Rodney, 1972). A society develops when its members increase collectively their capacity for dealing with the environment in which they live, and this is correspondingly achievable based on their understanding of the laws of nature and the extent to which such knowledge is practicalised and demonstrated by designing tools for organizing the system of labour in such society (Rodney, 1972).

Sustainable development is a global initiative designed to ensure improved health, promote development, guarantee equity needs through a systems approach at all levels. Sustainable development goals (SDGs) are a set of global goals for a fair and sustainable health at every level; from planetary biosphere to local community (UNDP, 1994). It represents a framework of goals that are scientifically crafted as a robust strategy for building on the progress made by the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The aim of SDGs is to end poverty, protect the planet, and ensure that all people enjoy the virtues of peace and prosperity, now and in the future (Stephen, M. 2007). Its goals have been adopted by all member states of the United Nations in 2015 and it was intended to last for between 2016-2030. Its priority is to provide the global community with the best chance of ensuring the necessary collaboration and alignment by the global family for the implementation of the necessary approaches for securing a fair, healthy and prosperous life for the present and future generation of mankind.

Quite strategically, Climate Action occupies the 13th position in the schedule of global action for addressing climate change in the SDGs. And under the caption of 'Transforming our World', the Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations has since its commencement date, become the international blueprint that articulates the vision, principles and commitments for attaining a fairer and more sustainable world for the global family.

Theoretical Framework: Historical Materialism

Historical materialism as a theoretical construct, formed the basis for interrogating economic and political development of human societies as a historical conjecture. Karl Marx is the major proponent of this theory as it represents a profound and rigorous account on the underlining history of socio-economic development. Historical materialism is a reflection of the central ideas of Karl Marx's conception of history with emphasis on economic forces as the driving force behind historical change. According to this theory, it is the economic and material base of society that determines social change and human development (Martins. S, 2009). This position hinges on the perspective that history is the progressive unfolding of man's social and economic development at different epochs. It views history as a reflection of the progressive action of man as the key dynamics of change. To its advocates therefore, the key element of all human actions is economic development which transcend the individual to the group levels. This perspective is predicated on the belief that the moving force behind all important historical events at the realm of economic development of the society are the changes in the mode of production and exchange alongside the corresponding division of society into distinct classes. This position succinctly has become the basis for the classification of nation-states into developed, developing and underdeveloped societies.

The choice of historical materialism as the theoretical thrust for interrogating climate change and national security finds relevance in the strength of its economic analysis which is centred on the need for man to survive in his immediate environment by harnessing the gifts of nature. The process of achieving this orchestrates different relationships, all of which dovetails to human intervention on the world of nature and the undeniable aftermath of this process. It bears acceptance with its materialist's designation of history as the fulcrum of social change and by implication, climate change. In adopting this theoretical praxis, the position of this study is that the challenge of climate change would not have arisen to its present scale, if human (socio-economic) activities on earth, have been conducted in its simple form without the current upscaling and aggressive attack on the natural ecosystem. The materialist drive of man above sustainable levels, but towards self-preservation on a humongous scale is the harbinger of many conflicts, technological adventurism etc., which has negatively impacted on the world of nature.

Review of Literatures

The account by MSCI (2023) on sustainability and climate trends declares that beyond climate; nature and biodiversity have emerged as additional priority areas to address in order to minimize their underlining and potential negative effects on the ecosystem through some nature-based pragmatic solutions. The major thrust of their report is on extreme weather and its impact on the place of man's abode and the world of work. According to them, physical climate impacts are literally hitting the home and the place of work of millions of people and companies who depend on them coming under its unprecedented consequences. The major area where this is felt the most is the unexpected cost to households in terms of insurance obligations. The study appraised that, as a result of the impact of climate change, the average cost of US homeowners' insurance rose to 145% between 2001 and 2020, which was in excess of the 61% increase in household income over the same period (MSCI, 2023). The consensus on this is that as climate change exacerbates, more expensive policies would emerge with adverse financial burden this would bring on households who are already navigating the painful impact of an inflationary economy. On a continental scale, measuring the cost of this on African households and by extension, Nigeria would precipitate a more worrisome spectacle.

However, in a similar vein, the United Nations Development Program (UNDP, 1994) painted a graphic scenario of climate change on Africa with a searchlight on historical, structural, and institutional factors which have made Africa and other developing nations more vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. On a specific note in their report, incidence of poor governance, incessant conflicts, weakened institutional capacities, high disease burden, lack of food security and endemic poverty greatly impact on the vulnerability of these states to the adverse effects of climate change. This report further revealed that several global initiatives through funding assistance and capacity building mechanisms have been deployed on the platform of global partnerships to mitigate the

impact of climate change on Africa and other developing nations.

However, tackling climate change and its impact should not be limited to Africa's developmental needs even though climate change on Africa is exacerbated by food insecurity which impacts on their health systems which confronts the overwhelming spread of preventable diseases. This tendency puts the continent in developmental dilemma and ranks her as the most vulnerable to climate change. The 'dilemma of Africa' was acknowledged in this report which is the fact that African countries contributes least to climate change largely because of their low-levels of industrialization and energy consumption, yet faced with the need for rapid investment in infrastructure and industrialization towards the attainment of its Sustainable Development Goals.

Writing under the prism of Climate finance in Nigeria, Sean Stout and Chavi Meatle (2002) revealed that Nigeria has laid a solid foundation for climate change mitigation through a robust policy landscape that is dedicated to planning and responding to climate change eventualities. However, the inadequacy and challenge with good policy initiatives without profitable implementation was acknowledged, as the report alluded to the rise in greenhouse gas emission in the country since 2009 which ranked Nigeria as the third highest in Africa only after the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and South Africa (climatewatch,2009). From this account, the Nigerian economy is existentially vulnerable, since it entirely depends on the ecosystems and natural resources to achieve her goal of economic survival. The crude oil economy and its dynamics was the focus of this appraisal. Close as this account may seem, the critical elements about the impact of climate change on national security and the long-term sustainability of the Nigerian state leave much gap to fill. However, the authors revealed that mitigating climate finance in Nigeria is channeled through a range of financial instruments whereas adaptation efforts is financed through debt, to the proportion of 90%. This raises the sustainability question especially when the frequency of climate shocks is brought under scrutiny.

In another account, the USAID (2023) extolled Nigeria as Africa's largest economy where agricultural production supports a huge percentage of the country's population. Regrettably, it mentioned that rising sea levels orchestrates the vulnerability of the country to flooding, air temperature, all of which adversely impact on food security, health and nutritional standards of the citizenry. The study tipped Nigeria as having the highest rate of deforestation in the world, losing about 3.7% of its forest every year as a result of uncontrolled human activities that impact negatively on the ecosystem. It equally revealed that drought and reduced rainfall, combined with rising air temperatures inhibits the country's hydropower infrastructures and hinder agri-business especially fishing, thus reducing food security with its negative implication on the health and nutritional standards of the people. According to this report, the energy sector of the country, deforestation by peasant farmers, the pattern of land use administration, etc. are the greatest contributors of Nigeria's greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. It articulates Nigeria's efforts towards climate change mitigation through the establishment of the National Council on Climate Change in 2021, the Nigeria Adaptation Plan Framework (2020), the Nigeria Energy Transition Plan. The energy transition plan bears the seal of a sworn commitment to carbon neutrality by 2060 across key sectors ranging from power to cooking, oil and gas to transport and industry, etc.

Reinventing Climate Change Education as articulated by Ulla H, R and Halla, H. L. (2021) zeroed- in on climate change and its challenge to educators. To them, the impact of climate change today underscores the need for sensitization and awareness for stakeholders in this sector. The authors in their account, made the submission that climate change involves addressing not only scientific and environmental issues but also social, cultural and political frameworks that impinge on climate change. In their perspective, climate change is equally a socially constructed challenge that require everybody to play a part towards mitigating its adverse consequences. This necessitates why students should know and learn how to interpret numerical data on the subject matter of climate change, identify its consequences, and be part of the vanguard towards sustainable solutions. The author's perspective is predicated on the belief that the effects of today's emissions could have historic or future implication for communities in the near future. This explains why climate change to them, should not be a regional nor the exclusive problem of any particular nation. It is a global challenge which should involve the students and other stakeholders in the sector

towards articulating sustainable solutions. Emphasis therefore should be how to mitigate and adapt to climate change, as well as appropriate the toolkits required to navigate the climate change albatross and bring it under control. This belief informs why UNESCO's work on climate change education aims at making climate change a central part of the international response to climate change globally. The report therefore recommends that policy makers should articulate; education policy, curriculum development, capacity building for teachers, raise public awareness, increased investment in high-level support and resources for climate change, improvement in communication-related to climate change education among member states (UNESCO, 2015).

National Security and Climate Change: Implications for Sustainable Development

The conception of national security should not be limited to its kinetic military connotation. Robert McNamara (1968) offered a comprehensive appraisal of the concept when he said that 'in a modernizing society, security encapsulates development; and security is not limited to military hardware though it may involve it'. By this, Security does not exclusively rest on the traditional military activity, though it may encompass it. His position buttresses that Security is development, and without development there can be no security. According to McNamara, any society that seeks to achieve adequate military security against the background of acute food shortage, population explosion, low level of production, low technological development, adequate and inefficient public utilities and chronic problem of unemployment has a false sense of security (Mcnamara,1968). It is in this light that the impact of Climate change is considered as one of the greatest threats to sustainable development, having far-reaching and unprecedented implications on social, economic, political, and environmental dimensions that are exacerbated and foisted on populations that are marginalized on the scale of national development (Fuso Nerini, et al, 2019). In Nigeria and sub-Saharan Africa in general, the impact of climate change on agricultural production have hampered efforts to reduce poverty and hunger as outlined in sustainable development goals (Chilunjika and Gumede, 2021).

In an exploration on the nexus between national security and sustainable development Adigwe, A.N. (2019), re-echoed the United Nations 17 Sustainable Development Goals which are: (1) Zero Poverty (2) Zero Hunger (3) Good Health and Wellbeing (4) Quality Education (5) Gender Equality (6) Clean Water and Sanitation (7) Affordable and Clean Energy (8) Decent Work and Economic Development (9) Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure (10) Reduction in Equality (11) Building Sustainable Cities and Communities (12) Responsible Consumption and Production (13) Climate Action (14) Life Below Water (15) Life on Land (16) Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions (17) Peace and Partnership. The fundamentals of these goal have been summarized into 5 thematic areas of critical importance sobriquet as "5 P's" namely; People, Prosperity, Planet, Peace, and Partnerships. Thus, interrogating climate change in the light of sustainable development leaves a deep hole in Nigeria's effort to achieve most of these goals.

i) **Climate Change and Agricultural Productivity in Nigeria.:** Agriculture is the main stay, as well as the life-wire of a huge percentage of the population of the country. But the current and unmitigated change in weather condition adversely affects both food crop and cash crop farming in Nigeria. The incidence of extreme dry weather in the north, orchestrates seasonal changes that impact on farming activities in the region, where a large percentage of agricultural produce comes from. Again, the 2012 and 2019 episodes of flood disasters presents painful memories about the negative impact of climate change in Nigeria. The overall impact of this is not only the precipitation of hunger and starvation, but the loss of lives and arable/farming lands which has negatively impacted a huge percentage of Nigerian population of more than 200 million people.

ii) **Climate Change and the Goal of Clean Water:** It is popularly said that water sustains life but equally fundamental is that clean water guarantees a sickness-free life. The seasonal changes in weather orchestrated by climate change have multiplied the rate of flooding and erosion in many parts of Nigeria. When floods occur, the quality of water is compromised and this leads to incidence of outbreak of diseases. The outbreak of diseases impinges on the realization of a major component of sustainable development goals which is good health and wellbeing of the people.

iii) **Climate Change and Poverty Reduction:** Poverty subsists when an individual lacks the wherewithal to satisfy his material and basic needs in life. These basic needs include food, clothing and shelter. It is commonly believed that hunger is a symptom of poverty, and the lack of shelter is another testament of poverty. The unprecedented impact of climate change today exacerbates, rather than reduce the menace of global poverty especially among developing countries like Nigeria. The economic effects of climate change such as displacement of agricultural communities, farmers-herder's conflicts, incidence of Internally Displaces Persons (IDP's) impinge on the realization of foremost goal of poverty reduction as enshrined in the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals.

iv) **Climate Change and Building Sustainable Cities in Nigeria:** Building Sustainable Cities and Communities is goal number eleven of United Nation's sustainable goal initiative. It is taken for granted that Nigeria is ranked as the country with one of the fastest growing populations on the continent of Africa. Thus, providing shelter for this ever-expanding population should be a priority that requires opening of the hinterlands. There are societies that have built communities around the coast and this also serve as a tourist heaven and source of revenue. But instances abound in Nigeria where the meteorological agency intermittently issue warning forecast to people leaving around water enclaves to vacate their homes in anticipation of impending floods. This pattern of seasonal relocation is antithetical to building sustainable cities and communities both in the short and long run.

v) **Climate Change and National Security:** Adigwe, A.N. (2019) articulated that national security is widely canvassed as the state-centric perspective on security that is premised on the physical protection of the territorial enclaves of a nation-state against unwanted infiltration by potential aggressors including states and non-state actors. However, because climate change is a global phenomenon that affects all communities albeit at varying degrees, Nigeria is presently having an unfair share of its unmitigated impact as a result of the influx of herders and other criminal elements from neighbouring states into the country. This accounts for the worsening case of insecurity in Nigeria due to insurgency, banditry and kidnapping as they are presently constituted today. Furthermore, the increasing drought in the Sahel states that share border with Nigeria is among the push factors that force herders to migrate into the country. These herders who are in search for green pastures for their animals have relentlessly and without conscience engage in violent confrontation with farmers in their local communities causing of them to flee for safety. The implication of this is the shortfall in crop farming since these farmers can no longer engage in their farming as a result of safety concerns hence, the shortage and high cost of food precipitating a fall in the general standard of living of the Nigerian populace The recurrent scenario as it today has altered the complexion of national security on many fronts in Africa's most populous country called Nigeria.

Summary of Findings

Interrogating climate change and its impact has opened new frontiers in our understanding of the risk's climate change pose to humanity both for the present and in the future. The economic effects of this trend spreads across different regions with social and structural consequences. From this study, it was discovered that human activities is responsible for 1.0-degree C of global warming and it is predicted that if this trend continues unchecked, global warming is likely to ascend 1.5-degree C between 2030 and 2052. It was suggested that, to retain global temperature at 1.5-degree C, there must be a cut on global emissions by 45% in the next six years (2030) from what it was in 2010 in order to attain a net zero emission by 2050. However, the effort to limit global warming to 1.5 C require accelerated commitment to transitions in energy infrastructures and industrial systems (IPCC, 2022). The question about how feasible effective energy transition could be achieved among developing countries is still begging for answer in the light of their peculiar circumstances.

Again, this study revealed that for historical, structural and institutional reasons, Africa and other developing countries are more vulnerable to climate change, and that the malaise of poor governance, endemic conflicts, weakened institutional capacity, plus high disease burden amplified by food insecurity exacerbates Africa's vulnerability to climate change. It was equally

made clear that Africa's natural heritage of unexploited reserves of oil, gas, coal, as well as other natural endowments like cobalt, lithium, uranium and bauxite are fundamental elements that necessitates the compelling use of fossils. This tendency puts this group of states in a development dilemma, and further entrench and deepen their vulnerability to climate change.

This study discovered that on a global scale, developing countries like Nigeria contributes the least to climate change largely because of their low level of industrialization and energy consumption, but yet confronts with the need to embrace industrialization in order to harness their natural resources and forestall their status of dependency. The twist to this is that if industrialization is pursued at the scale required to attain development based on the utilization of her natural resources, then the continent would be working against the 1.5 C global warming reduction target.

Furthermore, from a comparative standpoint, this study discovered that Nigeria, like other African countries have a weak, fragmented and compromised response to the goal of climate change mitigation. The continuous gas flaring in the Niger-Delta region of Nigeria, combined with untamed incidence of illegal refineries and pipeline vandalism, exacerbates fossil emissions which impacts negatively on aquatic life and the environment in general. The timelines for ending gas flaring and other unwholesome practices inherent in the energy sector has become the definition of 'national abracadabra'. From this exploration, it became clear that a well-coordinated and strategic policy framework whereby words are matched with pragmatic actions is needed to reverse this trend.

Conclusion and Recommendations

The increased human activity on the world of nature is the harbinger of Climate change. The environmental degradation that it precipitates is a threat to human survival in this 21st century. The World Economic Forum (WEF,2020) revealed that more than half of global economic output moderately rely on the resources of nature for their survival, and mitigating the risks that this huge level of human dependence on nature, calls for a concerted effort towards the preservation and restoration of natural ecosystem. With the myriads of unprecedented climatic disasters occasioned by severe adverse weather conditions in different parts of the world, no price is too huge to pay to mitigate the ripple effects of climate change. The current conversation around this global human challenge with emphasis on the green pathway is a commendable approach towards mitigating the impact of climate change,

From this study, the impact of climate change on Nigeria is undoubtedly very clear as the country is faced with the consequences of this in the agricultural sector, which has cascaded down to the security architecture of the country. The intermittent flooding, and the unprecedented drying up of the lake chad axis of the country and its direct impact on the fishing and herders' community that rely on it, orchestrates a migration push that is the harbinger of farmers-herders conflict that abounds in different parts of the country. The obvious effects of this is the shortage in food supply which has snowballed into high cost of living. This shortage in food supply has been sociologically linked to acts of banditry and kidnapping in the country.

In the light of the forgoing, this study recommends that all the rhetoric around mitigating climate change in Nigeria should give way to a more pragmatic approach where policy initiatives are matched with consistent actions. There should be more decisive action towards ending gas flaring and the operation of illegal refineries in the oil producing areas of the Niger-Delta region of the country. The International Oil Companies (IOC's) should be compelled to end this menace, as well clean up the degraded communities through their oil exploration activities. The government should be more proactive against flooding by following through with the early warning signals from the meteorological service department. The recent flood disaster in Bornu state smacks of executive recklessness and carelessness.

Furthermore, the seeming twist to the goal of industrialization in Nigeria by the global action at mitigating climate change should not deter the country. In harnessing her natural resources to this end, the Nigerian state should explore other alternatives to prevent her from working against the 1.5 C global warming reduction target by 2030.

Since agriculture is the predominant occupation of majority of the populace in Nigeria, the government should completely ban open grazing by nomadic farmers and enforce

the policy of ranching for herders to discourage the attraction that open grazing holds for nomadic farmers from neighbouring states who are forced by draught to migrate to Nigeria in search for pastures for their livestock. This stands as one the remote causes of insecurity, and by extension food insecurity both of which on national development.

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HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS AND CRIMINAL ACCOUNTABILITY IN ARMED CONFLICT AND THE PLACE OF INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW

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KEYWORDS
international humanitarian law, armed conflicts, modern warfare

ABSTRACT
This study investigates the effectiveness of international humanitarian law (IHL) in ensuring accountability for human rights violations within contemporary armed conflicts. While previous research has addressed the application of IHL in specific conflict contexts, this study adopts a broader, comparative approach to evaluate the adequacy of existing legal frameworks in both international and non-international armed conflicts. The research examines how evolving conflict dynamics, including asymmetric warfare, terrorism, and insurgencies, present unique challenges to the enforcement of IHL. Employing a qualitative methodology, it analyzes legal documents, case law, and historical precedents while integrating perspectives on state and non-state actors' accountability. Unlike previous studies that often focus on a single conflict or geographic region, this research assesses global case studies to identify recurring enforcement gaps in IHL, particularly regarding the roles of international bodies like the United Nations and the International Criminal Court (ICC). Findings reveal that while IHL principles, such as distinction and proportionality, provide a solid framework for civilian protection, enforcement mechanisms remain inconsistent, especially in conflicts involving non-state actors. This study contributes to the literature by offering a comprehensive, cross-regional analysis of IHL's applicability in modern warfare and proposing targeted reforms to enhance accountability for human rights violations across diverse conflict scenarios. These insights aim to inform policy developments and strengthen international legal mechanisms for improved protection of civilians and justice for war victims.

1.1 Introduction

The global increase in armed conflicts, often characterized by complex dynamics involving both state and non-state actors, has underscored the critical role of international humanitarian law (IHL) in protecting human rights during warfare. Traditionally, IHL has provided a legal framework to regulate the conduct of hostilities, particularly through principles established in the Geneva Conventions. These conventions emphasize the humane treatment of individuals who are not actively engaged in hostilities, ensuring their protection in conflict zones. However, the applicability and effectiveness of IHL in modern, asymmetrical conflicts present challenges that have not been fully addressed in existing literature.

Early foundational literature on IHL, including the works of Henry Dunant and interpretations by scholars like Gasser, provided robust frameworks that aimed to humanize war by categorizing combatants and civilians and prohibiting unnecessary suffering. These early contributions largely focused on traditional warfare between states, where organized military forces engaged under clear rules.

The initiative of Henry Dunant (founder of the International Committee of the Red Cross)[1] influenced by the battle of Solferino, Italy eventually birthed the treaties on International Humanitarian Law. The first treaty was signed in Geneva in 1864 at a Diplomatic Conference summoned by the Swiss Government with representation from almost all states. Hans Peter explained how this treaty addressed the protection of military victims of warfare which was subsequently extended to the wounded, sick and shipwrecked members of armed forces at sea in 1899; and then to prisoners of war in 1929.[2]

Modern scholarship has further explored the complexities of asymmetric warfare, in which non-state actors, such as terrorist organizations and insurgent groups, challenge the traditional frameworks of IHL. Scholars like Rahimatu (2016) and Bukar (2021) have documented how conflicts involving non-state actors, such as Boko Haram in Nigeria, expose gaps in the application of IHL, particularly where non-compliance with legal standards is high and enforcement mechanisms are weak. Awhefeada (2014) and Hardy (2012) extend this critique by arguing that current IHL provisions inadequately address the unique challenges posed by internal conflicts and insurgencies, where non-state actors do not adhere to established warfare protocols and states may lack the capacity to enforce IHL standards effectively.

While significant contributions to the discourse on IHL and human rights violations exist, a gap persists in the comprehensive analysis of IHL's effectiveness across diverse conflict scenarios and in identifying specific areas where reforms are needed to strengthen accountability. Much of the existing literature focuses on isolated case studies or specific geographic contexts, leaving a gap in scholarship that addresses IHL from a global perspective, particularly regarding the increasing role of non-state actors and the challenges of prosecuting human rights violations within these contexts. This paper seeks to bridge this gap by providing a comparative, cross-regional analysis of the enforcement challenges faced by IHL and examining the evolving role of international bodies such as the United Nations and the International Criminal Court (ICC) in promoting accountability. Thus, this study extends existing scholarship by analyzing IHL's limitations within diverse, contemporary conflict scenarios and proposing targeted reforms that address the complexities of modern warfare. Through this approach, the paper offers an original contribution to the literature, highlighting specific areas where IHL can be strengthened to better ensure accountability and protection for civilians. By critically examining how IHL adapts or fails to adapt to the realities of asymmetric warfare, this research seeks to inform policy and provide actionable insights for strengthening the global framework that protects human rights during armed conflicts.

Despite the comprehensive legal frameworks established under international humanitarian law (IHL), including the Geneva Conventions and the Rome Statute, significant challenges persist in enforcing these frameworks to ensure accountability for human rights violations in modern armed conflicts. Much of IHL was

[1] IFRC "The Birth of the Red Cross" https://www.ifrc.org/our-history-and-archives accessed on 22 October 2024

[2] Ibid 3

developed with traditional, state-based warfare in mind, yet today's conflicts increasingly involve non-state actors, asymmetric warfare, and unconventional tactics that render many traditional IHL provisions difficult to apply and enforce effectively. As a result, civilian populations in conflict zones continue to suffer disproportionately, with inadequate legal recourse and accountability for perpetrators. Existing literature highlights the limitations of IHL when applied to conflicts involving non-state actors, such as insurgents and terrorist organizations, which frequently disregard established norms and target civilians indiscriminately. Furthermore, enforcement mechanisms are often hindered by issues of jurisdiction, political interests, and limited resources within international bodies like the United Nations and the International Criminal Court (ICC). While previous research has examined specific conflicts or regional case studies, there is a gap in scholarship regarding a comprehensive, cross-regional analysis of IHL's effectiveness and its limitations in addressing modern conflict dynamics globally. This study addresses these gaps by analyzing IHL's applicability across diverse armed conflict scenarios and evaluating the effectiveness of current enforcement mechanisms in holding perpetrators accountable. Specifically, the research seeks to identify how IHL can be adapted to better address the realities of asymmetric warfare and the involvement of non-state actors. Through a comparative, global perspective, this study aims to contribute to the literature by proposing actionable reforms to strengthen IHL's enforcement, enhance civilian protection, and improve accountability for human rights violations in contemporary conflicts.

This paper employs and critiques the framework of International Humanitarian Law (IHL) through a nuanced approach that goes beyond previous applications of IHL theory in the literature. Traditional studies have often used IHL primarily as a prescriptive framework, focusing on its role in defining acceptable conduct in warfare and ensuring humanitarian protections. However, in light of the evolving nature of contemporary conflicts, characterized by asymmetric warfare and the rise of non-state actors. This paper engages with IHL not just as a legal framework but as a conceptual tool that must be critically evaluated and adapted to meet the demands of modern warfare.

1.2 Aim and Objectives of the Study

The aim of this study is to examine the effectiveness of international humanitarian law (IHL) in addressing human rights violations and ensuring criminal accountability during armed conflicts. It seeks to evaluate the adequacy of existing legal frameworks in protecting civilians and regulating the conduct of both state and non-state actors in various conflict situations. Other objectives include:

1. To analyze the historical development and principles of international humanitarian law, including the Geneva Conventions and other relevant treaties.

2. To assess the nature and scope of human rights violations occurring during armed conflicts, focusing on the impact on civilian populations.

3. To evaluate the effectiveness of current legal frameworks in holding perpetrators accountable for human rights violations during armed conflicts.

4. To identify the challenges and limitations in the application and enforcement of international humanitarian law, especially in asymmetric warfare involving non-state actors.

5. To investigate the role of international organizations, such as the United Nations and the International Criminal Court, in enforcing compliance with international humanitarian law and promoting justice for victims of war crimes.

1.3 Scope of the Study

The scope of the study covers the examination of international humanitarian law principles as applied to modern armed conflicts. It explores how these principles address human rights violations involving state and non-state actors and evaluate the adequacy of existing legal frameworks, such as the Geneva Conventions and related treaties, in regulating warfare conduct and protecting civilians. The study includes an analysis of historical and contemporary cases of international and non-international armed conflicts, highlighting challenges in enforcement, especially in asymmetric warfare and the involvement of non-

state actors. In addition, the research investigates the role of international organizations in promoting compliance and accountability under IHL.

1.4 Conceptual Clarification

In the context of this study, key terms such as **international humanitarian law** (IHL), **accountability**, and a**symmetric warfare** are critical to understanding the nuanced challenges of protecting human rights in modern armed conflicts. Traditionally, IHL has been conceptualized as a framework to "humanize" war, establishing legal distinctions between combatants and civilians and setting limits on the conduct of hostilities. Yet, as contemporary conflicts increasingly involve non-state actors, such as insurgent and terrorist groups, the traditional application of IHL faces unprecedented limitations. Unlike conventional state actors, non-state entities often operate without adherence to established norms, challenging the traditional boundaries of IHL and undermining the protection of civilians in conflict zones.

Accountability within IHL involves holding both state and non-state actors legally responsible for violations of established war protocols and human rights abuses. While the Geneva Conventions provide the foundation for such accountability, enforcement remains inconsistent and often politically charged, particularly where non-state actors are involved.

Asymmetric warfare refers to conflicts where there is an imbalance in power, resources, and tactics between opposing forces, typically between a state and non-state actors employing unconventional strategies, such as guerrilla warfare, terrorism, and insurgency. This type of warfare challenges the application of IHL principles, particularly the rules of distinction, proportionality, and military necessity, as non-state actors often target civilians as part of their strategy. This conceptual clarification establishes a foundation for addressing the complexities of enforcing IHL in modern conflicts.

Review of Related Literature

Empirical Review

Initially established to humanize warfare, IHL emerged as a response to atrocities witnessed in conflicts such as the Napoleonic Wars and later in World War I and II. Henry Dunant, driven by his experience witnessing the aftermath of the Battle of Solferino, founded the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and advocated for humanitarian protections in armed conflict, resulting in the 1864 Geneva Convention. This early framework provided the bedrock for what would become the modern IHL framework, centered on humane treatment for all those no longer actively participating in hostilities. Dunant's work established a humanitarian standard that would shape subsequent IHL developments, emphasizing the duty of care in warfare.

While Dunant's contributions laid foundational principles, contemporary scholarship questions whether IHL can fully address the complexities of today's asymmetric and unconventional conflicts. As Mack (2008) notes, traditional IHL operates on assumptions of state-centered warfare, where clearly defined actors adhere to rules of engagement. Mack's perspective, however, reveals a limitation in IHL's flexibility; IHL may inadequately regulate the conduct of non-state actors, who increasingly use guerilla tactics that disregard civilian protection and operate outside traditional command structures. This critique expands the discourse by highlighting the need for an adaptive IHL framework that can handle decentralized combat strategies. By identifying IHL's gaps in asymmetric contexts, Mack's work informs this study's argument for adapting humanitarian law to better handle the involvement of non-state actors.

Subsequent literature, such as that by Geiss and Siegrist (2011), further interrogates the gap in IHL regarding the accountability of non-state actors, which includes not only insurgents but also private military companies and multinational corporations operating in conflict zones. Geiss and Siegrist argue that, unlike states, non-state actors lack accountability structures that compel adherence to humanitarian standards, creating a legal void in which human rights violations often occur with impunity. Their argument extends the frontier of IHL discourse by illustrating how traditional legal frameworks inadequately address the blurred lines of modern combatant status. The study adopts this view as a basis for examining how accountability gaps within IHL expose civilians to heightened risks, thus underscoring the need for IHL reforms that address non-state actors' obligations directly.

In addition to the accountability gaps identified by Geiss and Siegrist, Rahimatu (2016) illustrates these issues within specific conflict contexts, such as the Boko Haram insurgency in Nigeria. Rahimatu's research highlights the challenges of enforcing IHL in regions where state control is limited, and non-state actors systematically violate IHL principles, targeting civilians as part of their strategy. This case-specific analysis is instrumental in demonstrating that IHL, while comprehensive in its principles, remains ineffective in areas where non-state actors have established parallel systems of power that ignore humanitarian obligations. Rahimatu's insights emphasize that local conflicts with global implications require a reconceptualization of IHL's enforcement, adding empirical weight to this study's proposition for a more decentralized IHL application framework that can better engage non-state actors in regions with limited governance.

Other scholars, like Bukar (2021), approach IHL from an enforcement perspective, exploring how international mechanisms like the International Criminal Court (ICC) are hindered by jurisdictional limitations, political interests, and resource constraints. Bukar's work critiques the ICC's selective engagement in conflict regions, noting that enforcement is often restricted to politically expedient cases, leaving many human rights violations unaddressed. This perspective contributes a critical layer to IHL literature, revealing how enforcement inconsistencies undermine the universality of IHL principles and diminish its credibility as a protective mechanism in armed conflicts. Bukar's analysis provides a practical basis for this study's recommendation to bolster IHL's enforcement capacity, ensuring that accountability mechanisms are not subject to selective application.

The discourse on accountability further evolves through the work of Sassòli (2019), who contends that IHL's focus on state actors fails to address the ethical and operational complexities introduced by non-state actors, including multinational corporations and private military contractors operating in conflict zones. Sassòli argues that private sector involvement in warfare has escalated, creating a scenario where non-state entities hold significant power but operate outside traditional accountability frameworks. His argument invites a critical rethinking of IHL's scope to include corporate accountability, thus expanding the regulatory landscape to cover entities with substantial influence over conflict dynamics. This study draws on Sassòli's argument to advocate for expanding IHL's scope to better reflect the multi-actor reality of modern conflicts, where corporations and non-state armed groups are increasingly central.

Also, Hudges (2020) critiques the limitations of corporate accountability within IHL by exploring how corporate entities contribute to conflict economies and perpetuate violence in high-risk areas. Hudges suggests that the lack of explicit legal frameworks governing corporate actions in conflict zones enables impunity and prolongs human suffering. This critique underscores the need for comprehensive IHL reforms that extend accountability beyond traditional actors, incorporating legally binding standards for corporate behavior. This study builds on Hudges' position by advocating for an adaptive IHL model that includes corporate and non-state actors in its accountability mechanisms, thereby extending the boundaries of existing scholarship to address modern warfare complexities.

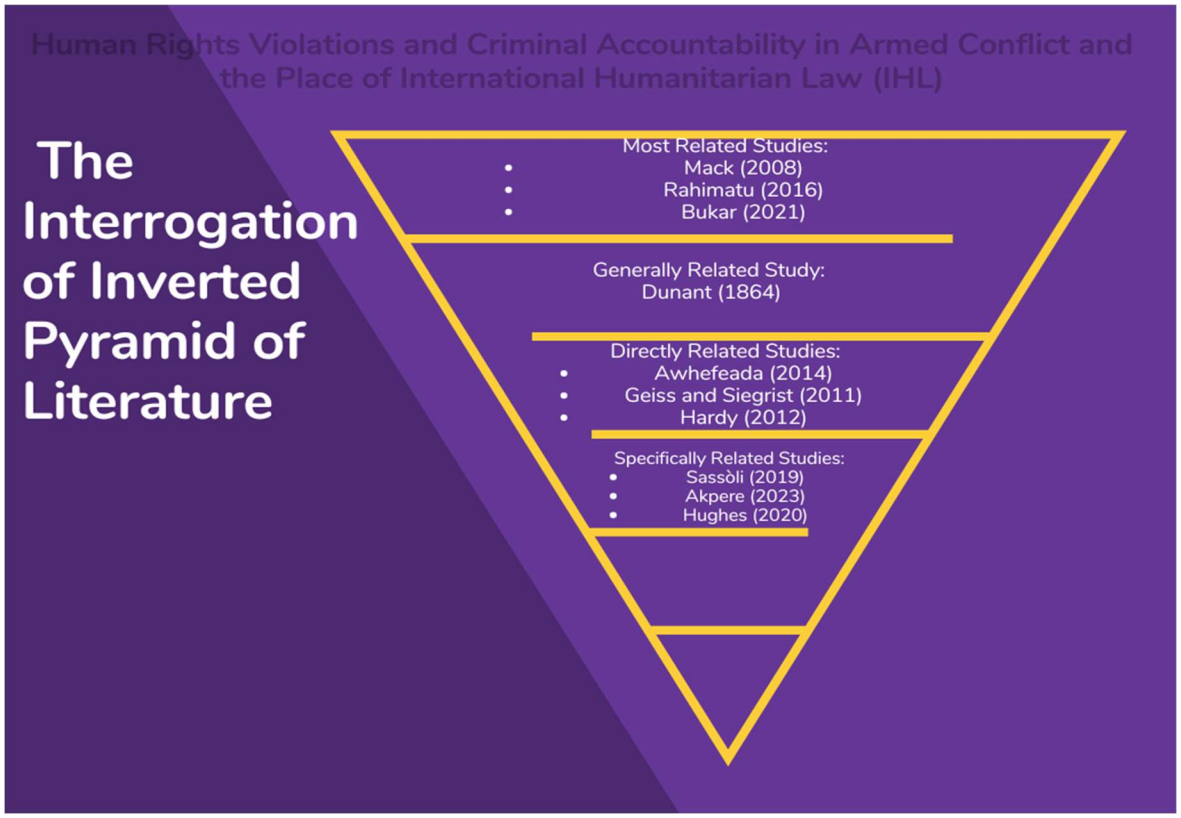
Akpere's (2023)[3] research titled *Business Operations in Armed Conflicts: An Analysis of the Criminal Responsibilities of Business Executives Operating in High-Risk Contexts* and the ongoing study share similarities in their focus on accountability during armed conflicts. Both studies explore how international law addresses criminal responsibility in situations involving serious violations of human rights and international humanitarian law (IHL). He analyzed the legal frameworks used to prosecute individuals, including corporate executives, for their roles in perpetuating or supporting unlawful activities during conflicts. Additionally, both studies address the complexities of modern warfare, including the involvement of non-state actors and various entities beyond traditional military forces. However, the studies differ in scope and focus. The research on business operations specifically centers on the complicity of business executives and the extent to which

[3] Akpere, E. S. (2023). Business Operations in Armed Conflicts: An Analysis of the Criminal Responsibilities of Business Executives Operating in High-Risk Contexts (Master's thesis, International Operational Law, Spring 2023).

international criminal law can hold individuals accountable for their roles in high-risk, conflict-prone areas.

Hardy (2012)[4] research titled share a common focus on the enforcement of international humanitarian law (IHL) and the accountability for violations. Both studies emphasize the need for effective legal frameworks to address breaches of IHL and explore the obligations of states to implement measures that ensure compliance with the law. However, the two studies differ in their specific approaches and geographic focus. Hardy's research concentrates on domestic implementation, using Uganda as a case study to examine the challenges and consequences of failing to establish an effective system for repressing IHL violations. It offers practical solutions for remedying the shortcomings in Uganda's legal framework, emphasizing the importance of going beyond the minimum obligations required under IHL. In contrast, the ongoing study takes a more global perspective, evaluating various armed conflicts and addressing both international and non-international scenarios.

This literature review interrogates the progression of IHL discourse from its foundational principles to contemporary critiques that highlight its limitations in modern, asymmetric conflicts. Through the interrogation of these studies, this paper identifies a crucial gap in existing scholarship: while much of IHL theory addresses conventional warfare, there is a pressing need to develop an adaptive humanitarian law model that accommodates the multi-dimensionality of modern conflicts. This study thus contributes to literature by proposing a reconceptualization of IHL that enhances its flexibility, applicability, and enforcement in diverse conflict scenarios, responding directly to the accountability gaps identified in previous research.



[4] Hardy, K. (2012). An analysis of the domestic implementation of the repression of violations of international humanitarian law (LLM dissertation, University of Pretoria). Faculty of Law.

Methodology

The methodology of the study involves a qualitative research approach, focusing on the analysis of legal documents, case law, and scholarly literature related to international humanitarian law. The research includes primary and secondary sources, such as international treaties (e.g., the Geneva Conventions), UN reports, and case law from international tribunals, are examined to understand the legal frameworks governing armed conflicts and the enforcement of human rights protections. Selected case studies of both international and non-international armed conflicts are analyzed to illustrate the application of IHL principles. These include historical conflicts, such as the wars in Yugoslavia and Rwanda, as well as more recent conflicts involving non-state actors, like the Boko Haram insurgency in Nigeria. The study compares different legal frameworks and enforcement mechanisms across various jurisdictions to identify gaps and inconsistencies in the application of IHL. The methodology aims to provide a comprehensive analysis of the effectiveness of IHL in addressing human rights violations during armed conflicts, while also proposing recommendations for strengthening legal frameworks.

Data Analysis and Discussion

The Historical Development and Principles of International Humanitarian Law

Early Codification and Key Milestones

The development of IHL can be traced back to ancient times, but its formal codification began in the 19th century. The adoption of the first Geneva Convention in 1864 marked a significant turning point, providing protection to wounded soldiers on the battlefield. This initial treaty was inspired by Henry Dunant's experiences and advocacy following the Battle of Solferino. The 1868 Declaration of Saint Petersburg further advanced IHL by prohibiting the use of certain weapons deemed to cause unnecessary suffering. The late 19th and early 20th centuries saw the adoption of the Hague Conventions of 1899 and 1907, which set out regulations for the conduct of hostilities and introduced principles such as military necessity and the prohibition of unnecessary suffering.

Impact of the World Wars and the 1949 Geneva Conventions

The First and Second World Wars demonstrated the inadequacy of existing legal protections, leading to widespread civilian suffering and atrocities. In response, the four Geneva Conventions of 1949 were adopted, expanding the scope of IHL significantly. These conventions included comprehensive protections for wounded and sick soldiers, shipwrecked members of armed forces at sea, prisoners of war, and civilians. The Geneva Conventions of 1949 remain a cornerstone of IHL, establishing the legal framework for protecting individuals who are not participating in hostilities. Their adoption signaled a commitment by the international community to regulate the conduct of war and mitigate its humanitarian impact.

Post-1949 Developments and the Additional Protocols of 1977

The 1977 Additional Protocols to the Geneva Conventions marked a significant evolution in IHL. Protocol I addressed international armed conflicts, while Protocol II was the first treaty focused solely on non-international armed conflicts (NIACs). These protocols introduced innovations such as enhanced protection for civilians and limitations on means and methods of warfare. The document highlights that the development of IHL after 1949 aimed to fill gaps in the legal framework, especially concerning the protection of civilians. The Additional Protocols were adopted amid changing warfare dynamics, including the prevalence of civil wars and asymmetric conflicts.

Contemporary Developments and Customary International Law

The evolution of IHL has continued through both treaty law and customary international law. Customary IHL plays a significant role in supplementing treaty-based rules, particularly where treaty law is limited, such as in non-international armed conflicts. The convergence between IHL for international and non-international conflicts has increased, driven by treaties like the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (1997) and the Convention on Cluster Munitions (2008). The development of IHL has also been shaped by international tribunals, such as the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY) and Rwanda (ICTR), whose jurisprudence has helped

clarify the rules and expand individual criminal responsibility for violations.

Principles of International Humanitarian Law

Distinction

One of the fundamental principles of IHL is the distinction between combatants and non-combatants, as well as between military objectives and civilian objects. This principle is intended to ensure that hostilities are directed only at legitimate military targets, thus minimizing harm to civilians.

Proportionality

The principle of proportionality prohibits attacks that would cause excessive harm to civilians or civilian property relative to the anticipated military advantage. This principle is central to limiting collateral damage during armed conflicts.

Military Necessity

Military necessity allows for the use of force in warfare but only to the extent necessary to achieve a legitimate military objective. It is balanced by the requirement to avoid unnecessary suffering.

Prevention of Unnecessary Suffering

IHL prohibits the use of weapons or methods of warfare that cause superfluous injury or unnecessary suffering. This is reflected in various treaties, such as the Declaration of Saint Petersburg and subsequent conventions restricting certain weapons.

The Effectiveness of Current Legal Frameworks for Holding Perpetrators Accountable for Human Rights Violations During Armed Conflicts

The effectiveness of current legal frameworks for holding perpetrators accountable for human rights violations during armed conflicts is mixed. While significant progress has been made in establishing legal instruments and institutions to prosecute war crimes and other serious violations, several challenges still limit the overall effectiveness of these frameworks.

Strengths of Current Legal Frameworks

International Legal Instruments

The Geneva Conventions and their Additional Protocols form the backbone of international humanitarian law (IHL) and establish a comprehensive set of rules for protecting civilians and combatants in armed conflicts. The Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC) further complements these frameworks by defining war crimes, crimes against humanity, and genocide, and empowering the ICC to prosecute individuals responsible for these crimes. The establishment of international ad hoc tribunals, such as the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY) and the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR), has demonstrated that legal mechanisms can effectively hold individuals accountable for large-scale human rights violations. These tribunals have contributed to the development of case law that clarifies the rules of IHL and the principles of individual criminal responsibility.

Increased Use of Universal Jurisdiction

Some countries have incorporated universal jurisdiction into their domestic laws, allowing them to prosecute individuals for certain war crimes regardless of where the crime occurred or the nationality of the perpetrators. This approach helps address impunity in cases where the perpetrators cannot be prosecuted in their home countries or in the country where the conflict took place.

Role of Customary International Law

Customary IHL has expanded the scope of legal accountability by supplementing treaty-based obligations, particularly in non-international armed conflicts where formal treaty law is less developed. It helps fill gaps in situations where treaties may not be applicable and provides a basis for prosecuting violations of IHL.

Limitations and Challenges

Inconsistent Enforcement

The enforcement of IHL remains uneven across different conflict scenarios. While international tribunals and the ICC have prosecuted some high-profile cases, many perpetrators escape justice due to a lack of political will, insufficient resources, or competing geopolitical interests. Countries involved in armed conflicts may be reluctant to prosecute their own military personnel or those of allied nations, limiting the reach of international justice mechanisms. Some examples include the current president of Russia, Vladimir Putin and potentially The current Prime Minister of Israel.

Limitations of the International Criminal Court (ICC)

The ICC faces significant constraints, such as limited jurisdiction, resource shortages, and political interference. It can only prosecute cases involving states that are party to the Rome Statute or referred by the United Nations Security Council. Some major powers, including the United States, Russia, and China, are not ICC members, which limits the court's ability to hold perpetrators accountable in conflicts involving these states.

Summary of Findings

Having conducted the review and analysis, the following findings were made.

The central thrust of this research problem lies in the tension between established principles of international humanitarian law (IHL) and the complex realities of modern asymmetric warfare. Traditional IHL, founded on conventions such as the Geneva Conventions, was built to regulate state-based conflicts, assuming clear distinctions between combatants and civilians and expecting compliance from all parties engaged in warfare. However, the findings of this study reveal critical limitations within this framework, particularly in its applicability to conflicts involving non-state actors and decentralized, guerrilla tactics.

Conceptually, this study identifies that IHL's traditional constructs of distinction, proportionality, and military necessity are increasingly ineffective when applied to asymmetric warfare. The principle of distinction, for instance, mandates that parties to a conflict differentiate between combatants and civilians, targeting only the former. Yet, non-state actors such as insurgents and terrorist groups frequently operate within civilian populations, making adherence to this principle challenging. Existing literature by scholars like Rahimatu (2016) and Geiss and Siegrist (2011) underscores this limitation by highlighting how non-state actors disregard civilian protections due to strategic advantage. While previous studies emphasize the struggle to enforce IHL in such contexts, this research extends that argument by showing the conceptual obsolescence of rigid frameworks in warfare where combatants no longer fit into traditional categories.

The findings also interrogate the theory of state responsibility, a cornerstone of IHL, by illustrating its limited relevance in holding non-state actors accountable. Traditional IHL places accountability within state structures, assuming that governments can and will regulate the behavior of their military forces. However, this assumption fails in conflicts where non-state actors exercise control without state oversight or adhere to decentralized structures that complicate direct accountability. Sassòli (2019) critiques this limitation, suggesting that non-state actors, including corporate entities and private military contractors, now play pivotal roles in conflicts and must therefore be encompassed within an IHL framework of accountability. This research aligns with Sassòli's critique, demonstrating through comparative analysis that non-state actors are increasingly central to modern warfare and suggesting that an IHL revision must integrate mechanisms that account for these actors.

From a theoretical standpoint, this study's findings contribute to a re-evaluation of the lex specialis principle within IHL, which holds that specific laws (such as those governing armed conflict) take precedence over general laws (such as human rights law) in conflict settings. Previous studies, including those by Bukar (2021) and Hardy (2012), have shown that the lex specialis principle creates jurisdictional challenges when conflicts blur the lines between civilian rights and military objectives, particularly in cases of terrorism and insurgency. This research pushes this analysis further by questioning the adequacy of lex specialis in asymmetric warfare, where military and civilian domains overlap.

The study's findings advocate for an "adaptive IHL" model, which proposes more flexible mechanisms that can address the accountability gaps identified in this research. By moving beyond the state-centric, conventional structures that dominate current IHL, this model suggests that incorporating adaptable, enforceable standards for both state and non-state actors is essential for ensuring civilian protections and effective enforcement. This concept differs from previous studies, which have largely suggested incremental reforms to the existing IHL framework without reconceptualizing its foundational assumptions.

Conclusion

The study concludes that there is a critical need for rethinking the theoretical and conceptual foundations of international humanitarian law (IHL) in light of modern conflict realities. While traditional IHL frameworks, based on the Geneva Conventions, provide clear guidelines for state-based warfare, their application fails in asymmetric conflicts that involve non-state actors, unconventional warfare tactics. The study's findings reveal that, unlike previous studies that primarily recommend incremental changes within the existing IHL framework, the current state of modern warfare demands a more transformative, adaptive approach to humanitarian law.

Conceptually, while past research, such as that by Mack (2008) and Rahimatu (2016), has highlighted the difficulties of enforcing IHL in conflicts involving non-state actors, this study goes further by arguing that IHL's current structure is not merely insufficient in enforcement but also conceptually outdated. Thus, the paper posits that an "adaptive IHL" framework, responsive to the realities of decentralized and hybrid combat environments, is necessary to uphold civilian protection effectively.

Theoretically, this study also critiques the lex specialis principle, which suggests that specific laws of armed conflict supersede general human rights laws during wartime. Although this principle has been foundational to IHL, the study demonstrates its limitations in contemporary warfare, where distinctions between military and civilian spaces are increasingly ambiguous. Previous studies, such as those by Bukar (2021) and Hardy (2012), have explored how jurisdictional conflicts arise when human rights law and IHL intersect. However, this research adds a new dimension by questioning the effectiveness of lex specialis itself, proposing that an adaptable framework could address jurisdictional challenges more effectively by tailoring protections to the fluid dynamics of modern warfare.

Essentially, this paper's findings extend beyond previous studies by advocating for a more adaptive and inclusive approach to IHL, one that encompasses both state and non-state actors within an accountability framework designed for the realities of 21st-century conflicts. The proposed model of adaptive IHL offers a transformative perspective, highlighting the importance of flexibility and responsiveness in humanitarian law to ensure effective protection for civilians amidst the evolving landscape of modern armed conflicts.

Recommendation

The following recommendations are proposed in accordance with the findings of the study to enhance the effectiveness of international humanitarian law (IHL) in addressing the complexities of modern warfare:

i. The study reveals that the current state-centered accountability structure of IHL is insufficient for handling violations by non-state actors, including terrorist organizations, insurgent groups, and private military contractors. IHL enforcement mechanisms should be expanded to include non-state actors by creating legally binding accountability frameworks that impose direct responsibilities and penalties for human rights violations in conflict zones. This approach would ensure that non-state actors are held accountable, thereby closing a critical gap in IHL enforcement.

ii. As the findings indicate, the principle of distinction between combatants and civilians is challenging to uphold in asymmetric conflicts. To address this, IHL should incorporate context-sensitive applications of the distinction principle, which would consider the complexities of combat environments where non-state actors may integrate with civilian populations. Enhanced training for military forces and clear guidelines for identifying legitimate targets in complex urban or civilian-dense settings would support more effective implementation of this principle.

iii. Given the limitations of the lex specialis principle in conflicts where military and civilian domains overlap, it is recommended that IHL re-evaluate the rigid application of lex specialis. This principle should be revised to allow for concurrent applications of human rights law and humanitarian law.

iv. It is recommended that these organizations be empowered with expanded mandates and resources to monitor compliance more effectively. This might include establishing independent monitoring bodies to oversee conflict zones and support enforcement actions without direct reliance on state cooperation, thereby reducing political interference.

v. With corporations playing increasingly significant roles in conflict economies, this study recommends that IHL include explicit protocols that define corporate responsibilities in armed conflicts. These protocols should hold corporations liable for directly or indirectly supporting conflict actors or perpetuating violence in high-risk zones. Such protocols would encourage responsible corporate behavior, addressing the current gap in IHL that overlooks the influence of corporate actors in modern warfare.

vi. To support IHL's adaptive implementation, it is essential to build capacity at local levels. This includes legal training for local judiciaries, law enforcement, and military personnel on context-specific IHL applications.

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THE FUTURE OF AFRICAN THEOLOGY IN THE GLOBAL CHRISTIAN CONFIGURATION: PROSPECTS AND CHALLENGES

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ABSTRACT
African theology is one of the emergent theologies that emanated from the stable of the Majority World nations, often generically referred to as Third World Theologies. They are emergent because they have a rather recent history compared to the older theological systems from the West. One characteristic feature of these theologies is that they are reactionary in nature. In the case of African theology, African theologians feel that Western missionaries denigrated and rubbished African traditional religions and culture, dubbing them to be primitive, satanic and archaic. In response, African theologians came up with a system of theology that uses African religion and cultural categories as its point of departure. The system is fraught with lots of biblical and theological pitfalls. African theology has proven to be syncretistic as it welds two dichotomous systems together. Therefore, the study is extending the existing premise of African theology by suggesting ways it can be more relevant to the Christian world. The study applied both the historical and phenomenological methodologies. It used the historical methodology to gather the historical evidence of the evolution of African theology and the phenomenological methodology to analyse it. The study found out that the anti-Western stance of African theology has alienated it from mainstream Christianity. The study has enriched the existing literature in the study area by positing that African theology should approach its theological system from a more biblio-centric premise so that it can remain true to historic Christianity. It can then argue its position from a pedestal of strength and avoid the accusation of being racially inclined.

Introduction

In the contemporary African theological equation, researches have shown that a lot of incongruence exists between normative Christian orthodox theology and the emergent African theology. Unlike the theologies and doctrinal positions of early African theologians such as, Tertullian, Cyprian of Carthage, Athanasius of Alexandria and Augustine of Hippo, which won universal validity among most Christian traditions, the African theology of today is operating from racial, cultural and traditional religious categories, which is difficult to accept elsewhere. There is no empirical

evidence to prove that in spite of the enormous contributions made by African theological colossi like Idowu, Mbiti, Bediako, Nyamiti, Tienou, and a host of others, African theology is gaining ground elsewhere. African theology is not winning converts to its fold either. It is only winning a few sympathetic voices from the West, but there is no assurance that it will win a universal validity either now or in the future.

Looking at the strides made by Christianity in the African continent in the last one hundred years, no one can gloss over African Christianity today. Walls (1976) has passionately argued that:

> *One of the most important events in the whole of Christian history has occurred in the lifetime of people who are not yet old. It has not yet reached the textbooks, and most Christians, including many of the best informed, do not know it has happened. It is simply nothing less than the shift in the centre of gravity of Christianity, so that the heartlands of the church are no longer in Europe, decreasingly in North America, but in Latin America, in certain parts of Asia, and in Africa.*

Going by Walls submission, no one can trifle with Christianity in the continent because it is now a key player in the global stage. Yet, African Christianity is not exerting the same kind of influence that early African theologians or Western Christianity did at the heights of their influence. African theologians need to present a front that shows that they are capable of leading the frontier of global Christianity. They have to be able to answer the following questions. What do they support? To what extent is what they are promoting relevant? In what ways do their roles contribute to the transformation of the many African church manifestations so that they themselves and others might live out the implications of the gospel? Jesus' famous remark, "By their fruit you shall know them," (Mt. 5:20) is the litmus test for a genuine Christianity. In view of the above, this paper has explored ways by which African theology can become a force to reckon with in Christendom.

Making African Theology Relevant

The manner in which individuals comprehend and react to life is invariably influenced by contextual factors and the particular social circumstances that mould their experiences. All theologies are culturally and socially situated. As Mushete (1994a) states: In that regard, African theology is similar to its Western counterpart in that it attempts to connect the Bible to the circumstances of the populace. However, this writer contends that before the text can be applied to a particular context or circumstance, a proper interpretation of the text must be established. This researcher disagrees with Van Eck (2021), who holds that the critical realistic honesty with which a hermeneutical endeavour is done is more significant than the accuracy of its interpretations or conclusions. Following Eck's advice will allow for a variety of subjective interpretations of the Bible, which is detrimental to biblical interpretation.

The argument that African theology should reject and split from all Western concepts has to be re-examined. African theology does not have to be distinct. Context is essential. A theology's worth is rarely accurately determined by how much it differs from other theologies. What makes a location valuable is the impact it has on the local population. African theology, according to Tienou (1990), must diverge from Western theology in order to produce a theology that is practical and will influence Africans in Africa as long as it is ideologically and culturally motivated. Instead of claiming that Africans live in a distinct environment, we need a theology that answers that reality (Punt, 2004).

Second, African theology should be biblical if it is to develop an African Christian theology. Because of God's revelation in the Bible, Christians believe in Him. Christians view Scripture as the primary source for theology and Christian living because they think that God speaks and has communicated with them via his Word. Given that most of what passes for African theology is insufficient due to its lack of a strong basis in Biblical exegesis, Parratt (1983) exhorts African theologians to take a true Biblical hermeneutics seriously. Some African theologians ignore the Bible entirely because they focus so much on traditional African religions as their source (2004).

Biblical theology is necessary for African theology to be Christian. The Bible describes God as the Creator of new life via the life (words and acts) of Jesus Christ, who is the Word. He is the one who can save us from sin and ourselves. Despite being mostly religious, Jesus' teachings did have social and political ramifications. Among other things, Jesus said that God is

accessible to all of his people, including social outcasts, the lame, the ill, the blind, and the filthy. Everyone was on an equal footing in his dominion. Both men and women were accepted. He worked on his open table. Everyone was welcome at his home. Everyone was treated equally and was welcome. He didn't leave anyone out. Joining this new family meant living the real life. It meant caring for other people, and leaving this new home meant protesting against whatever that was right.

African theology should be a theology of protest if it is to continue to be relevant to Africans in Africa (and, for that matter, the entire globe). On the basis of the Bible, it ought to protest against all that is anti-biblical in its surroundings and social life, including corruption, poverty, crime, neglect of the ill, nepotism, abuse of political and economic power, and mistreatment of women, to mention a few. However, it must first address people's spiritual needs.

The biblical concept of salvation is inherently based on the idea of liberty, and it would be incomplete without emancipation as a spiritual and sociopolitical concept (West, 1996). As the Bread of Life, the Light of the World, the Good Shepherd, the Living Word, the Truth, and the Life, Jesus is the only one who can provide complete redemption, according to Masamba ma Mpolo's (1983) historical-critical exegesis of the Gospel of John. According to Sawyerr, Mbiti, and Enang, cited in Onwu (1984), the biblical understanding of redemption emphasizes the necessity of being delivered not only from sin but also from illness, poverty, and malevolent powers.

Abogunrin (2000) concludes in a historical-critical and literary study on the Lucan view of Jesus Christ as the world's Saviour that while Luke does contain the idea of political liberation, the intention is a more comprehensive liberation that results in the complete well-being of God's people. According to Abogunrin (2000), Luke tells us that "the visible and invisible, the known and unknown, can no longer have any terror because Jesus the crucified risen Lord now fills the whole universe as Redeemer and Lord" for someone who has been made right with God through Jesus Christ.

To put it briefly, African theology must be contextual, scriptural, and able to meet the demands of the local populace if it is to have an impact on Africa for Africans. Only Jesus Christ is the Word of God, and only in Jesus Christ is new life possible. Therefore, life is the Word. Biblical interpretations have life-or-death implications, as West reminds us. A theology that is not grounded in the Bible, does not respond to the needs of the populace, and fails to provide individuals with a sense of purpose in their environment is a dead theology (West, 1996).

African Theology in the Global Theological Space

"History is the teacher of the nations," goes an old proverb, but "the nations never pay attention during the lesson" (Baur, 1994). Africa enjoys hearing about the roots of its people and the wisdom of the elders. However, there is a propensity to view the past as a timeless paradigm that should be applied to all situations. Church history informs us that we may learn from the faults of our ancestors since they occasionally did not accomplish things to the best of their abilities.

Responding to all forms of human poverty, including spiritual poverty and its repercussions, should be the goal of African theology in the modern global theological arena. In order to practice and fulfil the demands of the Good News of Jesus Christ, which aims at comprehensive deliverance, the church of the future must involve people in conversations about justice, peace, and sharing. The good news ought to be shared in a way that is relevant to the lives of those receiving it and should have an impact.

The adherence of African theology to the ancient gospel will be a crucial criterion for its destiny. Africa theology must undergo a rigorous exanimation of its express purpose in light of the multiplicity of churches. The task for African theology is to become the visible, accepted expression of the gospel in Africa, much alone the Christian world at large. Early African theologians were successful because their theologies were founded on strong biblical hermeneutics, which gained them acceptance among the majority of Christian traditions. Consequently, their theological stances formed the cornerstone of Western Christian philosophy.

It is unclear how and when African theology will impact Christianity worldwide if it hasn't been able to change the trajectory of Christianity inside its own domain. African theology

promotes ideas that are not fundamental to either modern day Africa or the Christian world at large. It is ineffective to insist on preserving African indigenous faiths and culture in order to sever ties with the Western church due to colonialism and the disparage of African heritage by former missionaries.

By reflecting the unity, we want in Africa, African theologians should be concerned with the church's seeming unity. In Africa, a conscious attempt to bring churches together has come to a halt. Because theological reflections in academic institutions have little to do with the ecumenical posture of the churches and even less with the visible unity of the church, ecumenically oriented theology as experienced and discussed in universities and theological institutions where African theologians hold sway has little influence on the formation of visible unity among the churches. This researcher argues that Africa's purported theological think tank should take a more constructive approach to these issues in order to benefit the church's future. In this manner, it will likewise affect and transform the church in other climes. Christians are members of the same body and whatever affects the body in one part of the world affects everyone everywhere.

The church of today contains the germ of the church of the future. In order for the future church to be a worthy tool in God's hands, it is very important that Christians take part in a process of rebuilding and change. The church has yet to acknowledge the detrimental problems that surround and exist within it throughout the majority of Africa. It has not yet gazed into the mirror of Christ; it is still oblivious to how it seems to the observer. Those who identify as members of the body of Christ will recognize our differences and turn to accept others once the church looks directly into the mirror. In this regard, African theologians may be quite influential.

Humans are not in charge of the church of Jesus Christ's future. The future Church's members must consciously work to carry out God's will in God's world. God desires for us to be happy. Jesus of Nazareth came to share the good news with everyone on the planet. The church of the future will be a Good News community.

African Theology and the Quest for Moral Rectitude

The field of moral rearmament is another area in which African theology may help build a strong future for both Africa and the world. Churches have broadened their moral horizons in recent years and are starting to address topics that lead politicians to accuse them of interfering in politics and urging them to stay in the pulpit. The entirety of life—personal and professional, political, economic, cultural, and spiritual is impacted by morality.

It is the church's divine responsibility to address issues that impact the welfare of all Africans. Many people have no voice because of extreme poverty and other types of marginalization. People in peril and misery physically go to the Church for safety, particularly when they are fleeing from firearms and arrows. The institutional Church has been forced to deal with the many problems plaguing society. The finest person to lead Africa's moral rehabilitation is the Church. As stated by Gana (1997):

> *The need to use the Church's tremendous moral and political power to advance justice is the issue it faces as the twenty-first century approaches. Direct conflict with the African ruling elites and their foreign supporters is necessary in the African environment.*

Impunity is one of the main ethical considerations in the pursuit and advancement of justice. In times of war or dictatorship, impunity is "the means by which persons accused of crimes against humanity escape being charged, tried, and punished for criminal acts committed with official sanction" (Harper, 1966). Amnesty legislation and presidential pardons for convicted offenders are other ways that impunity is attained. It can also be accomplished by purposefully not taking any action against criminals who are well positioned nationally and, as a result, somewhat above the law.

In Africa, impunity is becoming a more serious moral issue as the "long arm of the law" disproportionately targets the weak and impoverished while major offenders are allowed to intimidate and go free. However, the reality that impunity obstructs forgiveness and healing

may be much graver. According to a case study on impunity in Peru, political expediency may cause terms like forgiveness and reconciliation to be purposefully devalued.

> *The ruling class aims to change the definitions of forgiveness and reconciliation from their true meanings to one that is more convenient for them. To put it another way, reconciliation is predicated on the denial of reality, injustice for a large number of people, and impunity and power for a select few. Repentance and reparation on the side of the perpetrator are not necessary for forgiveness; only the act of generosity on the part of the aggrieved is. These elites may then accuse the impudent justice seekers of harming peace and democracy and pursuing petty self-interests by using the terms forgiveness and reconciliation for their own purposes (Harper, 1996).*

Whatever its form, state-instigated violence is a breach of society's well-being. Instead of fostering peace, it exacerbates suspicions, polarizes people and their leaders, and inflames public ire, frequently along ethnic lines. African theologians may either keep quiet and work together, possibly unintentionally, or they can use their writings and scholarly endeavors to support the church's use of its moral authority to combat impunity. African theologians are free to choose to use the third-party concept of adjudication, which is so common in African society. They must use the Golden Rule, which is a set of biblical moral precepts provided by Jesus that states, "Do to others as you would like them to do to you" (Mt. 7:12).

Regretfully, when it comes to morality inside its ranks, the church itself is in desperate need of moral renovation. Regarding the morals problem, people frequently doubt the church's authority to accuse others. They frequently question the Church's capacity to lead moral change when she fails to live out her teachings.

There is no denying the Church's flaws, according to Kinoti (1994), and her only choice is to be changed so that she is genuinely the Church of Jesus Christ, a dazzling Church that is holy and blameless and devoid of wrinkles, stains, and other imperfections (Ephesians 5:25-27). Like the rest of the world, contemporary African culture is struggling with a morally decaying world, and it is necessary to remind people of the many positive principles that the Gospel of Jesus Christ has enhanced. African theologians can guide the church in upholding all the fundamental moral requirements that are based on solid traditional African values and biblical principles (Kinoti, 1994).

African Theology and Socioeconomic Justice

Since there are resources and knowledge that may help mankind overcome poverty, inadequacy is not the true issue facing the modern world. The divide of humanity into the affluent and the poor is the true issue that leads to suffering, conflicts, and animosity between people. There are two tiers to this division. A small number of people in nation governments are extremely wealthy, and their money grants them considerable influence. However, the great majority of individuals experience poverty and hardship to varied degrees.

What does this signify for those who dedicate their life to the Church's service? In all of these, where does the church stand? Even if they disagree with the church and/or its goal, many individuals nonetheless believe that it is essential to socioeconomic liberation. This might be due to two factors. First, the church is elevated to the position of being able to advocate for economic justice due to its history as a socioeconomic justice agency. Over the past three centuries, Western nations have reached Olympian heights in terms of social fairness and economic progress, thanks in large part to the church. As a result, many continue to believe that the church is essential in this respect. The second justification appears more realistic.

People frequently believe that the church's role is restricted to defending and rescuing people from the grip of economic injustice and societal evils. They frequently overlook the truth that these advantages are only the inevitable result of the gospel of Jesus Christ's transformative power. In order for these other goods to be added to His disciples, Jesus warned them to first seek the kingdom of God (Mt. 6:33). In order to serve meals, people frequently urge the church to stop preaching the Bible (Acts 6:2, 4).

However, it is impossible to read the Old and New Testaments of the Bible and overlook the harsh cautions against religion that disregards

the suffering of others. Because they lacked the human components of justice and morality, Amos denounced vacuous religious rites (Amos 5:21-24). James also denounced the mindset of the wealthy who use sanctimonious rhetoric to avoid their tangible obligations to their brother Jas. 14–17. Because he did not care for poor Lazarus, the rich man was condemned (Lk. 16:19-28). Avers by Nyerere (1997):

> *The Church can only expect to lessen hate and spread its teaching of love to all people by doing these actions. Its love must manifest itself in deeds for the greater good and against evil. Because the Church is associating itself and Christianity with injustice if it tolerates long-standing abuses, the church can only help us grow by sharing our efforts, struggles, knowledge, persecution, and advancements. This entails participating in every way as "members one of another," as the Church cannot be considered a part of us if it does not share in our poverty and fight against injustice and poverty.*

The Church is urged in Nyerere's homily to acknowledge the need for social change and to take the initiative in bringing about it. The church has always been called upon to spearhead societal change. The Jewish people, starting with Jesus in the first century, had anticipated that he would be a political revolutionary who would liberate them from Roman rule. Because his kingdom is not of this world, Jesus rejected the endeavor (Jn. 18:36). The church should not ignore the social evils afflicting the world because of Christian compassion and the nature of its mission.

The world shouldn't confine the church's purpose to resolving socioeconomic disparities or equate it with it. That is already being done by regional and international organizations. Higher duties are expected of the church. It tackles the underlying causes of injustice, which are humanity's fallen nature and lead to poverty, oppression, discrimination, and exploitation. Man is prone to inhumane behavior because of his sinful nature. Any attempt to improve that sinful nature will backfire until it is addressed by unity with Christ.

It is utopian to expect social fairness without experiencing the transformation brought about by Jesus Christ. It is frequently said that the missionaries who spread the gospel neglected people's monetary and physical well-being by failing to encourage their converts to participate in politics. Considering the healthcare, education, and other social programs they introduced, this claim is completely untrue. They just decided that preserving lives should be their top goal. The African church needs to set priorities.

African Theology and the New World Order

The focus on culture in African theology has overshadowed other significant concerns facing the region and the wider world. Two issues have resulted from this. One is that the unwavering focus on traditional values prevents an honest evaluation of how seriously the educated African of today regards these beliefs. It has been assumed that even posing this question implies that these views are irrelevant. It is not necessary to be an anthropological to recognize that there is a significant conflict amongst African value systems today and that a straightforward return to the past may not be feasible or even desirable. Traditional values have undoubtedly proven incredibly resilient, and it's possible to claim that their influence is growing even in urban areas. Africans with education face a challenging world. Some have questioned if theologians of the first generation, such as Mbiti and Idowu, had irrational expectations for the effect of these ideals because they were brought up in a culture that was far more homogeneous than it is today. A more selective usage of indigenous religions has been urged by a more contemporary evaluation of African theology (Fashole-Luke, 1981).

The second issue is a result of the aforementioned situation. African theologians have almost always used industrialization and urbanization negatively. The African soul has been viewed as being harmed by the process of development. And the main reaction that Christians are expected to make has been viewed as, at least in part, a return or recovery of traditional values. This is odd as the Christian experience is meant to break free from previous attachments to influences and entanglements. According to Dyrness (1990), this raises a significant dilemma for African theologians: What constructive role is the church playing in modernization?

It appears that the impact of contemporary ideals on the African psyche has only been favourably discussed by secular thinkers and observers. According to Kwasi Wiredu (1980), Africa needs to adopt contemporary science. Additionally, in "The African Condition," Ali Mazrui (1980) lays out the agenda for Africa in the coming generation. In fact, he observes, "Ethnicity in Africa should have declined, the state system might have gotten stronger and more consolidated, ideology more sophisticated and enriched, and religion on the defensive when this century does indeed stagger out in sheer exhaustion" (Mazani, 1980). Since it never occurred, hindsight has shown Mazrui to be incorrect.

Therefore, it is still unclear where the African Christian theologians who would address these issues are. Have African theologians been worried that by speaking favorably about these issues, they might come seen as supporting colonial ideals? In the foreseeable future, these problems will pose a significant challenge to African theology. According to Parratt (1987), Desmond Tutu has acknowledged this requirement. He observes that:

> *Although African theology has been successful in restoring the African spirit, it has mostly fallen short in providing meaningful responses to the myriad of current issues facing modern-day Africa. Because so little has been presented that is relevant, such as regarding the theology of power in the face of the pandemic of coups and military dictatorship... [and] other equally important contemporary challenges, it has appeared to promote detachment from the busy work of life.*

He continues by pointing out that a more abrasive theology, like liberation theology, would be better suitable for these problems. Although they are mostly located in southern Africa, he reminds us that there are theologians in Africa who are interested in these issues (Parratt, 1987).

Theologians in that area have a tendency to criticize what we have dubbed African theology, viewing it as a diversion from the continent's actual problems. These theologians contend that topics that have been overlooked up to this point in the conversation ought to be included. According to Parratt (1978), who cited Manas Buthelezi, the issue with emphasizing the African worldview is that it frequently isolates Africans from their current reality. According to Torres (1978), "To be a person means to have power to be truly a person; it means power for liberation to be a person." This context is meaningless if Africans are not provided with the practical and spiritual means to be themselves. It can be deduced that African theologians are attempting to solve problems where none exists.

The majority world, particularly Africa, frequently disparages the secular endeavour, while the West worships it. According to Peter Berger, all of the theologies that originate from the Majority World's stable, with the significant exception of the Philippine one, can be classified as counter modernising ideologies. He and his associates attempt to characterize the cognitive aspect of the modernisation process in their seminal work, The Homeless Mind (1978). They note that certain ways of thinking—such as rationality and measurability, anonymous social ties and the division of private and public life, and the separability of means and ends—have emerged as a result of technologically driven economic progress (Berger, 1978).

This way of thinking has been ingrained in the Western worldview and is being transmitted to the Majority World along with technology and development programs. Although first embraced, this approach is now encountering growing scepticism and open resistance, particularly among the Majority World's educated elite. The return of nationalism and the reassertion of traditional values—what Berger refers to as counter-modernizing influences—are common forms of opposition (1978). African Christianity has had a complicated, if not contentious, role in all of them. In the first place, this contemporary awareness are spread by missionaries. Typically first or second generation Christians, the theologically reflective Christians have an uncomfortable relationship with both their missionary professors and the modernism they introduced (Dyrness, 1990).

The majority of these responses stem from a desire to restore indigenous values and, more crucially, a sense of dignity that will permit local expression. However, some of them fail to acknowledge the unavoidable impact that contemporary ideals have had on their own thought processes. "Most interactions between various cognitive systems result in mutual contamination," as Berger notes (Dyrness, 1990). Indeed, using contemporary concepts is

the only way to counter modernise! It is obvious that the global modernization of the economy, communication, transportation, and even fashion has become almost unstoppable. We are trapped with these contemporary packaging and cannot toss them out (Dyrness, 1990).

The present debt crisis and the ensuing structural changes demonstrate that, in some ways, the Majority World has even less alternatives in this area than the West. While their counterparts in the Majority World compete for the few available jobs or the coveted spots in secondary schools, young people in the West have the option of abandoning the rat race and traveling the world to discover who they are. They lack the time and resources to suggest alternate strategies for economic expansion, as do their elders.

Therefore, Western theology continues to explore the human and human freedom in creation, both in spite of and partly as a result of the rising secularism. Technology, economic growth, the environment, peace studies, and the media (particularly the difficulties of translating and understanding Scripture) have been its main areas of concentration. Both in the West and the Majority World, these issues are of utmost importance (9Dyrness, 1990).

The shortcoming of theological thinking in Africa is the absence of meaningful engagement with these challenges. Theologians from the Majority World have this shortcoming because they have persisted on upholding their principles, even at the price of their own "progress." African theologians are hesitant to accept the very human treasures that African youngsters are searching the globe for while hungering for. Maybe if African theologians can be silent long enough to listen, they will be able to communicate with their Western counterparts. When this occurs, it's possible that Western Christian theologians, who are aware that Africans have something to say, will once more be able to hear from them—this time not as students but as equals—who will have the opportunity to provide both critique and praise.

Conclusion

African theologians played an indispensible role in the formulation of sound biblical doctrines in the early centuries of the Christian church. They laid the foundation of Western Christian thought. Such African theologians as Tertullian, Cyprian of Carthage, Athanasius of Alexandria, and St. Augustine of Hippo have become theological colossi whose theological positions are acceptable to most Christian traditions. The situation has however changed today in African. Instead of occupying the centre stage in the global Christian configuration, it has retreated to a defensive position where African traditional religion and culture is used to project its position. For African theology to regain a prime of place as it did in the earlier centuries, it has to retrace its steps back to authentic biblical theology. The syncretistic posture it has adopted at present is not healthy for its mission in the world.

African theology must also be involved in combating moral decadence in Africa beginning from its own constituency. The church must live above board before it can point accusing fingers on others. Again, African theology should not limit its mission to soul winning alone. It should also be involved in fighting for socioeconomic justice. Jesus whom the church imitates was a social crusader against injustice and oppression. Finally, African theology should not attach itself solely to the apron string of African tradition and culture that no longer serves the need of the age. It must embrace the tools provided by science and technology to enhance its message delivery.

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INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL POLICE ORGANISATION STRATEGIES AND THE NATIONAL EFFORT IN THE FIGHT AGAINST CYBERCRIME IN NIGERIA

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ABSTRACT
Cybercrime has remained a serious challenge in Nigeria. Various efforts of government to fight the menace have failed to yield the desired result. Most academic writings in Nigeria place much emphasis on the causes and effects of cybercrime, while very little has been done on the Strategies to combat it. On this note, this study examines Interpol Strategies and the national efforts in the fight against Cybercrime in Nigeria. The study is mixed in nature which deals with review of previous literatures and documents. Questionnaires were administered on three hundred and seventy-five (375) respondents drawn from the International criminal Police Organisation (ICPO-Interpol) National Central Bureau (NCB) Abuja, Nigeria Police Force (NPF), Economic and Financial Crime Commission (EFCC) and the Department of State Services (DSS). Interview was conducted on fifteen (15) selected Participants. The study adopted the Space transition theory propounded by Jaishankar (2008) on the assumption that identity flexibility, dissociative anonymity and poor deterrence in Cyberspace motivate Cybercrime. The study found that some of the Interpol Strategies have positive complement on the national efforts in the fight against cybercrime in Nigeria. It therefore recommends increased investment on training and capacity building of Law enforcement agencies and Cyber security stakeholders in Nigeria as well as synergy and increased utilization of Interpol platforms/tools for winning the war against Cybercrime in Nigeria.

1.1 Introduction

The global advancement in Information Communication Technology (ICT) has brought significant relief to human activities due to the ease of interaction, exchange of products and services it presents. As good as the benefit seems, it has transformed the hitherto conventional crime landscape to a more coordinated and more sophisticated. The pattern of crime has now graduated from the purely conventional and physical to a more coordinated and virtual type where criminals may not necessarily know themselves nor meet in physical space but cooperate to carry out criminal activities through the cyberspace. Jaishanker (2008) examines the Space transition as an explanation about the nature of the behavior of persons who bring out their conforming and non-conforming behavior from physical space to cyberspace and vice versa. These indiscriminate migrations simplify activities of cybercriminals, which has attracted significant loss in terms of money, time, trust and reputation. According to Morgan & Calif (2020) the global loss to Cybercrime amounts to 3 Trillion US Dollars in 2015, 6 trillion US Dollars in 2021 and is projected to rise to 10.5 trillion US Dollars in 2025. Nigeria lost ₦127Billion annually to cyber attacks (Awhefeada & Bernice, 2021). This is in addition to the indiscriminate disruption of services, unwarranted hardship and panic, loss of trust, respect and reputations in events of cyber attacks. The outbreak of covid-19 pandemic helps to further accelerate the frequencies of cyber attacks and increase the vulnerabilities of internet users in Nigeria. A report by Kaspersky Protection Technologies indicates that over 9,000 people in Nigeria suffered malware attacks launched by cybercriminals in 2019 alone (Umeh, 2020). Between 2011 and 2020, fifteen billion records have been exposed or breached through the activities of Cybercriminals as opposed to 103 million records in the previous decade (Neethu, 2020). That is over 1400% increase in record exposure or breaches within a decade which is extremely high.

Interpol has been identified as a leading global organization that is charged with the prevention and fight against cybercrime across the globe. Akimbayo (2001), Timothy & Afia (2013), Neethu (2020) all attested to the great potentials of the Interpol in tackling trans-border crimes. In spite of the outstanding credentials presented for the Interpol, the fight against cybercrime in Nigeria remains a mirage as cases of Cybercrime continues to rise. Whereas the national law enforcement agencies and government fighting the menace seems to have been overwhelmed. Perpetrators of this crime seem to have found a safe haven and are taking advantage of the anonymity and boundless borders of the cyberspace and poor awareness of potential victims to perpetrate their nefarious activities.

Akuta, Ong'oa & Jones (2011) ranked Nigeria among the top-ten countries of high prevalence of cybercrime in the world and first in Sub-Sahara Africa ahead of Cameroon, Ghana and South Africa. Frank & Odunayo (2013) made an overview of the menace of Cybercrime in what they described as the Evolution of 'the new type of war' which they referred as the internet Cybercrime and predicted a destruction of greater magnitude than the first and second world war, if serious measures are not taken to nip it in the bud. In Nigeria there was a revolution in the telecom industry in the early 2000 without commensurate cyber security measures which has exposed internet users to unintended consequences. The implication of this development has been well articulated by Osho & Onoja (2015) when he argued that Conventional crimes can easier be curbed through physical measures involving detection, investigation, apprehension and prosecution, adopting traditional methods requiring the use of physical techniques. However, when these crimes become digitalized, severe complications arise, making the solutions cumbersome or in some cases, infeasible to find. Digitalization of crimes have presented law enforcement agencies with mutations in conventional crime, resulting from the technicalities involved, advancements in crime commission methods, increased anonymity, reduced possibility of successful criminal profiling amongst others. Hence, traditional methods of solving crimes have become unhelpful with the computerization of these crimes (Osho & Onoja, 2015). While cybercriminals exploit borderless playing fields in the digital world, law enforcement structures are limited to their national borders.

Interpol as an international body came into being in 1923 to facilitate police cooperation against emerging threats of transnational criminal activities. Its mandate includes providing investigative support, expertise and training to law enforcement operatives globally,

while focusing on three major areas of transnational crime: terrorism, cybercrime, and other organized crime (Buzan & Hansen, 2009). Interpol's mandate actually covers nearly all kinds of crime which include: crimes against humanity, child pornography, drug trafficking and production, political corruption, copyright infringement, and white-collar crime. It also facilitates cooperation among national law enforcement agencies via its Criminal databases and i247 communication network. For the purpose of this study Interpol mandate shall be limited to the fight against Cybercrime.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

The major challenge facing the international community in this era of globalization has been how to curb the menace of cybercrime. Some of the advancement recorded in information communication technology in the 21st century has almost erased the usual barriers placed by distance and time. People over the world are now more closely linked than ever. This has led to increase interaction among people which has equally attracted some negative implications. Cybercrime is one of the negative implications presented by this global ease of interactions. Criminal individuals, groups and organizations are taking advantage of the borderless Cyberspace to perpetrate their nefarious activities

According to Awhefeada & Bernice (2021) Nigeria state lost NGN127 billion to cyber attacks annually. This is in addition to disruption of services, lost of trust, reputation and respect among others in event of cyber attacks. While cybercriminals exploit the borderless cyberspace in the digital world and transit from one space to another with ease, law enforcement structures are been limited to their national borders base on legal and territorial barriers. Perpetrators of Cybercrime seem to have found a safe haven and are taking advantage of the anonymity and boundless borders of the cyberspace and poor awareness of potential victims to perpetrate their nefarious activities. Chioma Et'al. (2017), Adesina (2017), Olayemi (2018), Abiodun & Obioro (2020), Viko (2021) have all alluded to the increasing cases of cybercrime in Nigeria which has become worrisome. Most of the scholarly efforts have succeeded in identifying the causes and effects of cybercrime, whereas very little has been made to examine the strategies adopted or to be adopted in the fight against cybercrime in Nigeria. Whereas, the benefits of Interpol's wide membership, extraterritorial cooperation, jurisdiction and strategies may not have been felt as Cybercrime continues on the rise, hence the need to examine Interpol strategies vis-a-vis the national efforts in the fight against Cybercrime in Nigeria, with the aim of finding their points of convergence or otherwise, toward a more effective fight against Cybercrime in Nigeria.

1.3 Research Questions

i. What are the strategies adopted by Interpol in the fight against Cybercrime in Nigeria?

ii. How has the Strategies adopted by Interpol Complements the National efforts in the fight against Cybercrime in Nigeria?

1.4 Objectives of the Study

i. To ascertain the strategies adopted by Interpol in the fight against Cybercrime in Nigeria.

ii. To examine how the Strategies adopted by Interpol Complements the National efforts in the fight against Cybercrime in Nigeria.

1.5 Conceptual Clarification

1.5.1 International Criminal Police Organization (ICPO-Interpol)

The International Criminal Police Organization (ICPO-INTERPOL); more commonly known as INTERPOL, is an international organization that facilitates worldwide police cooperation and crime control. Founded in Vienna, Austria in 1923, it's Headquarters is located at Lyon, France with seven (7) regional Bureaus globally and a National Central Bureau in all 195 member states, making it the world largest police organization (Aminu, 2024a). Interpol's mandate actually covers nearly all kinds of crime which include: crimes against humanity, child pornography, drug trafficking and production, political corruption, copyright infringement, and Cybercrime. The agency also facilitates cooperation among national law enforcement agencies via criminal databases and communications networks. Contrary to

popular belief, Interpol is not a law enforcement agency. Moreover, Interpol runs an annual budget ranging around €113 million (US$131 million), most of which is realized from annual contributions by police forces in the existing 195 member states worldwide. It is also governed by a General Assembly that is composed of all member countries, which elects the Executive Committee and the President. However, Interpol vies to remain politically neutral in as its charter regulates it from carrying out any interventions or activities of a political, military, religious, or racial nature or involving itself in disputes over such matters (Interpol, 2023).

Interpol is not immune from some of the challenges facing law enforcement agencies across the globe. It has however remained the biggest umbrella that covers the police and other law enforcement agencies, ever in the history of mankind and it has assisted to promote the requisite technical innovations and cooperation amongst police and law enforcement agencies in the fight against trans-border crime, especially Cybercrime.

1.5.2 Cybercrime

One of the major challenges in the study of cybercrime is the absence of a perfect single definition, even among the law enforcement agencies charged with tackling it (Adesina, 2017). The complex nature of the term Cybercrime has made it very difficult to give it a precise definition. It is often complicated in getting a unique and consistent definition of Cybercrime. This is because of the diverse perspectives and orientation of the authors, which has resulted in multiplicity of terms and vocabularies such as computer crime, computer-related crime, digital crime, information technology crime, internet crime and virtual crime. The term cybercrime referred to crimes over networks, especially the internet but the term has increasingly become a general term or replacement for computer crime. Kamal, Chowdhury, Haque, Chowdhury and Islam (2017) articulated that Crimes which are committed in the cyber world are so complex in nature and its coverage is very wide and massive.

Cybercrime is a split word which can be better understood by understanding the split meaning of cyber and crime. Ordinarily, a crime remains an unlawful act that is punishable by a state or existing authority. Cybercrime are Crimes committed using the computer as either a tool or a targeted victim. It encompasses all illegal activities perpetrated by one or more people referred to as scammers, hackers, internet fraudsters, cyber citizens or 419ners, using the internet through the medium of networked computers, telephones and other information and communications technology (ICT) equipments (Halder & Jaishankar, 2019).

The rising cases of Cybercrime in Nigeria have been attributed to different factors. Christopher, (2014) gave an insight on most likely causes of cybercrime by arguing that cybercrime is more associated with young people in Nigeria who constitute a larger percentage of people seen perpetrating the act of internet fraud and cyber pornography etc. He identified Unemployment, Urbanization, Weak Implementation of Cyber Crime Laws and Ill-equipped law enforcement agencies, Quest for quick wealth and Negative role models as some of the causes of cybercrime in Nigeria.

In a bid to further understand cybercrime as different from other crime. McAfee Inc., (2014) gave an insight on some of the distinguishing features that defines cybercrime, which includes;

i. Digital technology: Cybercrimes inevitably involve some form of digital technology, ranging from a Smartphone or a desktop computer to encrypted data or secure networks.

ii. Borderless and global: Cybercrimes are not limited by any borders; they are transnational. An attacker may target an unknowing victim next-door, or in another continent.

iii. Lack of physical evidence: Unlike traditional crimes, cybercrimes do not involve the usual crime scene. The crime may even go undetected for a significant period.

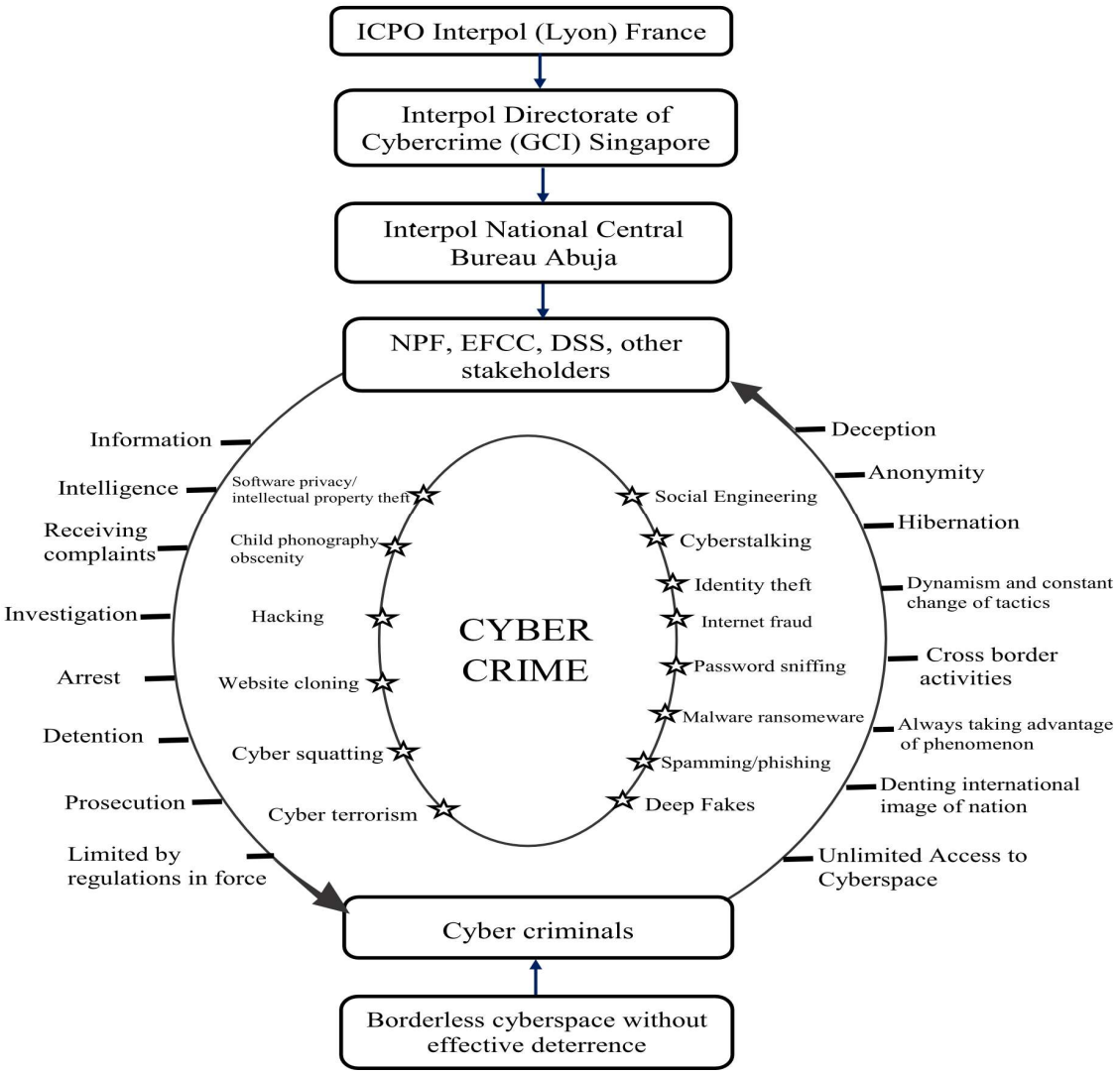
iv. Lesser effort and time: In general, cybercrimes can be committed at greater ease and at a faster pace than traditional crime, making it further challenging to curb its rise.

v. Vast negative impact: A one-time cybercrime can result in severe long-term damage to an extension section of the society, or even entire countries.

Therefore, based on the sophisticated nature of cybercrime, how easy and fast it could be committed, the difficulty in getting evidence and the negative consequences it attracts there is need to take urgent possible steps to checking the rising trend in Nigeria.

Fig1:1 Nigeria Cybercrime Circle

Fig.1;1: Cybercrime Cycle



Source: Author's Compilation July, 2023

From the details in fig. 1.1 above, it becomes clearer that the Nigeria cyberspace is characterized by different kinds of cybercrime which includes Hacking, website cloning, cyber stalking, identity theft, internet fraud among others; Nigeria Cyberspace is a borderless terrain that's lacks effective deterrence thereby giving chances for cybercrimes to grow. Cybercriminals has unlimited access to the cyberspace, they engage in cross border activities, always taking advantage of natural phenomenon such as covid-19 pandemic. Whereas its headquarters is in France, Interpol has a special Directorate of Cybercrime otherwise known as the global complex for Innovation located in Singapore, which maintains close contact with all Interpol National Central Bureau including NCB Abuja, which in turn relates with other law enforcement agencies like the Nigeria Police Force (NPF)

Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) The Department of State services (DSS) and other cyber security stakeholders in Nigeria for the purpose of the fight against Cybercrime. However, law enforcement agencies in Nigeria are making efforts through information and intelligence sharing, complaints received and arrests among others to deal with the menace, but with efforts limited by law and other factors, contrary to the unlimited access that cybercriminals enjoy.

1.5.3 Interpol Strategies and National efforts against Cybercrime in Nigeria

Cybercriminals are exploiting the speed, convenience and anonymity of the Internet to commit a diverse range of crimes that know no borders, either physical or virtual. These activities cause serious harm and pose very real threats to victims worldwide. In the past, cybercrime was committed mainly by individuals or small groups. Today, Interpol is seeing highly complex cybercriminal networks bringing together individuals from across the globe in real time to commit crimes on an unprecedented scale. The strategies adopted by the Interpol in dealing with the menace of cybercrime are not different from those used to fight other trans-border crimes.

Interpol, (2022) in its document titled 'Organized and emerging crime strategy' outlines plan to support its 195 member countries in tackling serious transnational crime in line with Interpol strategic framework to support member countries in reducing the impact of serious organized and emerging crime, thereby protecting societies and vulnerable communities for a safer world. The objectives are as follows; to reduce the impact of serious organized and emerging crime through enhanced law enforcement information exchange; To enrich actionable intelligence products by crosschecking information and analyzing data sets on serious organized and emerging threats; To support countries investigations and develop their abilities to prevent and respond to serious organized and emerging crime through operational support and capacity building; To optimize Interpol support to the global law enforcement community to tackle transnational, serious, organized and emerging crime through forging and fostering synergies, sharing resources and knowledge and strengthening partnership.

The above objectives combine to serve as benchmark for Interpol Strategies in dealing with Cybercrime which are; Training and Capacity Building, Intelligence Sharing, Joint Operations, Technology and Infrastructural Support and Use of Interpol Platforms/tools. These strategies were interrogated in line with the national efforts against cybercrime in Nigeria which shows some positive points of impact in the areas of Intelligence Sharing, Cyber Security Awareness/Education, Political Neutrality, Synergy and Utilization of Interpol Platforms/tools as well as funding for LEA

FGN (2021) in its document titled Nigeria National Cyber Security Policy and Strategy argued that National Cyber Security Strategy (NCSS) is the nation's readiness strategy to provide cohesive measures and strategic actions towards assuring security and protection of the country's presence in cyberspace, safeguarding critical information infrastructure, building and nurturing trusted cyber-community. It established that Nigeria has a robust national cyber security policy from where the national cyber security strategies were drawn. It identified Nigeria Cybercrime Working Group (NCWG) and the Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT) domiciled in the office of the National Security Adviser (NSA) as the major arms of the office in terms of coordination, operations and leadership in the fight against cybercrime in Nigeria.

Whether the office of the NSA have been able to provide the needed leadership to the security intelligence and law enforcement agencies in Nigeria remains a matter of debate. However, available data indicates serious inter-agency rivalry and clashes amongst the security, intelligence and law enforcement agencies in Nigeria. That is to say a lot still need to be done on Nigeria security management, bearing in mind the current threats of Cybercrime in Nigeria.

1.5.3 Summary of Literature Gap

Akimbayo (2001), Timothy & Afia (2013), Neethu (2020) were all united on the potentials of the Interpol in tackling trans-border crimes. In spite of the outstanding credentials presented for the Interpol in the fight against cybercrime in Nigeria, cases of Cybercrime continue to rise. Chioma E'tal. (2017), Adesina (2017), Olayemi (2018), Abiodun & Obioro (2020), Viko (2021) have all specifically averred to the increasing cases of cybercrime in Nigeria which has become worrisome. Most of the scholarly efforts have

succeeded in identifying the causes and effects of cybercrime, whereas very little has been done to examine strategies such as the Interpol strategies and the National effort in the fight against Cybercrime in Nigeria with a view to sharpen it for optimum results, which forms the thrust of this study.

1.6 Theoretical framework - Space Transition Theory

In an attempt to highlight the dichotomy between physical and cybercrime Yar, (2005) earlier argued that a gulf separates the virtual and the terrestrial types of crime. In a chapter publication titled 'Crimes of the Internet', Jaishankar, (2008) develops the "Space Transition Theory" as an explanation about the nature of the behavior of persons who bring about their conforming and non-conforming behavior in the physical space and cyberspace. Space transition involves the movement of persons from one space to another (e.g., from physical space to cyberspace and vice versa). Space transition theory argues that, people behave differently when they move from one space to another. The Space Transition theory is hinged on seven major assumptions amongst which are;

i. Persons, with repressed criminal behavior (in physical space) have a propensity to commit crime in cyberspace, which they would not otherwise commit in physical space due to their status and position.

ii. Identity Flexibility, dissociative anonymity and the lack of deterrence factors in cyberspace provides the offenders with the choice to commit cybercrime, etc.

The 'physical space' constitutes a 'moral community' governed by the regulated conduct of people by formal and informal mechanisms. This, in itself, serves to check the bogus manifestation of a deviant or criminal act. However, a repressed youth within the physical space may elect to migrate to the 'virtual space' for uninhibited and unregulated conduct or behavior, which allows dissociative anonymity. The space transition theory provides a better explanation of criminal behavior in the cyberspace and it's relevant to this study because it explains better the simplicity of the internet space and the challenges of anonymity and poor deterrence in the cyberspace which offered the offenders the choice of commit crime. It therefore suffices that space transition related strategies will be effective in the fight against cybercrime in Nigeria.

1.7 Research Methodology

This study adopted a descriptive research design, which involves Data collection, presentation and analysis on the topic, Interpol Strategies and the National efforts in the fight against Cybercrime in Nigeria. It relies on existing literatures and documents. Questionnaires were administered and In-depth Interviews were conducted to gather insights from officials of the Interpol NCB Abuja, personnel of the Cybercrime units of the Nigeria Police Force (NPF), Economic and financial crime commission (EFCC) and the Department of State Services (DSS) and other relevant Stakeholders. The choice of the selected law enforcement agencies is informed by their records of cybercrime investigation and prosecution in Nigeria. The study population is 15280 been the summation of number of personnel attached to their cybercrime units. Sample size of 400 was ascertained through the use of Krejcie and Morgan (1970) Sample size table.

Out of four hundred (400) questionnaires distributed, only three hundred and seventy-five (375) copies representing 93.5% were returned whereas 25 representing 6.5% were not returned.

Table: 1.1 Study Populations and Sample of Interpol NCB Abuja and Selected Law Enforcement Agencies in Nigeria.

Interpol NCB Abuja and selected Law enforcement Agencies in Nigeria.	Population of Personnel Attached to Cybercrime Department/Units	Sample of Personnel attached to Cybercrime Department/Units	Percentage of Population and Sample size
Interpol NCB Abuja	1601	39	10.47%
NPF	8498	209	55.61%
EFCC	3196	78	20.91%
DSS	1985	49	12.99%
Grand Total	15280	375	99.98 ≈ 100%

Source: Field Survey July, 2023

In addition to administration of questionnaires, this study equally adopted interview as tool. Though the participating organisation for the interview session is similar to that of questionnaire, it however expounded to capture other relevant segments of the research such as the office of the National Security Adviser (ONSA), because of its roles as the National Coordinating body of cybercrime and cyber security in Nigeria, as well as Suspects and Victims of Cybercrime. Purposive sampling techniques were used to select fifteen (15) interviewee's bases on their expertise and experience on the subject under investigation. The study employs descriptive statistics and Triangulation as method of data presentation and analysis.

1.8 Data Presentation and Analysis

Table: 1.2 Respondents views on the Strategies adopted by Interpol in the fight against Cybercrime in Nigeria?

The following are the major Strategies adopted by Interpol in the fight against Cybercrime in Nigeria.	SA Freq. (%)	A Freq. (%)	UD Freq. (%)	D Freq. (%)	SD Freq. (%)	Total ∑Freq (%)
Training and Capacity Building	189 (50.4%)	107 (28.5%)	14 (3.7%)	61 (16.3%)	4 (1.1%)	375 (100%)

Intelligence Sharing	288	65	6	4	12	375
	(78.8%)	(17.3%)	(1.6%)	(1.1%)	(3.2%)	(100%)
Joint Operations	312	42	4	11	6	375
	(83.2%)	(11.2%)	(1.1%)	(2.9%)	(1.6%)	(100%)
Technology and Infrastructural Support	317	31	19	7	1	375
	(84.5%)	(8.3%)	(5.1%)	(1.9%)	(0.3%)	(100%)
Use of Interpol Platforms/tools.	212	81	54	21	7	375
	(56.5%)	(21.6%)	(14.4%)	(5.6%)	(1.9%)	(100%)

Source: Field Survey July, 2023

From table 1.2 above, it could be deduced that intelligence sharing is one of the most significant strategies of Interpol in the fight against cybercrime in Nigeria as overwhelming majority of the 353 representing 96.1% of the respondents agreed while 16 representing 4.3% of the respondents disagree. Meanwhile 6 representing 1.6% of the respondents were Undecided. Joint Operation is considered another strong Strategy of the Interpol in its fight against cybercrime in Nigeria as 354 (94.4%) of the respondents Agreed while 17 representing 4.5% of the respondents Disagreed. However, 4 respondents representing 1.1% were Undecided. Another favourable strategy adopted by Interpol in the fight against cybercrime in Nigeria is Technology and Infrastructural Support on which 348 respondents representing 92.8% agreed while only 8 representing 2.2% of the respondents disagreed. However, 19 of the respondents representing 5.1% were Undecided.

Training and Capacity Building is the next most significant strategy adopted by the Interpol In the fight against cybercrime as 296 respondents representing 78.9% either agreed, while 65 representing 17.4% of the respondents disagreed. Meanwhile 14 representing 3.7% of the respondents were undecided. However, Use of Interpol Platforms and tools like i24/7, Notices, activities of the Bureau of Deportation and Extradition received the least, 293 respondents representing 78.1% either agreed, while 28 respondents representing 7.5% disagreed. However, 54 respondents representing 14.4% were undecided.

The implication of the above findings is that intelligence sharing, joint operation and Technology and Infrastructural Support are the most remarkable strategy adopted by the Interpol in the fight against cybercrime in Nigeria. This is corroborated by IP3 who asserted that;

> *The Nigerian Police Force usually exchanges confidential details and information regarding cybercrime with relevant international agencies such as Interpol, FBI. (IP3 July, 2023)*

IP2 noted that;

> *Interpol has been engaging in a lot of sensitization and public awareness such as short messages, videos, digital animation etc to educate members of the public and potential victims of cybercrime on preventive measures (IP2 July, 2023)*

It can be gleaned from the submissions of the respondents that Interpol is adopting different strategies to tackle cybercrime. Specifically, the strategies being used by the Interpol includes intelligence sharing, joint operations, public enlightenment about the antics of cyber

fraudsters, prosecuting cybercrime suspects, conducting surveillance in parts of Nigeria that are notorious for the activities of cybercriminals, using tracking and intercepting devices, and collaborating with relevant international law enforcement agencies in Nigeria.

This is in agreement with the view of IP5

> *On a serious note, Cybercrime is an international crime that cuts across borders and the Interpol over the years has been assisting the Police in terms of intelligence sharing, Crime awareness, Modus operandi and joint operations and the results has been very impressive. (IP5 July, 2023)*

Other Participants asserted;

> *Through actionable intelligence and swift response of the Interpol in collaboration with relevant or competent authorities, several Cybercriminals syndicate has been busted, investigated and perpetrators brought to face the wrath of the law. (IP8 July, 2023)*

> *Through intelligence shared from Interpol Platforms some of these money and assets traced to cybercriminals are usually seized and returned back to the victims or deposited with the Central Bank of Nigeria before victims are traced (IP7 July, 2023).*

The implication of the above assertions is that Interpol has done more in the fight against Cybercrime in Nigeria through, intelligence sharing, joint operations and Technology and Infrastructural Supports.

Table: 1.3 Respondents views on the ways Interpol Strategies has complements national efforts in the fight against Cybercrime in Nigeria.

The following are the ways Interpol Strategies has Complement National efforts in the fight against Cybercrime in Nigeria.	**SA** **Freq. (%)**	**A** **Freq. (%)**	**UD** **Freq. (%)**	**D** **Freq. (%)**	**SD** **Freq. (%)**	**Total** **∑Freq** (%)
Intelligence Sharing	336 (89.6%)	21 (5.6%)	10 (2.6%)	7 (1.9%)	1 (0.3%)	375 (100%)
Awareness/Education on Cyber Security	307 (81.8%)	43 (11.5%)	13 (3.5%)	9 (2.4%)	3 (0.8%)	375 (100%)
Political Neutrality	308 (82.1%)	30 (8.0%)	16 (4.3%)	17 (4.5%)	4 (1.1%)	375 (100%)
Synergy and Utilization of Interpol Platforms/tools	194 (51.7%)	110 (29.3%)	9 (2.4%)	61 (16.3%)	1 (0.3%)	375 (100%)

Funding for LEA	247 (65.9%)	67 (17.9%)	43 (11.5%)	8 (2.1%)	10 (2.6%)	375 (100%)

Source: Field Survey July, 2023

From table 1.3 above, Intelligence sharing has been identified as the most effective area Interpol strategies has complements national efforts in the fight against Cybercrime in Nigeria as overwhelming number of respondents, 357 representing 95.2% agreed while only 8 representing 2.2% of the respondents disagreed, meanwhile 10 of the respondents representing 2.6% were undecided. Cyber Security Awareness/Education is another important area Interpol has complemented the national efforts in fight against Cybercrime in Nigeria as significant number of respondents 350 representing 93.3% agreed while twelve (12) of the respondents representing 3.2% disagree, whereas Thirteen (13) representing 3.5% of the respondents were undecided. 338 respondents representing 90.1% agreed on Political Neutrality, while 21 representing 5.6% of the total respondents disagreed, whereas 16 representing 4.3% were undecided. Funding for Law Enforcement Agencies is another area the Interpol has complements national efforts in the fight against Cybercrime in Nigeria. 314 respondents which constitute 83.8% agreed while 18 representing 4.7% of the respondents disagreed meanwhile 43 representing 11.5% were undecided. Synergy and Utilization of Interpol Platforms and tools is another area Interpol complements national efforts in the fight against cybercrime in Nigeria that has receives least entry, as only 304 respondents representing 81% agreed while 62 representing 16.6% of the respondents disagreed with this assertion, meanwhile 9 representing 2.4% of the respondents were undecided.

The implication of the above is that while Interpol has complemented the national efforts in Fighting Cybercrime in Nigeria in the area of Intelligence Sharing, Cyber Security Awareness/Education and Political Neutrality which has received significant endorsement of 95.2%, 93.3% and 90.1% respectively. Meanwhile, Funding of LEA, Synergy and use of Interpol Platforms/tools remains behind with just 83% and 81%.

A key Participant had mentioned this:

> *Cyber threat actors continue to cause a lot of damage in Nigeria and outside; I believe a lot need to be done by Nigeria law enforcement agencies and stakeholders to fight the scourge of cybercrime in Nigeria through effective synergy of stakeholders and international collaboration a lot can be achieved. (IP9 July, 2023)*

Another participant asserted:

> *The fight against Cybercrime in Nigeria cannot be fully achieved without extending the Interpol i24/7 tools to other relevant law enforcement agencies, such as the Nigeria Customs Service (NCS), Independent Corrupt practices and other related offences commission (ICPC) National Agency for the Prohibition of Traffic in Persons (NAPTIP), Nigeria Correctional Services (NCS) same way it was extended to the Navy, EFCC, NDLEA and Immigration Service. Interpol is currently working on the MOU with these agencies for the extension of tools and services to their door steps (IP1 July, 2023)*

It can be understood from the above submissions of the two respondents that synergy among relevant law enforcement agencies in Nigeria as well as extension of the Interpol tools and services to other law enforcement agencies in Nigeria are very key in winning the war against cybercrime in Nigeria. This is in agreement with the position of Al-Raisi (2023) who argued that at the center of tackling Africa's Crime threats is the need for greater information sharing, the lifeblood of international police cooperation. He argued further that Africa member countries use of Interpol Databases has traditionally lagged behind that of other world regions. It is important to acknowledge that Interpol strategies has complement national efforts through the Nigeria Police Force National Cybercrime Center NPF-NCCC, as noted by IP6 follows;

Yes, through credible intelligence and training offered by Interpol there was a major breakthrough which led to the arrest of PPE supply scammers in Nigeria at the heat of covid-19 Pandemic. Secondly through Interpol the center recently trained 15 certified ethical hackers and 15 forensic analysts. I know a lot more of this training is needed but it will certainly complement the national efforts in the fight against cybercrime in Nigeria. (IP6 July, 2023)

The major indications of the findings above is that Intelligence Sharing, Cyber Security Awareness/Education as well as political neutrality are the most remarkable areas the Interpol has complement national efforts in the fight against cybercrime in Nigeria.

1.9 Summary of Findings

Findings on the strategies adopted by Interpol in the fight against cybercrime in Nigeria reveals that, Intelligence sharing, joint Operations, Technology and Infrastructural Support, recorded the highest positive entry of 96.1%, 94.4% and 92.8% respectively, while Training and Capacity Building, Use of Interpol Platforms and tools recorded the least positive entry of 78.9% and 78.1% each.

On how Interpol Strategies Complements National efforts in the fight against cybercrime in Nigeria, Intelligence Sharing, Cyber Security Awareness/Education and Political Neutrality recorded the highest positive entry of 95.2%, 93.3% 90.1% respectively, while Synergy and Utilization of the Interpol platforms/tools, Funding of Law enforcement agencies recorded the least positive entry of 83.8% and 81.0% each.

1.10 Conclusion

The study established that;

i. Intelligence sharing, joint operations, Technology and Infrastructural Supports constitute the most significant strategies adopted by Interpol in the fight against Cybercrime in Nigeria.

ii. Intelligence Sharing, Increase Cyber Security Awareness/Education and Political Neutrality are the major areas the Interpol Strategies complements the National efforts in the fight against Cybercrime in Nigeria.

1.11 Recommendation

To better complement the national effort in the Fight against Cybercrime in Nigeria, this study recommends the following;

i. Interpol through its National Central Bureau Abuja should increase focus and investment on training and capacity building of Law enforcement agencies and Cyber security stakeholders in Nigeria to enable it deal more effectively with the rising cases of Cybercrime. This could be achieved through increased funding and strategic budgeting in favour of training and capacity building of Law enforcement agencies and Cyber security stakeholders in Nigeria.

ii. That all law enforcement agencies and stakeholders involved in the fight against Cybercrime in Nigeria should strengthen synergy in order to maximize the Cyber security opportunities, platforms/tools offered by the Interpol for a more effective fight against Cybercrime in Nigeria. This could be achieved through inter-agency training of recruits and existing personnel of law enforcement agencies in Nigeria where they can be exposed to the rudiments of synergy and the fight against Cybercrime in Nigeria.

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ARE MONETARY AUTHORITIES' ACTIONS (MONEY SUPPLY) FACTORED INTO NIGERIA'S GOVERNMENT REVENUE STREAMS?

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ABSTRACT
Conducting a study on the long-run relationship between money supply and government revenue is crucial for informing monetary-fiscal policy decisions in Nigeria as a developing country. This study analyses the dynamic interaction between money supply (using broad M2) and government revenue, using an autoregressive distributive lag (ARDL) bounds test approach from 1980 to 2020. Results from the analyses show the existence of a long-run correlation between supply and government revenue, when money supply was made the explanatory variable. Using government revenue as the independent variable, there was no evidence of long-run relationship in the analyses. By implication, change in government revenue in the previous years have significantly affected money supply as an economic indicator in the Nigerian economy. In addition, the estimated coefficient of revenue indicates a positive and significant impact on money supply within the period of this study. Specifically, a one percent (1%) increases in revenue caused an approximately 0.96% increase in money supply at the long-run. The result equally revealed that, the signs of the short-run dynamic impact of the variable are significant. The ECM is estimated as 0.17% and -o.28%, which implies that government revenue and money supply have significant short-run effect on the Nigerian economy, as against some of the findings of the literature reviewed. The study recommends that, since the oil sector seems to be generating more revenue to stimulate productivity and encourage other sectors, policy makers should introduce measures to effectively monitor and regulate oil production to ensure transparency and accountability.

1.0 Introduction

One major economic policy priority of third world countries like Nigeria is to ensure general price stability, balance of payments equilibrium and sustainable growth in her gross domestic product (GDP). However, for these goals to be achieved, certain policy instruments are required. These instruments are monetary policy and fiscal policy. Both instruments are macro-economic targets monetary authorities employed in regulating the economy to achieve the above policies in a country. According to Omitogun and Ayinla (2007), a consensus exists in literature that an adequate and effective macro-economic policy is vital to a successful development process that aims at achieving high employment, price stability and balance of payments equilibrium. This suggests that the important roles of monetary growth and fiscal policy in stimulating both economic growth and development in a country cannot be accentuated.

The primary objective of monetary policy (money supply) is to manage inflation or unemployment and maintains exchange rates stability in a country, while fiscal policy (tax & revenue) aims at regulating the realization of revenue through tax and other means, and how such revenues are been spent in a country to achieve the basic macro- economic goals more precisely, both policies seek to achieve relative macro-economic stability in a country.

The central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) adopts monetary targeting policy frame work to maintain price stability. This is based on the believe that inflation is majorly a monetary phenomenon. The CBN utilizes a mix of market determined (also known as indirect) instruments to achieve its monetary objectives, using broad money supply (M_2) as its intermediate target, and monetary base as the operating target. These instruments are open market operation (OMO), liquidity ratio, reserve ratio, discount window and the Nigerian Treasury Bills (NTBs) (IMF country Report, 2020).

At a ten-year interval, except in 1970, government expenditure in Nigeria exceeded its revenues. For instance, 1980, government budget was about N 41.36b. In 1990, it rose to N61.149b, in the year 2000, it was N66.7b, and in 2010, it jumped to N3.93trillion, but skyrocketed to N10.8 trillion and N21.83trillion in the 2020 and 2023, respectively, (NBS, 2023). This deficit could be as a result of the federal government's claim in pursuing rapid economic development programmers as contained in various developments plans in Nigeria. Statistical evidences and economic indices show that government budget deficits over the years have not contributed meaningfully on the Nigerian economy. This is because fiscal deficit reduces aggregate savings, investment, national income and the gross domestic product, which distorts economic growth and development. Thus, the main objective of this study is to ascertain if money supply is part of government revenue, giving the fact that, over the years, the country has not recorded surplus budget except in 1970 as recorded by the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) (2023).

In addition, over the years, the relationship between monetary policy and fiscal policy has been a debate producing divergence results. While the monetarist led by Milton Friedman believe in fighting inflation by adjusting the amount of money in circulation, the keynesians focus on government spending to regulate the economy. Although, the keynesians acknowledged some value in monetarism's effect on GDP, but feel that monetary adjustment take too long to be felt (www. investopedia.com, 2024). A balanced relationship between money supply and government revenues would help policy makers to ascertain any source of imbalance in the Nigeria economy. In addition, the question is, should government reduce expenditures to stimulate economic growth through increase in tax, or reduce interest rates to stimulate expansionary money supply? Thus, the diverse opinions in literature regarding the efficacy of monetary policy in stimulating economic growth in Nigeria lives is a gap that needs to be filled, and which this study has done justice to.

2.0 Literature Review

Conceptual Clarification

Monetary Policy: This is a policy action taken by the apex bank of a country to control money supply, interest rate and inflation, to promote economic growth and development, and to ensure general stability in the economy. It uses certain tools to like; interest rate, open market operation, reserve requirement, quantitative easing, forward guidance, etc, to achieve its objectives. For instance, the Central Bank of Nigeria can use any of the above tools to achieve

expansionary or contractionary monetary policy in the economy, depending on its goal at the moment. Monetary policy has some targets like; inflation targeting, monetary aggregate targeting and Taylor rule.

Fiscal Policy: It involves the use of government spending and taxation to influence the overall level of economic activities in a country. It promotes economic growth and reduces unemployment, and it uses taxation, government spending and transfer payments to achieve macroeconomic goals in a country.

Theoretical Framework

The Monetarist Theory of Money Supply: This theory was developed by Milton Friedman, and it emphasis on the role of money in determining economic activities in a country. It believes that money supply is the primary driver of economic activities in a country. It questions the effectiveness of fiscal policy in determining economic activities in a country.

Keynesian Theory of Monetary Supply: This theory was developed by John Maynard Keynes, and it emphasis the role of money in an economy, especially during times of economic recession. It believes that money supply is endogenously supplied, and money supply is driven by liquidity preference. Importantly, it argues that money supply is insensitive to interest rate. It promotes government spending as a more efficacy tool in economic growth than the Monetarist side of money supply

Empirical Literature

Adenikinju and Olofin (2000) examined the rate of economic policy in the growth of manufacturing sectors among some African countries, using panel date spanning between 1976 to 1993. The study revealed that, government policies on foreign direct investment contributes significantly on manufacturing industries growth in Africa. Elijah, (2011) Investigated the correlation between public expenditure, private investment and agricultural output growth in Nigeria over a period of 1970 to 2008. The study employed bonds test and Autoregressive distribution lag (ARDL) modeling approach to analyze both the long run and short run impacts of public expenditure an agricultural output in Nigeria. The result of the E.C.M shows that increase in public expenditure has a positive relationship on the growth of agricultural output in Nigeria. The study recommended that policy makers should combine both the private and public investment in increasing agricultural productivity.

Folawewo and Osinubi (2006) investigated role of monetary policy in controlling inflation rate and exchange stability. The study was based on a rational expectation framework that incorporates the fiscal role of exchange rate. Quarterly data spanning over 1980 to 2010 was utilised. Results from the study indicated that the effects of monetary policy in enhancing the finance of government fiscal deficit affect both the rate of inflation and exchange rates resulting to volatility in their rates.

Olubusoya and Oyaromade (2008) investigated the reason for fluctuations in inflation rates in Nigeria between 2000 and 2007, using the ECM. The study showed that lagged consumer price index among other variables cause the dynamics of inflationary rate in Nigeria. The result indicated that output was insignificant but the lagged value of money supply was found to be negative and significant. In a similar study, Mohammad and Amirali (2010) did a study on the relationship between money supply and government revenues. The ARDL approach to co-integration was utilized and the result indicated that money supply and exchange rate risk have a significant effect on government revenue.

Udegbule C. Stanley (2023) examined the impact on monetary policy on the performance of deposit money banks in Nigeria between 1980 to 2020, using the ARDL model to ascertain the long-run relationship between money supply and some selected variables. Results of the study revealed a positive relationship between monetary policy rate and profit after tax, while money supply and non-performing loans indicated negative relationship. The study recommended that monetary policy authorities should review the monetary policy rate to a single digit, which is expected to accelerate savings and aggregate investment/national income.

Bohdalova (2018) Investigated money supply and government revenues between 1980 to 2017, using transition probability matrices and computed Markov chain models. The study found interesting implication for credit rating models when it considered macroeconomic performance as represented by the output gap. Findings from the study that credit situation

does not become stronger throughout years of the positive output gap, and vice versa. It recommends that government should increase money supply, but in doing so, attention should be paid on the trend of non-performing loans.

Syed et al (2010) Analysed the relationship between monetary policy and fiscal policy on the Nigerian economy. The study employed the ARDL approach to co-integration. Results from the analysis indicated a positive correlation between fiscal and monetary policy and significant on the economy. Monetary policy coefficient was greater than fiscal policy coefficient, which implies that monetary policy is more viable and concerned with economic growth than fiscal policy.

3.0 Methodology

This study made use of time series data spanning from 1990 to 2022. Variables for the study and government revenues and broad money supply (M2) secondarily obtained from the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) statistical bulletins, 2023.

3.1 Model Specification

MSP= F(REV)----------(1)

REV= F(MSP)----------(2)

The above model implies that, the correlation between total revenue money supply can run in vice versa, the Autoregressive Distribution Lag model shows the long run relationship and interactions between government revenue and money supply using ARDL co-integration test (also known as the bond test).

$$\Delta LMSP = \alpha_0+\beta_1 LMSP_{t-1}+\beta_2 LREV_{t-1}+\sum_{i-1}^{K}\delta i\Delta LMSP_{t-1}+\sum_{l-1}^{K}\delta_2\Delta LREV_{t-1}+\varepsilon_t \ldots\ldots 3$$

$$\Delta LREV = \Theta_0+\lambda_1 LREV_{t-1}+\lambda_2 LMSP_{t-1}+\sum_{i-1}^{K}\phi i\Delta LREV_{t-1}+\sum_{l-1}^{K}\phi_2\Delta LMSP_{t-1}+U_t \ldots 4$$

Where LMSP = Log of Money Supply

LREV = Log of Total Government Revenue

K = Lag length of the unrestricted error correction model

Δ = First difference operator

ε and U = White noise

equations (3) and (4) of the short-run and the long-run relationship were estimated as:

$$LMSP = \alpha_0+\beta_1 LMSP_{t-1}+\beta_2 LREV_{t-1}+\varepsilon_t \ldots\ldots\ldots 5$$

$$LREV = \Theta_0+\lambda_1 LREV_{t-1}+\lambda_2 LMSP_{t-1}+U_t \ldots\ldots\ldots 6$$

From the above, it will be difficult to restore equilibrium immediately because of the speed of adjustment and thus could be caused by the lags and adjustment process used to capture the dynamism in any of the factors influencing government revenue and money supply. This is why the ECM was used to capture the speed of adjustment. Thus, the model is expressed as;

$$\Delta LMSP = \alpha_0+\sum_{i-1}^{K}\delta i\Delta LMSP_{t-1}+\sum_{l-1}^{K}\delta_2\Delta LREV_{t-1}+\delta_3\varepsilon ct_{t-1}+\varepsilon_t \ldots\ldots 7$$

$$\Delta LREV = \Theta_0+\sum_{i-1}^{K}\phi i\Delta REV_{t-1}+\sum_{l-1}^{K}\phi_2\Delta LMSP_{t-1}+\emptyset_3\varepsilon ct_{t-1}\ U_t \ldots 8$$

Where: εct_{t-1} = Error Correction term lagged for a period

δ and ϕ = Coefficient for measuring speed of adjustment in eqns 7 and 8

4.0 Results

Table 1: DF=GLS and Ng-Perron Unit Root Test

Variables	Constant		Constant & Trend	
	DF-GLS	Ng-Perron (MZa)	DF-GLS	Ng-Perron (MZa)
	t-stat	t-stat	t-stat	t-stat
LMSP	0.006852	-1.03238	-1.724226	-5.38181
LREV	0.15576	0.34191	-2.346559	-8.70879
Critical Value test = 5% DF-GLS = -1.949319 NG-Perron = -8.10000			Critical Value test = 5% DF-GLS = -1.949319 NG-Perron = -8.10000	
*MacKinnon (1996) *Ng-Perron (2001, Table 1)			*Elliot-Rothenberg – Stock (1996, Table 1) *Ng-Perron (2001, Table 1)	

- Lag Length for DF-GLS test were based on the modified A/C

- Ng-Perron test were based on the modified A/C & AR spectral GLS detrended spectra.

Table 2: The ARDL Model Test

Equation 3				
F-Stat	95% Lower bound	95% upper bound	90% lower bound	90% upper bound
5.0530	5.2844	6.0484	4.2436	4.9520
Equation 4				
F-Stat	95% bound	95% bound	90% Bound	90% bound
1.7298	5.2844	6.0484	4.2436	4.9520

Source: Computed by the Author using E-view 10 in table 2, the computed F-stat of 5.0530, is greater than the upper bounds critical value of 4.9520 at the 10% significance level. The economic interpretation is that, money supply and government revenues are co-integrated. The F-stat of 1.7298 is lower than the lower bounds critical values and upper bounds critical values. By implication, the null hypothesis of no co-integration cannot be rejected. Therefore, we accept the hypothesis of no long-run relationship between money supply and government revenues.

Table 3: Results of Long-Run Relations (Eqn 5)

Regressor	Coeff.	Std Error	T-ration	Prob.
LREV	0.961 24	0.0375 98	25.56 63	0.000 *
C	1.270 9	0.5055 8	2.513 7	0.017 **

* signifies 1% level

** signifies 5% level

R-Squared: 0.98806 Durbin Watson Stat: 2.02722 Prob (f-stat) 0.000

Table 3 shows that the estimated coefficient of government revenue has a positive and significant impact on money supply. By implication, a 1% increase in government revenue leads to about 0.96% increase in money supply.

Table 4: Result of ARDL Short-Run Relationship (Eqn 7)

Regressor	Coeff.	Std Error	T-ration	Prob.
ΔLMSPI	0.23323	0.13070	1.7845	0.083
ΔLREV	0.16600	0.035581	4.6655	0.000
ECM (-1)	-0.17270	0.036608	-4.7175	0.000
R-Squared: 0.46062		Adjusted R-Squared: 0.41303		
Durbin WT Stat: 1.9519				
Prob (F-stat): 0.000				

From table 4, the coefficient of the short-run of government revenues on money supply is positive and significant. The ECM is -0.17 with a probability value of 0.000, indicating that the ECM is significant. By implication, a 17% discrepancy in the former year is adjusted for the current year.

Table 5: ARDL Estimates (Dependent Variable = LMSP)

Test Stat	LM Version	F Version
I: Serial Correlation	CHSQ(1) = 0.07824(790)	F(1,33) = 0.061620(.805)
II: Functional Form	CHSQ(1) = 1.1054(.293)	F(1,33) = 0.98870(.327)
III: Normality	CHSQ(2) = 0.42332(.809)	Not applicable
IV: Heteroscedasticity	CHSQ(1) = 0.7148E-3(.979)	F(1,36) = 0.6772E3(.979)

I = Lagrange multiplier test of residual serial correlation

II: = Ramsey's RESER test

III = Test of skewness and kurtosis

IV = Regression of squared residuals on squared values

Table 6: ARDL Estimates (Dependent Variable = LREV)

Test Stat	LM Version	F-Version
I: Serial Correlation	CHSQ(1) = 0.027296(.869)	F(1,33) = 0.023002(.880)
II: Functional Form	CHSQ(1) = 0.44647(.504)	F(1,33) = 0.38045(.542)
III: Normality	CHSQ(2) = 1.1961(.550)	Not applicable
IV: Heteroscedasticity	CHSQ(1) = 0.086729(.798)	F(1,36) = 0.082352(.776)

From table 5 and 6, the diagnostic tests are normal because there is no serial autocorrelation and the Ramsey's RESET test values are in order. The normality test indicated that the error term is perfectly distributed, therefore, there is no heteroskedasticity based on the squared residuals.

4.1 Discussion of Results

The results indicated that there is a co-integrating relationship between government revenue and money supply in the first functional form within the period of this study. In addition, government revenue has a positive and significant impact on money supply. This result is in tandem with the work of Adenikinju and Olofin (2000). In the second functional form, government revenue was the dependent variable and it showed no evidence of long run relationship between money supply and government revenues, and the result supports the works of Udegbule C.S (2023) and Bohdalova (2000). However, in the short-run, a relationship existed between the two functional forms. The result also showed that it was government revenue that drives money supply.

5.0 Summary and Recommendation

The study investigated the relationship between money supply and government revenues between 1990 to 2022. The study employed the Autoregressive Distributive Lag (ARDL) bounds test to co-integration to test the correlations between the two functional forms. Results from the study indicated that government revenue has an impact on money supply in Nigeria within the year of the study. From the results, the study recommends that policy makers should come-up with credible and viable policies that will help to regulate all the sources of government revenues in order t ensure transparency, since the sector has a positive impact on the economic development of the country.

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IMPACT OF FLOODING ON HUMAN SECURITY IN NORTHERN NIGERIA

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ABSTRACT
The study provides insights into how flooding exacerbates health issues and the direct and indirect effects on physical and food security in northern Nigeria through the increased prevalence of waterborne diseases such as cholera and malaria, displacement of people, leading to overcrowded and unsanitary living conditions in temporary shelters and the disruption of agricultural activities, resulting in food shortages and increased prices, undermining food security in the region. Relying on secondary sources of data collection and utilising content analysis, the study investigates the impact of flooding on health, physical and food security in Northern Nigeria, Using the Human Security Theory (HST) developed by Mahbub ul Haq and Amartya Sen in 1994 to emphasise the protection of individuals and communities from various threats, including environmental disasters like flooding. Findings revealed that flooding causes outbreaks of infectious diseases, inadequate sanitation, and making people vulnerable to infection, affecting mental, social, and physical health. It also causes internal displacement, homelessness, economic hardship, psychological violence, and flooding affects agricultural

productivity, destroying crops and farmland, which threatens food security. This study recommended that the Nigerian government overhaul emergency response services to ensure hygienic conditions, that people have access to clean water and sanitation, and that infectious diseases are prevented after flooding. Immediate assistance should be provided to displaced persons, including food, shelter, and healthcare, as well as to relocate affected communities to construct and maintain effective drainage systems to prevent flooding and engage local communities in flood risk management and adaptation measures. Land use planning and enforcement should be improved to mitigate flood risks. It should establish reliable early warning systems to alert communities of potential floods, promote water conservation and efficient irrigation practices, and encourage crop cultivation on soils with high water-holding capacity.

1.1 Introduction

Flooding is a pressing global issue threatening human security, particularly in vulnerable areas. Every year, millions of people are affected, with severe consequences in regions such as Asia, Europe, North America, and Africa. In Africa, over 5 million people have been impacted, especially in West and Central Africa, including Chad, Niger, Nigeria, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo (World Economic Forum [WEF] 2022).

Nigeria is among the worst-hit countries, with devastating floods affecting over 1.2 million people and causing widespread displacement and destruction (United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs [OCHA], 2024). The 2022 floods were especially severe, displacing 1.3 million people and causing 600 deaths. Heavy rains and poor urban planning have increased flood risks (WEF, 2022). Several states in Nigeria are to flooding, such as Adamawa, Bayelsa, Benue, Borno, Delta, Kogi, Kwara, Niger, River, Lagos and Sokoto states, and causes of Flooding vary from, Heavy rainfall, Poor urban planning, Climate change, Deforestation and land degradation. Inadequate flood control measures:

Annual flooding in Nigeria results from non-compliance with environmental guidelines and inadequate infrastructure. The 2022 floods were the worst in a decade, causing over 600 deaths and 1 million displacements. The collapse of the Lagdo Dam in Cameroon triggered catastrophic flooding in Borno State, while the 2024 floods severely affected Adamawa, Bauchi, Zamfara Sokoto, and Jigawa States, claiming several lives (Asadu, 2024; Shibayan, 2024).

Flooding in Northern Nigeria severely impacts food Security as millions are displaced, homes are destroyed, and farmlands are submerged, leading to acute food shortages and heightened food insecurity (Chemam, 2024). It has also impacted health security, causing overcrowded camps with limited access to clean water and sanitation to increase the risk of waterborne diseases like cholera and malaria (Goodyear, 2024). It has impacted physical security, causing the destruction of infrastructure, hindering access to essential services, and exacerbating health crises (United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund [UNICEF], 2022).

Flooding in 2024 has also severely affected Nigeria's northwestern states, including Borno, Bauchi, Sokoto, Zamfara, Kebbi and Jigawa. These states were among the hardest hit, significantly impacting communities and infrastructure. Farmland destruction in these regions has threatened food security, exacerbating malnutrition and economic challenges. (The National Emergency Management Agency [NEMA], 2024). Tens of thousands of hectares of farmland have been destroyed, jeopardising the upcoming harvest and deepening food insecurity amidst Nigeria’s ongoing inflation crisis (Cadre Harmonisé, 2024). In response, humanitarian organisations are working with state and national agencies to provide urgent assistance, including food,

shelter, clean water and protection for vulnerable groups (OCHA, 2024). Although the government has implemented emergency response plans and invested in infrastructure, the absence of long-term flood prevention strategies remains a critical issue (NEMA, 2023).

Flooding in Northern Nigeria has severely compromised food security, displacing millions, destroying homes, and submerging farmlands, leading to acute food shortages (Chemam, 2024). Additionally, health security has been threatened, as overcrowded camps and limited access to clean water and sanitation have created conditions conducive to outbreaks of waterborne diseases like cholera and malaria (Goodyear, 2024). Physical security has also been undermined due to the destruction of infrastructure, which has hindered access to essential services, worsening the health crisis (UNICEF, 2022).

Northern Nigeria's vulnerability to flooding is shaped by several factors, including its geographical, economic, and socio-political context. The region's proximity to major rivers and reliance on agriculture makes it susceptible to floods. Poverty, poor governance, and weak infrastructure further exacerbate the situation (Benson & Clay, 2018). Ongoing conflicts with groups like Boko Haram, Bandits, and farmers-herders conflict have added another layer of complexity, straining the region's ability to manage environmental disasters and resulting in a human security crisis (Bamidele, 2020).

The Nigerian government has implemented emergency relief programs and initiatives like the Great Green Wall to combat desertification in response to these challenges. However, the persistent nature of flooding calls for more integrated strategies that address environmental and human security dimensions (Federal Ministry of Environment, 2023). In Northern Nigeria, flooding has become a frequent and destructive occurrence that results in a large number of fatalities, displaced people, and destruction of livelihoods and infrastructure. This is becoming more frequent and intense due to several factors, including deforestation, climate change, and inadequate urban design. Beyond just causing immediate physical harm, these floods influence the region's human security, which includes food, health, and physical security, among other things.

There is an invested pyramid of literature on the impacts of flooding, such as Tawari-Fufeyin et al. (2015), Shokri et al. (2019), Olanrewaju (2018), Othman (2022) Kakinuma et al. (2020), Echendu (2020), Yigzaw and Abitew (2019), Idoko (2016) Pratiwi et al. (2020). However, to the researcher's knowledge, these studies are limited to the immediate physical impacts of flooding, which have explored government-led initiatives and have overlooked the impact of poor land use practices on flooding, such as deforestation and floodplain construction. To fill these gaps, this study will be guided by the following objectives:

i. Investigate how flooding affects health security in Northern Nigeria.

ii. Analyse the impact of flooding on physical security in Northern Nigeria.

iii. Examine how flooding affects food security in affected communities in Northern Nigeria.

2.1 Conceptual Clarification

2.1.1 Concept of Flooding

There are many meanings of flooding, most of which are associated with the unusual overflow of water in an area or place, causing devastating consequences for the health and physical and food security of the affected persons in the communities. According to the World Health Organization [WHO], 2024), floods are the most frequent type of natural disaster, which occur when an overflow of water submerges land that is usually dry. This supposes that flooding occurs across different world regions, majorly caused by heavy rainfall, poor urban planning, indiscriminate constructions on natural flood plains, and inadequate government planning. This definition is particularly relevant to Northern Nigeria, where flooding is primarily driven by heavy rainfall, often exacerbated by insufficient infrastructure to manage the excess water.

From a different angle, Glago (2020) stated that floods are like other disasters but do not qualify to be labelled 'disasters' by their happenstances. This definition is true; however, flooding becomes a disaster when it causes damage or adverse effects to human lives, livelihoods, and properties. By extension, this kind of flooding is probably the widest spread among the various disaster events in most countries. It causes the most health conditions, displacement, and deaths, such as the 2012

flooding in Nigeria and the 2024 flooding in Borno State. This explanation is especially true in Northern Nigeria, where Sokoto, Borno, and Adamawa are frequently impacted by heavy rainfall, leading to annual flooding. These regions are particularly vulnerable due to poor infrastructure and inadequate flood management systems (NEMA, 2023).

Adding to this perspective, the *Encyclopedia of Engineering Geology* (2016) defines flooding as a natural process when water rises and overflows its natural or artificial boundaries, submerging normally dry areas. The definition highlights that flooding often occurs along watercourses, where excess water cannot be contained within the riverbanks or levees, causing it to spread into surrounding areas. In Northern Nigeria, where rivers like the Sokoto, Adamawa, Kogi, Kwara, Niger, Hadejia, and Benue flow through densely populated areas, this phenomenon is common during the rainy season, with disastrous effects due to weak infrastructure and inadequate flood-prevention measures (Echendu, 2020).

Flooding could be adjudged to be more prevalent in northern Nigeria and other developing countries due to poor environmental management and insufficient infrastructure. To validate this assertion, Mfon et al. (2022) argue that weak institutional frameworks and poor enforcement of environmental regulations exacerbate flood risks in developing nations. In Nigeria, for instance, developers often build in flood-prone zones without proper consideration for floodplain management, leading to increased vulnerability. This lack of planning, inadequate funding for drainage systems and poor infrastructure maintenance further heightens the risk of flooding, particularly in northern region (Mfon et al., 2022). In this region, urban planning challenges are compounded by economic constraints, poor governance, and population growth, contributing to frequent floods during the rainy season.

This study, therefore, aligns with Mfon et al. (2022), as heavy rainfall in the region is particularly problematic because the infrastructure is often ill-equipped to handle large volumes of water. This is also in line with NEMA's 2023 report that floodwaters often overwhelm drainage systems during the rainy season, leading to widespread flooding. In places like Sokoto, Borno, and Adamawa, the situation is made worse by poorly maintained flood defences and drainage channels, displacing thousands of people and destroying farmlands and homes. In addition to the direct effects on human lives and livelihoods, the frequent flooding in these states exacerbates food insecurity by destroying crops and farmlands (Chemam, 2024).

2.1.2 Human Security

Human security originates from broader ideas about security, which can be understood through two primary philosophies: state-centric and human-centric approaches, also referred to as human security. According to Williams and McDonald (2018), the first philosophy views security as synonymous with the accumulation of power. From this perspective, security is treated as a commodity, wherein actors must possess certain things, such as property, money, weapons, armies, and territory, to be secure. In particular, power, especially military power, is seen as the route to security. The more power actors accumulate, the more secure they are believed to be.

The second philosophy emphasises emancipation-based security, focusing on justice and human rights provision. Adding acceptance to the human-centric approach, the *Human Development Report* (1994) explains human security in two aspects: first, safety from chronic threats such as hunger, disease, and repression, and second, protection from sudden and harmful disruptions in daily life, whether in homes, jobs, or communities. Such threats can exist at all levels of national income and development. The report highlights categories of human security as economic security, food security, health security, environmental security, personal security, community security, and political security.

The former United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan (2000) expanded on this, defining human security in its broadest sense, far beyond the absence of violent conflict. It encompasses human rights, good governance, access to education and health care, and ensuring that individuals have opportunities to fulfil their potential. In his view, human security is essential to reducing poverty, achieving economic growth, and preventing conflict. Annan emphasises that "freedom from want, freedom from fear, and the freedom of future generations to inherit a healthy natural environment" are the building blocks of both human and national security.

This study, therefore, aligns with the human security approach put forward by Williams and McDonald (2018), which is primarily the emancipation of the people in providing for their basic needs and taking available measures to protect them against hazards. The discussion on human security is crucial to understanding how flooding threatens human security in Northern Nigeria. Flooding not only causes the immediate loss of lives and property but also disrupts the livelihoods and well-being of the affected communities. The chronic and sudden disruptions caused by recurrent floods, particularly in northern Nigeria, are in consonance with the *Human Development Report*'s (1994) conceptualisation of human security threats. Flooding undermines food security by destroying farmlands and livelihoods, health security by spreading waterborne diseases, and physical security by causing loss of lives and property (NEMA, 2023).

2.2 Empirical Review

2.2.1 Flooding Affects Health Security in Northern Nigeria

Tawari-Fufeyin et al. (2015) investigated historic flooding in Nigeria's Niger Delta, focusing on Bayelsa and Delta communities. The methodology adopted was the examination of floodwater effects. The findings revealed that floodwaters were slightly acidic (pH 5.4-6.9) with high dissolved oxygen (3.9-6.9 mg/l), High levels of heavy metal Chromium, and physical and chemical parameters exceeded those in boreholes and river water, and the study indicates that the flooding caused the loss of houses, farmlands, livelihoods, and traditional grounds, as well as the destruction of herbs, vegetation, and wildlife and exposure to wild animals. The study recommended providing wholesome drinking water sources, enhancing emergency response services, implementing proper town planning with drainage systems, constructing additional dams, and fostering intergovernmental collaboration and knowledge sharing. The study is relevant, but its geographical focus differs from the current study, which investigates flooding's impact on human security in Northern Nigeria. This study will address the research gap with a region-specific study on flooding's impact in Northern Nigeria and updated information on flooding's effects on human security

Shokri et al. (2019) investigated the impact of floods on the health of the Iranian population. The study adopted Secondary data analysis using publications from 2000 to 2019. the key Findings revealed that Flooding displaces people, leading to inadequate sanitation, crowded shelters, and inaccessible healthcare. Flooding in Iran (March-April 2019) affected 31 provinces, 140 rivers, and southwestern Iran. Risk factors for infectious diseases after flooding include overcrowding, poor hygiene, and negligible sanitation. The study concluded that Flooding increases the incidence of infectious diseases and causes epidemics due to various risk factors. It further recommends the Provision of hygienic situations for people after natural disasters, including floods. The study is relevant to this study even though it was conducted in Iran; its findings resonate with the health security challenges faced by flood-affected areas in Northern Nigeria, particularly in Sokoto, Adamawa, Kogi and Borno states. Therefore, this study will assess the gaps by highlighting the need for region-specific research on flooding's impact on health security in Northern Nigeria and investigate the unique conditions and challenges.

Olanrewaju's (2018) study on the impacts of flood disasters in Nigeria and provides valuable insights into the health implications and management of such disasters. Through a mixed-methods approach, combining both quantitative and qualitative data, the study explored the effects of flood disasters on the people of Ajegunle. The study's findings revealed significant gaps in health reforms, particularly in the absence of coordinated institutional structures to respond to flood emergencies. Furthermore, the study identified diarrhoea outbreaks as the predominant waterborne disease associated with flood disasters. These findings underscore the need for effective disaster management planning and response strategies. The study recommended a holistic approach involving stakeholders' active participation, particularly in disaster management planning in the health sector. This recommendation is particularly relevant to this research work, which aims to investigate the impacts of flooding on human security in Northern Nigeria. Even though the study was conducted in Ajegunle, Lagos state, in 2019. This research aims to fill the knowledge gap by providing recent and context-specific insights into the impacts of flooding on human security in Northern Nigeria.

Othman (2022) investigated the mental, social, and health effects of flood disasters,

focusing on a major flood that hit most of the states in Malaysia towards the end of 2021. The study employed a quantitative approach, surveying 46 students directly affected by the disaster. Data analysis using SPSS revealed that flooding significantly affects students' mental, social, and health conditions, with physical exhaustion from cleaning and repairing homes being a notable consequence. The study recommended strong social support from relevant parties to manage and prevent the effects of natural disasters, which is particularly relevant. However, it is essential to note that the study was conducted in Malaysia, whereas this research focuses on the Nigerian context. Despite this geographical difference, Othman's (2022) findings on the mental, social, and health impacts of flooding are valuable. They can inform this study's investigation into the effects of flooding on human security in Nigeria.

2.2.2 Impact of Flooding on Physical Security in Northern Nigeria

Kakinuma et al. (2020) interrogated flood-induced population force-displacement worldwide. The study revealed that extreme weather events often lead to sudden and rapid population displacement, compromising human security. The researchers analysed flood exposure data by relaying global population data with modelled flooded areas. The findings indicated that African countries are highly vulnerable to floods, experiencing high displacement rates even at low to moderate flood exposure levels. The study emphasised that low-income countries, particularly in Africa, must develop adaptation measures to mitigate the risks associated with flooding. Furthermore, the researchers projected that extreme weather events will increase, substantially impacting population displacement and human security globally. While the study provides valuable insights into flood-induced displacement worldwide, this research focuses specifically on the impact of flooding on human security in Northern Nigeria. By narrowing down the scope to this region, this study aims to provide context-specific insights into the challenges faced by communities in Northern Nigeria and to identify effective strategies for mitigating the effects of flooding in this region.

Echendu (2020) studied the impact of flooding on Nigeria's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The research identified man-made factors as the primary causes of Nigeria's flooding problem, including inadequate drainage systems, unregulated urbanisation, poor waste management, weak law enforcement, and corruption. The study advocated for spatial planning as a suitable Flood Risk Management (FRM) strategy for Nigeria, emphasising the need for stakeholders to address the flooding issue and support Nigeria's progress toward achieving the United Nations (UN) 2030 SDGs. The study emphasized the crucial role of government and stakeholders in controlling flooding through infrastructure development. However, this study expands on Echendu's findings by exploring solutions beyond government intervention, exploring the possibilities for individuals and communities to also play a vital role in mitigating the impact of flooding on physical security. By examining the complex relationships between flooding, physical security, and community resilience, this study aims to provide a more comprehensive understanding of the flooding challenge in Nigeria.

Yigzaw and Abitew (2019) examined the causes and impact of internal displacement in Ethiopia using a qualitative research approach. Using a qualitative research approach, the study analysed secondary data from various sources, including international and national organisational reports, newspapers, and journal articles. The findings highlighted the severity of internal displacement in Ethiopia, resulting in significant human suffering and displacement. The study identified two primary factors contributing to internal displacement in Ethiopia: development-driven causes, resettlement and relocation policies, and poor governing capacity. The researchers also examined the far-reaching consequences of internal displacement, including disrupted social intimacy, economic hardship, homelessness, psychological violence, and even death. Furthermore, the study revealed that internal displacement leads to food insecurity, malnutrition, family breakdown, and the decline of social infrastructures. While Yigzaw and Abitew's (2019) study provides valuable insights into the impact of internal displacement on physical security in Ethiopia, it does not offer solutions to address this issue. This study aims to fill this knowledge gap by providing solutions to mitigate the effects of flooding on physical security. By building on Yigzaw and Abitew's findings, this research seeks to contribute to the development of effective strategies for addressing internal displacement and promoting physical security in vulnerable communities.

2.2.3 Impact of Flooding on Food Security in affected communities in Northern Nigeria

Idoko (2016) assessed the impact of flooding on food security among rural farmers in Dagiri Community, Abuja, Nigeria. The methodology adopted is a random sampling of 112 farmer households along River Usman with data analysis using descriptive statistics and confidence intervals (95% confidence level). The findings revealed that the Dagiri Community is vulnerable to flood disasters due to Land use planning violations, Population explosion, and Poor-quality construction materials. The study revealed that flooding causes the destruction of farmhouses, stored produce, and household properties, as well as crop and farmland loss, leading to food insecurity. The study concluded that Flooding devastates food security, agricultural productivity, and sustainable development in the Dagiri Community. The study recommended improving land use planning and enforcement, removing structures from river floodplains, encouraging farming and living close to rivers, intensifying environmental education and community participation, establishing community-based flood risk management initiatives, constructing drainage networks, and providing early warning systems and flood mitigation measures. The study is relevant to the Current Study, but its timeliness is limited. This 2024 study aims to bridge the knowledge gap by updating the findings with recent data, Focusing on Northern Nigeria's unique context, and providing insights into the current impact of flooding on food security. This study addresses the need for Up-to-date information on flooding's impact on food security, Context-specific research in Northern Nigeria, and a comprehensive analysis of flooding's effects on rural farmers.

Pratiwi et al. (2020) investigated the impact of floods and droughts on food security in Central Java, Indonesia. The study found that water-related disasters significantly affect agricultural areas and crop production, threatening food security. The study methodology is desk research using historical documents and reports and quantitative analysis with statistics and geographic information system tools. The Key Findings are that the 2014 flood event affected 94,306 hectares of paddy fields, the 2015 drought affected 82,324 hectares of paddy fields, and Pearson's correlation analysis showed a significant correlation between annual rainfall and drought impact ($r = -0.865$, $p = 0.058$). The study recommended establishing a small water reservoirs program, preparing temporary pump irrigation, providing agricultural insurance, conducting comprehensive climate change scenario assessments, improving data collection and reporting on disaster damage and losses in agriculture, promoting water conservation and efficient irrigation practices, Encouraging crop cultivation on soils with high water-holding capacity. The relevance to Northern Nigeria is that while the study provides valuable insights, its geographical focus on Central Java, Indonesia, limits its direct applicability to Northern Nigeria. However, the flooding experience on food security in Northern Nigeria is unique and requires context-specific research. This study aims to address the knowledge gap by investigating the impact of flooding on food security in Northern Nigeria, considering regional specifics and recent data.

3.1 Theoretical Framework

3.1.1 Human Security Theory

This theory was developed by Mahbub ul Haq and Amartya Sen in 1994 to emphasis the protection of individuals and communities from various threats, including environmental disasters like flooding. (UNDP, 1994). The theory emphasizes individual and community well-being, encompasses various security dimensions (economic, food, health, environmental, personal, community, and political) and recognizes the interconnectedness of human and environmental systems. The basic assumptions of human security are:

i. The theory prioritises individual well-being over state interests, recognising that security policies should focus on protecting people, not just territories (UNDP, 1994).

ii. The theory expands the definition of security beyond military threats to economic, environmental, food, health, personal, community, and political threats (Haq, 1996) and

iii. The Theory posits that development and security are interwoven and that poverty, inequality, and underdevelopment can exacerbate insecurity (Sen, 2000).

The Human Security Theory (HST) posits that true security involves protecting individuals and

communities from threats beyond military concerns. It emphasises that security encompasses various dimensions, including economic, food, health, environmental, personal, community, and political security (UNDP, 1994). This theory asserts that human development is deeply intertwined with security and that the well-being of individuals is crucial for the stability of nations. Environmental disasters, such as flooding, exemplify this connection, as they not only threaten the physical safety of individuals but also disrupt access to essential resources like food, water, health services, and economic opportunities (Sen, 2000).

3.1.2 Criticism of the Theory

Although widely influential, Human Security Theory has faced criticism for its vague definitions and broad scope. Some scholars argue that it lacks precise boundaries, making it difficult to implement effectively in policy or practice (Paris, 2001). Critics also note that the theory's focus on individual security over state sovereignty may undermine the state's role in maintaining order and managing security threats (Chandler, 2008).

3.1.3 Relevance of the Theory

The theory is particularly useful for examining the impact of flooding on human security in Northern Nigeria. By adopting this theory, the study examine how flooding disrupts not only the physical safety of individuals but also key aspects of their livelihood, such as food availability, health, and economic stability. For example, in Northern Nigeria, recurring floods have destroyed farmlands, leading to significant food shortages while also contributing to the spread of waterborne diseases like cholera and malaria due to poor sanitation conditions (WHO, 2019).

Moreover, the theory's emphasis on the interconnectedness of security dimensions aligns with the cascading effects of flooding on health, personal safety, and economic well-being in affected communities. This holistic approach helps illuminate Northern Nigeria's broader human security crisis, where environmental degradation, compounded by climate change, threatens food security and overall human survival (Echendu, 2020).

Methodology

This study will employ a **secondary data collection method**, utilising **content analysis** to investigate how flooding impacts various aspects of security in Northern Nigeria. Data will be sourced from relevant literature, such as academic journals, official government reports, media publications, and other reliable secondary sources. The content analysis will focus on **health security, physical and food security** in which sources will include reports and studies on waterborne diseases, access to clean water, the spread of infectious diseases, and the strain on healthcare systems in flood-affected communities, displacement, damage to infrastructure and how the resulting instability may exacerbate conflicts or criminal activities in flood-prone regions and agricultural disruption, loss of livestock, destruction of farmland, and its ripple effects on food availability, accessibility, and nutrition in the region.

5.1 Conclusion

This study has demonstrated the significant impact of flooding on human security in Northern Nigeria. The findings underscore the multifaceted nature of this challenge, affecting health, physical security, and food security.

Health Security: The study revealed that flooding can lead to outbreaks of infectious diseases, poor sanitation, and mental health issues. These findings are consistent with previous studies by Tawari-Fufeyin et al. (2015; Othman (2022), Olanrewaju (2018) and Shokri et al. (2019).

Physical Security: The research highlighted how flooding can cause displacement, homelessness, and economic hardship. Additionally, it can exacerbate existing social and political tensions, leading to violence and conflict. These findings align with the work of Echendu (2020), Kakinuma et al. (2020), and Yigzaw and Abitew (2019).

Food Security: The study showed that flooding can significantly impact agricultural productivity, leading to food shortages and malnutrition. Poor land use practices and unsustainable agricultural practices further exacerbate these challenges, as Idoko (2016) and Pratiwi et al. (2020) highlighted.

5.1 Recommendations

Based on the findings of this study, the following recommendations are proposed to mitigate the impact of flooding on human security in Northern Nigeria:

i. **Enhance Long-term Emergency Response:** The Nigerian government should overhaul emergency response services to provide hygienic conditions, clean water, and sanitation and involve workers in disaster management planning to prevent flood-related infectious diseases.

ii. **Support Displaced Persons and Prevent Future Flooding:** The Nigerian government should Provide immediate assistance (food, shelter, healthcare) to displaced persons, relocate affected communities and construct/maintain effective drainage systems, and engage local communities in flood risk management through risk assessments, mapping, and enforcing land use policies.

iii. **Improve Land Use Planning and Early Warning Systems:** The Nigerian government should enhance land use planning and enforcement to mitigate flood risks. It should also establish reliable early warning systems for potential floods, promote water conservation, efficient irrigation, and crop cultivation on suitable soils, and establish community-based flood risk management initiatives with training and equipment for an emergency response.

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EFFECT OF STUDENTS DISPOSITION ON THE CHOICE OF ACCOUNTING AS A SUBJECTS IN PRIVATE SECONDARY SCHOOLS IN CALABAR SOUTH LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA OF CROSS RIVER STATE, NIGERIA

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KEYWORDS
Students personal interest, students perceived competence, Students disposition, Choice, Accounting Subjects

ABSTRACT
This study adopted ex-post facto design to examine the effect of students' disposition on the choice of accounting as a subject in private secondary schools in Calabar South Local Government Area of Cross River State, Nigeria. It was guided by two research questions and two null hypotheses. A sample of sixty (60) SS2 Accounting students were selected from private secondary schools using the proportionate and simple random sampling techniques. One instrument titled "Students disposition and choice of accounting subjects Questionnaire (SDCASQ) was used for data collection. The reliability of the questionnaire established using Cronbach Alpha ranged from .85 to .90. The hypotheses were tested using Simple Linear Regression Analysis at .05 level of significance. The findings of the study revealed that students personal interest, students' perceived competence significantly influence the choice of accounting subjects in Calabar South of Cross River State, Nigeria . It was concluded that the choice of accounting subject depend on students personal interest and students' perceived competence . Based on the conclusion of the study, it was recommended that school administrators should develop educational workshops and mentorship programs that build students' competencies, interest in accounting that can help demystify the subject and enhance their confidence in their abilities.

Introduction

The choice of accounting as a subject among students is influenced by various factors, including personal disposition, which encompasses attitudes, interests, and motivations. Understanding these dispositions is crucial, as they can significantly impact students' academic paths and career aspirations. The importance of students' dispositions in their subject selection, particularly in fields like accounting require a specific skill set and mindset. A student's disposition can affect their approach to learning, subject selection, and engagement with academic material. It reflects their motivation, interests, and overall attitude toward education and personal growth.

The selection of accounting as a subject among students is significantly influenced by their dispositions, which encompass a range of attitudes, motivations, and beliefs. Disposition refers to the inherent qualities that shape how individuals approach learning and decision-making. Disposition is person's inherent qualities of mind and character, including their attitudes, beliefs, and tendencies toward certain behaviors or responses in specific situations (Ibok, Thomas, & Okri,2015). It encompasses how individuals typically think, feel, and act, influencing their choices and interactions with others (Ariani, Suherman, & Hidayati, 2021). Rahman and Zainuddin (2022) highlighted that a lack of understanding of the practical applications of accounting contributes to students' ambivalence. This disconnect between perception and reality further complicates students' decision-making processes.According to Rahman and Zainuddin (2022), misconceptions about the nature of accounting, combined with a lack of exposure to its practical applications, can further alienate students from the subject. Students' career aspirations, disposition significantly influence their decision to pursue accounting, as they often associate it with job stability and financial success**(**Ibok, .Meremikwu, & Umoh, 2020).

Despite the growing demand for accounting professionals in various sectors, many students exhibit ambivalence or reluctance in selecting accounting as a subject. Most of the students demonstrate a lack of interest or confidence in pursuing accounting, which raises significant concerns about the factors influencing their decisions. Understanding the nuances of students' dispositions becomes essential. This review aims to explore the factors influencing students' dispositions toward accounting and how these dispositions ultimately affect their decision-making processes regarding subject selection. In the context of accounting, students' dispositions can determine their interest in the subject, their perceived competence, and their ultimate choice to pursue it as a field of study.

Students' personal interest plays a pivotal role in their academic decision-making, particularly in selecting subjects like accounting. Personal interest encompasses the intrinsic motivation and enthusiasm that students have towards a subject, influencing their engagement and persistence in that field (Ntibi & Effiong,2021). When students possess a genuine interest in accounting, they are more likely to choose it as a major and excel in their studies. A study conducted by Mansor, Ismail, and Ahmad, (2018) to examined the relationship between students' interest in mathematics and their choice of accounting. The findings revealed that students who expressed a strong interest in mathematics were more likely to pursue accounting as a major. This correlation suggests that personal interest in quantitative subjects significantly influences students' decisions, as accounting heavily relies on mathematical proficiency. Alshammari, Alshammari, and Alshammari, (2020) examined various motivational factors, including personal interest, that affect students' choices in higher education and found that students with a genuine interest in financial concepts and business operations were more inclined to choose accounting. This study highlights the importance of fostering personal interest through engaging teaching methods and real-world applications of accounting principles. Rahman and Zainuddin (2022) investigated how personal interest aligns with career aspirations among students considering accounting and found that students who had a clear understanding of the career prospects in accounting and a personal interest in finance were more likely to choose accounting as their field of study. Research conducted by Ariani, Suherman, and Hidayati,(2021) on the role of extracurricular activities in shaping personal interest in accounting and found that students who participated in business clubs or accounting-related activities reported a higher level of interest in pursuing accounting as a subject. A study conducted by Othman, Zainuddin, and Rahman, (2023) who focused on students' perceptions of the relevance of accounting in their future careers and found that students who recognized the significance of

accounting in various industries were more likely to express a personal interest in the subject. Rahman and Zainuddin (2022) examined how personal interest aligns with students' career aspirations in accounting and found that students with a clear understanding of the opportunities in accounting and a genuine interest in finance were more likely to choose accounting as their major. This highlights the importance of promoting personal interest alongside career guidance. The influence of students' personal interests on their choice of accounting as a subject has garnered significant attention in recent years (Akpa, Anam & Agina,2024; Akah & Akpa,2021). Empirical studies have consistently demonstrated that personal interest plays a crucial role in shaping students' academic decisions, particularly in fields like accounting.

The choice of academic subjects, particularly in fields such as accounting, is significantly influenced by students' perceived competence. Perceived competence refers to an individual's belief in their ability to succeed in a particular domain, which plays a crucial role in shaping academic and career aspirations. Research indicates that students who feel confident in their skills, especially in quantitative areas, are more likely to select accounting as a major (Ibok, Ogar, Olofu, Joseph, Udobong, Etura, 2024). This relationship highlights the importance of self-efficacy and the role of educational environments in fostering a positive self-perception among students. A study conducted by Rahman and Zainuddin (2022) on the link between students' self-perceived competence and their study habits in accounting and found that students who believed they were competent in accounting were more likely to engage in effective study practices, which subsequently influenced their decision to choose accounting as a major. Alshammari, Alshammari, and Alshammari, (2021) examined how perceived competence in accounting-related skills influenced students' career intentions and found that students who felt competent in accounting concepts were more likely to express intentions to pursue accounting as a career. A study conducted by Bandura, Pastorelli, Barbaranelli, and Caprara, (2017) to explored the relationship between self-efficacy beliefs and students' choices in academic subjects and found that students who perceived themselves as competent in mathematical and analytical skills were more likely to choose accounting. This underscores the importance of self-perception in influencing academic decisions. A study conducted by Hembree (2018) to examined the impact of mathematics anxiety on students' perceived competence and their subsequent choices in subjects like accounting and found that high levels of math anxiety negatively affected students' self-perception of competence, leading to a lower likelihood of selecting accounting. Research conducted by Rienties, Gunter, and Nouri, (2020) to investigated the role of teacher support in shaping students' perceived competence in accounting and found that positive feedback and encouragement from teachers significantly enhanced students' self-perception of competence, which in turn influenced their decision to pursue accounting as a subject. Wang, Degol and Eccles, (2020) conducted a study on the relationship between perceived mathematical competence and students' choices to pursue accounting and found that students who felt confident in their math skills were significantly more likely to select accounting, emphasizing the importance of perceived competence in quantitative subjects. Usher and Pajares (2019) examined the role of self-efficacy beliefs in students' academic choices, specifically focusing on accounting and found that students who perceived themselves as competent in quantitative skills were more likely to choose accounting as a major.

Rahman and Zainuddin (2023) conducted a study to explored the relationship between students' self-perception of competence and their academic performance in accounting and found that students who perceived themselves as competent performed better academically and were more inclined to choose accounting as their field of study. Rienties, Gunter, and Nouri, (2021) investigated how teacher support influences students' perceived competence in accounting and found that students who received positive reinforcement and support from teachers reported higher levels of perceived competence, which positively affected their choice to pursue accounting.

Alshammari, Alshammari and Alshammari, (2022) examined the effect of perceived competence on students' engagement in accounting courses and found that students who believed they were competent in accounting were more engaged in their studies and more likely to choose accounting as a major. These empirical reviews illustrate the significant impact of students' perceived competence on their choice of accounting, emphasizing the need for educational interventions that enhance self-

efficacy and reduce anxiety to promote interest in accounting subjects

Statement of the Problem

The choice of accounting as a subject in private secondary schools is influenced by their dispositions, which include attitudes, motivations, and beliefs. Despite the role accounting plays in various fields and its value in enhancing students' financial literacy, there is a notable decline in students opting to study this subject.Many students perceive accounting as a challenging and tedious discipline, often linked to mathematical difficulties and a rigid career path. The lack of adequate career guidance and awareness about the diverse opportunities within the accounting field contributes to a misinformed perception of the subject's relevance. As a result, the overall effect of these dispositional factors on students' decisions highlights an urgent need for research to better understand the underlying reasons influencing their subject choices. This study aims to investigate how these disposition in term of students' personal interest, students' perceived competence influence the choose of accounting subjects in private secondary schools?.

Purpose of the Study

The purpose of this study is to investigate the Effect of students disposition on the choice of accounting as a subjects in private secondary schools in Calabar South Local Government Area of Cross River State, Nigeria. Specifically, the study seeks to;

i. The influence of students' personal interest on the choose of accounting subjects in private secondary schools

ii. The influence of students' perceived competence on the choose of accounting subjects in private secondary schools

Research Questions

i. The following questions guided this study:

ii. i).How does students' personal interest influence the choose of accounting subjects in private secondary schools?

iii. ii). How does students' perceived competence influence the choose of accounting subjects in private secondary schools?

Statement of Hypotheses

The following hypotheses were formulated for this study:

i. The is no significant influence of students' personal interest on the choose of accounting subjects in private secondary schools

ii. The is no significant influence of students' perceived competence on the choose of accounting subjects in private secondary schools

Methodology

The study area was Calabar South of Cross River State, Nigeria. The research design used for this stusdy was the ex-post factor design. The researchers used this design because the independent variables (such as students personal interest and perceived competence) and even dependent variable choice of choice of accounting subjects cannot be manipulated . The population for the study consists of all the SS2 students in private secondary schools in Calabar South Local Government Area of Cross River State, Nigeria. Multi stage sampling procedure was adopted for the study which consisted of proportionate and simple random sampling techniques. This technique was considered appropriate because every learner in all the private secondary schools had an equal chance of being selected for the study. To select the schools for the study, the researcher using the hat and draw techniques in selecting 16 private secondary schools out of 32 schools where all the thirty two (32) schools in the study areas were written on a piece of paper, squeezed and shuffled in a hat. The researcher closed his eyes and picked any one school from the hat without replacement until he picked 16 private schools representing 50.0% of the entire 32 schools in the study area.

From the 16 selected schools, the researchers again adopted the hat and draw method of sampling where "Yes" and "No" were written on pieces of paper and learners were asked to pick. The basket was shaken together with the paper balls and each pupil was asked to choose without

replacement. Those who picked the paper balls with "Yes" tags were given a copy of the questionnaire to fill. A sample of 60 SS 2 accounting students were selected out of the entire population in the study area. The instrument used for data collection was the questionnaire titled "students disposition and the choice of accounting as a subjects Questionnaire (SDCASQ)". The questionnaire contained two sections. Section A was designed to elicit information from respondents' demographic variables such as the name of the school, and gender while section B is an 32 items four points Likert type scale designed to measure the sub-variables of the study. Each item required the respondent to indicate the frequency of his or her various opinions under strongly agree, agree, disagree and strongly disagree. The two kinds of validation established for the instrument of the study were face and content validity. The face and content validity were established by using three (3) experts in Test, Measurement and Evaluation; two(2) business educators in the faculty of Education, University of Calabar. The expert certified that the instrument was face and content valid and could be used for the study. Reliability was established through Cronbach alpha reliability of the instrument (questionnaire), a trial testing was done using forty (40) SS2 students was carried out to examine the internal consistency which give reliability indices ranges from of .85 to .90 showed that the research instrument was reliable. The hypotheses formulated to guide the study were appropriately tested using Simple Linear Regression for the two hypotheses. All the hypotheses were tested at -05 level of significance.

Results

The result of the analysis is presented in the table one, & two. The hypotheses were tested at .05 significance level.

Hypothesis one**:** The is no significant influence of students' personal interest on the choose of accounting subjects in private secondary schools. The independent variable in this hypothesis is students' personal interest while the dependent variable is choose of accounting subjects in private secondary schools. To test this hypothesis, Simple Linear regression was used. The F-ratio test was used to test for the significance of the overall prediction model, while t-test was used to test for the significance of the contribution of the regression constant and coefficient (which represents the predictive power of the independent variable) in the prediction model. The mean and standard deviation of the variables were also computed as it is shown in Table 1.

TABLE 1: Simple Regression Analysis of the influence of students' personal interest on the choose of accounting subjects in Private secondary schools.

Variables	X	SD
Students personal interest	15.8167	2.6902
Choice of accounting subjects	34.7333	6.7369
R-value = .683		Adjusted R-squared = .457
R-squared = .466		Standard error = 5.23143

Source of variation	Sum of squares	Df	Mean square	F-value	R-value

Regression	1247.830	1	1247.830	50.615	.000[b]
Residual	1429.903	58	24.654		
Total	2677.733	59			

Predictor variable	Unstandardized coefficient		Std coeff	t-value	p-value
	B	Std.error			
Constant	61.772	3.854		16.027*	.000
Students' Interest	1.710	.240	.683	7.114*	.000

- Significant at .05 level. P< .05

The results in Table 1 show that the R-value of .683 was obtained which shows that are positive moderate relationship between students personal interest and choice of accounting subjects. This also resulting in an R-squared value and adjusted R-square value of .466 and ,457 respectively. This means that the variation in students personal interest accounted for about 46.6% of the total variation in students' choice of accounting subjects. The p-value (.000) associated with the computed F-value (50.615) was less than .05. As a result, the null hypothesis was rejected. This means that there is a significant influence of students' personal interest on the choose of accounting subjects in Private secondary schools, with both the regression constant (61.772) and coefficient (1.710) contributing significantly in the prediction model (t=16.027 & 7.114 respectively, p=.000 & .000 < .05).

Hypothesis two**:** The is no significant influence of students' perceived competence on the choose of accounting subjects in private secondary schools. The independent variable in this hypothesis is students' perceived competence while the dependent variable is choose of accounting subjects in private secondary schools. To test this hypothesis, Simple Linear regression was used. The F-ratio test was used to test for the significance of the overall prediction model, while t-test was used to test for the significance of the contribution of the regression constant and coefficient (which represents the predictive power of the independent variable) in the prediction model. The mean and standard deviation of the variables were also computed as it is shown in Table 2.

TABLE 1: Simple Regression Analysis of the influence of students' perceived competence on the choose of accounting subjects in Private secondary schools(N=60)..

Variables	X	SD
Students perceived competence	15.1833	3.6102
Choice of accounting subjects	34.7333	6.7369

R-value = .498	Adjusted R-squared = .235
R-squared = .248	Standard error = 5.89097

Source of variation	Sum of squares	Df	Mean square	F-value	R-value
Regression	664.930	1	664.930	19.160	.000[b]
Residual	2012.803	58	34.704		
Total	2677.733	59			

Predictor variable	Unstandardized coefficient		Std coeff	t-value	p-value
	B	Std.error			
Constant	48,852	3.314		14.741*	.000
Students' competence	.930	.212	.498	4.377*	.000

Significant at .05 level. P< .05

The results in Table 2 show that the R-value of .498 was obtained which shows that are positive low relationship between students perceived competence and choice of accounting subjects. This also resulting in an R-squared value and adjusted R-square value of .248 and .235 respectively. This means that the variation in students perceived competence accounted for about 23.5% of the total variation in students' choice of accounting subjects. The p-value (.000) associated with the computed F-value (19.160) was less than .05. As a result, the null hypothesis was rejected. This means that there is a significant influence of students' perceived competence on the choose of accounting subjects in Private secondary schools, with both the regression constant (48.852) and coefficient (.930) contributing significantly in the prediction model (t=14.741 & 4.577 respectively, p=.000 & .000 < .05).

Discussion

The result of the first hypothesis revealed the is a significant influence of students' personal interest on the choose of accounting subjects in private secondary schools. Students' personal interest plays a pivotal role in their academic decision-making, particularly in selecting subjects like accounting. The finding agreed with A study conducted by Mansor, Ismail, and Ahmad, (2018) who stated that personal interest in quantitative subjects significantly influences students' decisions, as accounting heavily relies on mathematical proficiency. The finding agreed with Alshammari, Alshammari, and Alshammari, (2020) who found that students with a genuine interest in financial concepts and business operations were more inclined to choose accounting. The finding agreed with Rahman and Zainuddin (2022) who investigated how

personal interest aligns with career aspirations samong students considering accounting and found that students who had a clear understanding of the career prospects in accounting and a personal interest in finance were more likely to choose accounting as their field of study. The finding agreed with the research conducted by Ariani, Suherman, and Hidayati,(2021) who found that students who participated in business clubs or accounting-related activities reported a higher level of interest in pursuing accounting as a subject. The finding is in line with the finding of Othman, Zainuddin, and Rahman, (2023), Rahman and Zainuddin (2022).

The result of the second hypothesis revealed the is a significant influence of students' perceived competence on the choose of accounting subjects in private secondary schools The choice of academic subjects, particularly in fields such as accounting, is significantly influenced by students' perceived competence. The finding agreed with a study conducted by Rahman and Zainuddin (2022) who and found that students who believed they were competent in accounting were more likely to engage in effective study practices, which subsequently influenced their decision to choose accounting as a major. The finding also agreed with Alshammari, Alshammari, and Alshammari, (2021) who found that students who felt competent in accounting concepts were more likely to express intentions to pursue accounting as a career. A study conducted by Bandura, Pastorelli, Barbaranelli, and Caprara, (2017) found that students who perceived themselves as competent in mathematical and analytical skills were more likely to choose accounting. The finding is in line with the finding of Hembree (2018), Rienties, Gunter, and Nouri, (2020).

The finding is in line with the finding of Wang., Degol, and Eccles, (2020) who conducted a study on the relationship between perceived mathematical competence and students' choices to pursue accounting and found that students who felt confident in their math skills were significantly more likely to select accounting, emphasizing the importance of perceived competence in quantitative subjects.The finding in consonance with Usher and Pajares (2019) who found that students who perceived themselves as competent in quantitative skills were more likely to choose accounting as a major.

The finding is in line with Rahman and Zainuddin (2023) who found that students who perceived themselves as competent performed better academically and were more inclined to choose accounting as their field of study. The finding agreed with the finding of Alshammari, Alshammari, and Alshammari, (2022) who found that students who believed they were competent in accounting were more engaged in their studies and more likely to choose accounting as a major.

Conclusion

The selection of accounting as a subject by students is significantly influenced by personal interest and perceived competence. These factors play a crucial role in shaping students' academic trajectories and ultimately their career choices. Personal interest fosters intrinsic motivation, enabling students to engage more deeply with the subject matter and persist through challenges. Conversely, perceived competence acts as a catalyst for confidence, encouraging students to pursue subjects they believe they can excel in. Thus, a synergy between these two elements is instrumental in determining students' inclination towards accounting. Based on the result of the finding, it was concluded that students' personal interest, students' perceived competence significantly influence the choice of accounting subject in private secondary schools in Calabar South of Cross River State, Nigeria

Recommendations

Based on the finding of the study, the following were recommended

i. School administrators should develop educational workshops and mentorship programs that build students' competencies, interest in accounting that can help demystify the subject and enhance their confidence in their abilities.

ii. All education stakeholder s should enable to Provide individualized career counseling that considers their disposition, students interest and strength , helping students align with the choices accounting subjects

iii. Management of schools should organize career fairs and workshops that expose

students to various accounting subjects, allowing them to explore options that may resonate with their self disposition.

iv. Educators and policymakers should help students develop a positive academic interest and competence , ultimately guiding them toward informed and fulfilling accounting choices.

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ACCOUNTING SERVICES AND THE FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE OF SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES IN CALABAR SOUTH LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA OF CROSS RIVER STATE, NIGERIA

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KEYWORDS
Accounting services, Booking keeping, financial reporting, financial performance, small and medium enterprise

ABSTRACT
This study adopted descriptive survey design to established the relationship between accounting services and the financial performance of small and medium enterprises in Calabar South Local Government Area of Cross River State, Nigeria. .It was guided by two research questions and two null hypotheses. A sample of 60 owners of small and medium enterprises in Calabar South Local Government Area of Cross River State, Nigeria were selected using the accidental sampling technique. .One instrument titled "Accounting Services and Financial performance Questionnaire (ASFPQ) was used for data collection. The reliability of the questionnaire, established using Cronbach Alpha which ranges from .85 to .90. The hypotheses were tested using Pearson Product Moment correlation Coefficient at .05 level of significance. The findings of the study revealed that book keeping, financial reporting individually significantly relate with the financial performance of small and medium enterprises in Calabar South Local Government Area of Cross River State, Nigeria it was concluded that effective financial performance of small and medium enterprises depend on proper bookkeeping and financial reporting. Based on the findings and conclusion of this study, it was recommended amongst others that SMEs should prioritize investing in professional accounting services to ensure accurate financial reporting, bookkeeping and compliance with regulations. This can lead to improved financial performance and strategic decision-making.

Introduction

Accounting services play a crucial role in the financial performance of small and medium enterprises (SMEs). These services encompass a range of activities, including bookkeeping, tax preparation, financial reporting, and advisory services. Effective accounting practices enable SMEs to manage their resources efficiently, comply with regulatory requirements, and make informed business decisions. (Masor, Ibok, & Etura, 2023). According to a report by Deloitte (2021), utilize professional accounting services tend to perform better financially compared to those that do not. SMEs with access to quality accounting services experience improved profitability and growth. The proper financial management through accounting can enhance the sustainability of SMEs, especially in competitive markets. The integration of accounting services is vital for the financial health of SMEs, contributing to their overall performance and sustainability in a dynamic economic environment (Ntibi, & Effiong, 2021). Despite the recognized importance of accounting services in enhancing the financial performance of small and medium enterprises (SMEs), many SMEs continue to face significant challenges in accessing and utilizing these services effectively. A substantial number of SMEs operate without professional accounting support, which can lead to poor financial management, inadequate financial reporting, and ultimately, diminished business performance. Lack of financial literacy among SME owners often results in underutilization of available accounting services (Ibok, Ogbebe, Alu, Joseph, Udobong, & Collins 2024).. Many SMEs do not prioritize accounting functions, viewing them as non-essential, which adversely affects their financial decision-making processes. Furthermore, the cost of professional accounting services is a barrier for many SMEs, particularly in developing economies.

This financial strain can prevent SMEs from investing in necessary accounting resources, leading to inefficient operations and reduced competitiveness. A report by PwC (2021) suggests that while some SMEs benefit from digital accounting tools, many remain unaware or unable to implement these technologies effectively, further hindering their financial performance. The problem poor financial performance of small and medium business enterprises lies in the inadequate access to and utilization of accounting services among SMEs, resulting in poor financial management practices that adversely affect their overall performance and sustainability. (Ibok, Meremikwu & Umoh, 2020).

Bookkeeping is crucial for SMEs as it provides a systematic way to record financial transactions, which is essential for financial health and decision-making. Accurate bookkeeping enables SMEs to track income and expenses, manage cash flow, and prepare for tax obligations. It is foundational for effective financial performance. Mokhtar et al. (2018) emphasized that proper bookkeeping practices ensure that financial statements reflect the true financial position of SMEs, which is crucial for stakeholders' decision-making. A study by Akinyomi and Olatunji (2015) found that SMEs with robust bookkeeping systems produce more reliable financial reports. This reliability positively influences financial performance, as stakeholders can make informed decisions based on accurate data. According to Ibrahim et al. (2022), SMEs that maintain thorough bookkeeping are better positioned to prepare comprehensive financial reports. Also this practices lead to improved strategic planning and better financial outcomes. Abdullah and Alharbi (2020) found that inadequate bookkeeping often results in poor financial reporting, which can mislead stakeholders and negatively impact financial performance. Osei and Oduro (2021) found that SMEs using accounting software could generate timely and accurate financial reports, leading to better financial performance. Nwogugu (2023) found that SMEs investing in bookkeeping education reported better financial performance due to enhanced accuracy and transparency in financial statements. A comparative study by Khan et al. (2022) showed that SMEs with systematic bookkeeping practices had more accurate financial reports, which correlated with higher profitability and growth rates compared to those without such practices. Effective bookkeeping is essential for the financial performance of SMEs. The empirical evidence suggests that SMEs that prioritize proper bookkeeping practices and leverage technology tend to perform better financially (Ebek, Ibok, Ntibi, John, & Udobong, 2023). However, challenges such as resource constraints and a lack of knowledge need to be addressed to enhance the financial health of SMEs.

Financial reporting provides critical information that helps SMEs make informed decisions, manage resources effectively, and

attract investors. A study by Abdullah et al. (2015) highlights that transparent financial reporting significantly enhances the credibility of SMEs, leading to improved access to financing and better financial performance. According to Khan and Ali (2016), effective financial reporting enables SMEs to make strategic decisions that positively impact their performance. The study found that SMEs with structured financial reporting systems showed higher profitability and operational efficiency.

Mokhtar and Taha (2018) identified challenges SMEs face in financial reporting, such as lack of expertise and resources. These challenges can hinder the potential benefits of financial reporting on performance. A study by Omar and Ahmad (2017) examined various financial performance metrics and concluded that accurate financial reporting is directly correlated with profitability, liquidity, and solvency ratios of SMEs. Nwogugu (2020) found that SMEs adopting digital financial reporting tools experienced significant improvements in their financial performance due to enhanced accuracy and timeliness of financial information. A systematic review by Zhang et al. (2021) examined the global landscape of financial reporting practices among SMEs and their impact on performance. The findings suggest that SMEs that adhere to international financial reporting standards tend to perform better financially compared to those that do not. The empirical evidence indicates a strong relationship between financial reporting and the financial performance of SMEs. Improved financial reporting practices lead to better decision-making, enhanced access to finance, and overall improved performance metrics. However, challenges remain, particularly regarding the resources and expertise needed to implement effective financial reporting systems.

In Cross River State, due to the prevalence of unemployment and poverty, small and medium enterprise contribute to development of the State Economy by promoting competition or creating jobs, and providing new goods and services (Juma & Said, 2019). However, in-spite of it importance to state economic , most small and medium enterprise business owners find it difficult to identify business opportunity gaps, conceptualize the business for the enterprise plan, source for finance, range of financial support and management activities designed to help businesses and individuals manage their financial records and obligations. The absence of accounting services may partly explain why this company fail between two to three years into their operations (Anderson, 2017), The business enterprise have poor budget implementation over the years which is showing a low rate of growth and declining future (Hamsani , Prihardini,, & Ayu, 2020). Furthermore, in spite of the advantaged potentials of the small and medium business to the economy, they are generally perceived to be under-performing in Nigeria currently. Based on this, the researcher examine the relationship between accounting services and the financial performance of small and medium enterprises in Calabar South Local Government Area of Cross River State, Nigeria

Statement of the Problem

Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) play a crucial role in the economic development and sustainability of communities, including Calabar South Local Government Area of Cross River State, Nigeria. However, despite this importance, many SMEs struggle to achieve optimal financial performance. One of the notable factors influencing their success is the adequacy and quality of accounting services they receive. Many SMEs in Calabar South lack access to professional accounting services, which impairs their ability to maintain accurate financial records, comply with regulatory requirements, and make informed business decisions. This gap often results in financial mismanagement, reduced profitability, and challenges in accessing funding. Business owners always have limited knowledge or appreciation of the importance of the accounting practices, leading to negligence in financial reporting and book keeping. . There is a need to understand how the availability, quality, and utilization of accounting services correlate with the financial outcomes of SMEs. Based on this, the researcher intended to examine howaccounting services in term of book keeping, financial reporting relate with the financial performance of small and medium enterprises in Calabar South Local Government Area of Cross River State, Nigeria?

Purpose of the study

The main purpose of this study is to established the relationship between accounting services and the financial performance of small and medium enterprises in Calabar South Local Government Area of Cross River

State, Nigeria. Specifically, the study seek to established

i. the relationship between book keeping and the financial performance of small and medium enterprises in Calabar South Local Government Area of Cross River State, Nigeria.

ii. the relationship between financial reporting and the financial performance of small and medium enterprises in Calabar South Local Government Area of Cross River State, Nigeria.

Research Questions

To direct the investigation, the following research questions are posed:

i. To what extent does book keeping relate with financial performance of small and medium enterprises in Calabar South Local Government Area of Cross River State, Nigeria?

ii. To what extent does financial reporting relate with the financial performance of small and medium enterprises in Calabar South Local Government Area of Cross River State, Nigeria?

Research Hypotheses

i. There is no significant relationship between book keeping and the financial performance of small and medium enterprises in Calabar South Local Government Area of Cross River State, Nigeria.

ii. There is no significant relationship between financial reporting and the financial performance of small and medium enterprises in Calabar South Local Government Area of Cross River State, Nigeria.

Research Method

The study area was Calabar South Local Government Area of Cross River State, Nigeria. The research design used for this study was the descriptive survey design. The descriptive research design is concerned with describing the characteristics of a particular individual, group or organization. The sampling techniques adopted for this study accidental sampling technique. Accidental random sampling, also known as convenience sampling, is a non-probability sampling technique where individuals are selected based on their availability and willingness to participate rather than through a random selection process. This method was used since most of the small and medium enterprises owner were not available at the time of conducted a research and even some that were available were not willing to participated in the exercises. The researcher only used those that are available and were willing to participated in the research study. The instrument used for data collection was the questionnaire titled " Accounting Services and Financial Performance(ASFP) ". The instrument was developed by the researcher with the help of the two expert in business Education Department. The questionnaire contained two sections A and B. Section A was designed to elicit information from respondents' demographic variables such as ender while section B is an 26 items four points scale designed to measure the sub-variables of the study. Each item required the respondent to indicate the frequency of his or her various opinions under strongly agree, agree, disagree and strongly disagree. The face and content validity were established by using two experts in Test, Measurement and Evaluation; in the faculty of Education, and two expert in business education department both from University of Calabar. The expert certified that the instrument (questionnaire), was face and content validity and could be used for the study. To established the reliability of the instrument (questionnaire) through Cronbach alpha reliability, a trial testing was done using 20 small and medium enterprise owner in Calabar Municipality Local Government Area of Cross River State University with Cronbach Alpha reliability was conducted and the internal consistency give the reliability indices ranges .85 to .90 which showed that the research instrument was reliable. The hypotheses formulated to guide the study were appropriately tested using a Pearson Product Moment Correlation Coefficient.

Presentation of Results

The result of the analysis is presented in tables 1 and 2. The hypotheses were tested at .05 significant level.

Ho_1: There is no significant relationship between book keeping and the financial performance of small and medium enterprises in Calabar South Local Government Area of Cross River State, Nigeria. The independent variable in this hypothesis is book keeping while the dependent variable is financial performance . In testing this hypothesis, mean, standard deviation of book keeping and financial performance were computed, compared and correlate using Pearson Product Moment Correction . The results are presented on Table 1.

Table 1: Person Product Moment Correlation of the relationship between book keeping and financial performance (N= 60)

Variables	N	Mean	SD	r-value	p-value
Book keeping	60	18.975	2.365	.786	.000
Financial performance	60	32.654	4.987		

*Significant at the .05 level, df =58

The result presented on Table 1 shows the high positive significant relationship between effective book keeping and financial performance of small and medium enterprises (r=.786; p=.000). With this result, the null hypothesis was rejected while the alternative was retained at the 0.05 level of significance. The positive r-value indicated that the more effective book keeping , the more financial performance of small and medium enterprises tend to be. On the other hand, when there is no effective bookkeeping, the decreases in financial performance of small and medium enterprises tend to be.

Ho_2: There is no significant relationship between financial reporting and the financial performance of small and medium enterprises in Calabar South Local Government Area of Cross River State, Nigeria. The independent variable in this hypothesis is financial reporting while the dependent variable is financial performance . In testing this hypothesis, mean, standard deviation of financial reporting and financial performance were computed, compared and correlate using Pearson Product Moment Correction . The results are presented on Table 1.

Table 2: Person Product Moment Correlation of the relationship between financial reporting and financial performance (N= 60)

Variables	**N**	**Mean**	**SD**	**r-value**	**p-value**
Financial reporting	60	17.876	2.865	.811	.000
Financial performance	60	32.654	4.987		

*Significant at the .05 level, df =58

The result presented on Table 1 shows the high positive significant relationship between effective financial reporting and financial performance of small and medium enterprises (r=.811; p=.000). With this result, the null hypothesis was rejected while the alternative was retained at the 0.05 level of significance. The positive r-value indicated that the more effective financial reporting , the more financial performance of small and medium enterprises tend to be. On the other hand, when there is no effective financial reporting, the decreases in financial performance of small and medium enterprises tend to be.

Discussion of Findings

The result of hypothesis one revealed that there is a significant relationship between book keeping and the financial performance of small and medium enterprises in Calabar South Local Government Area of Cross River State, Nigeria. The finding agreed with the finding Mokhtar et al. (2018) who stated that proper bookkeeping practices ensure that financial statements reflect the true financial position of SMEs, which is crucial for stakeholders' decision-making. A finding is in line with a study by Akinyomi and Olatunji (2015) who found that SMEs with effective bookkeeping systems which positively influences financial performance. According to Ibrahim et al. (2022), SMEs that maintain thorough bookkeeping are better positioned to prepare comprehensive financial reports. Also this practices lead to improved strategic planning and better financial outcomes. The finding agreed with Abdullah and Alharbi (2020) who found that inadequate bookkeeping often results in poor financial reporting, which can mislead stakeholders and negatively impact financial performance. the finding is in consonance with the finding of . Nwogugu (2023) who found that SMEs investing in bookkeeping education reported better financial performance due to enhanced accuracy and transparency in financial statements. A comparative study by Khan et al. (2022) showed that SMEs with systematic bookkeeping practices had more accurate financial reports, which correlated with higher profitability and growth rates compared to those without such practices.

The result of hypothesis two revealed that there is a significant relationship between financing reporting and the financial performance of small and medium enterprises in Calabar South Local Government Area of Cross River State, Nigeria. The finding agreed with the finding a study by Abdullah et al. (2015) highlights that transparent financial reporting significantly enhances the credibility of SMEs, leading to improved access to financing and better financial performance. According to Khan and Ali (2016), effective financial reporting enables SMEs to make strategic decisions that positively impact their performance. The finding agreed with Mokhtar and Taha (2018) who identified financial reporting as one of the factor that influence financing performance. The finding agreed with a study by Omar and Ahmad (2017) examined various financial performance metrics and concluded that accurate financial reporting is directly correlated with profitability, liquidity, and solvency ratios of SMEs. The finding is in line with the finding of Nwogugu (2020) who found that SMEs adopting digital financial reporting tools experienced significant improvements in their financial performance due to enhanced accuracy and timeliness of financial information. The finding is consonance with a systematic review by Zhang et al. (2021) who examined the global landscape of financial reporting practices among SMEs and their impact on performance and found that SMEs that adhere to international financial reporting standards tend to perform better financially compared to those that do not.

Conclusion

The influence of accounting services on the financial performance of small and medium enterprises (SMEs) is significant and multifaceted. Effective accounting practices, including bookkeeping, financial reporting provide SMEs with the necessary tools to make informed decisions, enhance operational efficiency, and improve overall financial health. Based on the finding of study, it was concluded that book keeping, financial reporting individually significantly relate with the financial performance of small and medium enterprises in Calabar South Local Government Area of Cross River State, Nigeria. SMEs that utilize professional accounting services tend to experience better financial

outcomes, including increased profitability, improved cash flow management, and greater sustainability. Conversely, inadequate accounting practices can lead to financial mismanagement, reduced competitiveness, and potential business failure.

Recommendations

The following remarks were offered in light of the analysis's findings:

i. SMEs should prioritize investing in professional accounting services to ensure accurate financial reporting, bookkeeping and compliance with regulations. This can lead to improved financial performance and strategic decision-making.

ii. Business owners and employees should receive training in basic accounting principles and practices. This knowledge can help them understand financial reports better and make informed decisions.

iii. SMEs should seek tailored accounting services that meet their specific needs and industry requirements, ensuring that they receive the most relevant support for their financial management.

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ACHIEVING SUSTAINABLE FOOD SECURITY IN EBONYI STATE THROUGH URBAN AGRICULTURE

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ABSTRACT
This study investigated achieving sustainable food security in Ebonyi State through urban agriculture. A descriptive survey design was adopted for the study. The population of the study was 300 urban farmers across the state, comprising of 150 males and 150females and this population formed the sample size for the study. Some concepts were clarified. A 3 in-1 instrument titled sustainable food security through urban agriculture (SFSTUAQ) was used for data collection. Three research questions and three hypotheses guided the study. The research questions were answered using mean rating t-test. The findings of the study revealed that there was a high level of awareness and participation among urban farmers due to encouragement from government. It was therefore recommended that co-opting urban farmers into co-operative societies will help immensely in reducing urban poverty.

Introduction

Agriculture refers to the practice of cultivating a piece of land, or planting and growing food plants or rearing animals, vocabulary.com while Nkire (2014) looks at agriculture as an economic activity which man has direct contact with his environment as he engages in resource extraction, processing, marketing and distribution, including consumption.

Ebonyi State according to Okoro (2018) is blessed with huge arable land which served as a platform for advancing food production and food security but these economic potentials and the comparative advantage which the state possed as an agrarian economy was wasted due to the fact that no serious efforts were put forward by the previous governments to develop the sector and use it to achieve economic prosperity. Agriculture was the main stay of the economy before the Nigerian civil war.

Ojiuzor, (2024) observed that agriculture started to show signs of decline in the late 1960s due to the political crisis of the period and the civil war which followed later. South East and South South geo-political zones of Nigeria were the theatre of that war. This scholar further opined that between 1970 and now, oil boom (petroleum) dwarfed agricultural production and crude oil (petroleum) revenue filled the country's vaults that the country entered the rough road to decline in all facets-economic, political, social, religious, cultural, technological, education and legal. Crude oil boom pulled the young farmers away from the farms, leaving the countryside desolate and despondency took over the entire primary activity of agriculture as these youths migrated to the cities in search for white collar jobs.

In this regard, Konja (2016) asserts that:

> *As a result of oil or petroleum dominance, urban food prices went up and it was followed by mass food importation into the country from different parts of the world and this shifted the food taste of an increasing urban class from locally produced food to foreign imported foods. This trend reduced Nigeria to the status of net importer of food items to be able to feed the urban households. These urban households had developed appetite for foreign vegetable oil, rice, chicken, frozen fish, turkey meat, turkey oil, apples, canned beer, palm oil, sugar, milk, tomatoes, tooth picks, bottled water etc. Food importation became the order of the day as the country exported these food items years past. Government sought ways to curtail food importation and rising food prices and to encourage back to earth mobilization. In 1976, General Obasanjo lunched back to earth programme tagged Operation Feed the Nation (OFN). Government's action was a deliberate attempt to directly address the need for every one's active involvement and participation in food production no matter how small. Since then, state governments have not made any concerted effort to arm the urban farmers to drive the urban green revolution to ensure food security.*

Jeke (2023) is of the opinion that today, "there is a general cry in the state that food production is not keeping pace with the rising domestic demand which in one part is due to unmitigated population growth of the state". Other factors that affect "food short falls across the state include double taxation, climate change, economic meltdown, insecurity and kidnapping. The most recently is the removal of fuel subsidy which hiked transportation fares on food products and availability of food items are now beyond the reach of most households".

According to Ogeri (2022) the average wage earner in the state finds his pocket empty to fill the pot(s) due to high inflation rate and under these prevailing circumstances, hunger has grown at astronomical dimension and putting food on the table is a nagging task for most households in the state. Dinku, Mokennen and Adilu (2023) suggests that this kind of situation, "makes it difficult for poor urban households to maintain a healthy diet due to lack of access to social support, such as food stamps or cash transfers". Atori (2021) opined that "2020 global hunger index revealed that Nigeria was ranked 98th out of the 109 countries surveyed with a score of 29.2% and this shows that the country has a serious level of hunger". The World Food Programme (WFP) (n.d) estimated that "6.9 million people died from hunger or under nurition in 2020" while World Business Council for sustainable development (2015) says that "by 2050 68% of the world's population is expected to reside in cities and Lopez (2023) concludes that same period (2050), more than 80% of food is expected to be consumed in cities".

Egu (2020) was apt to opine that "at this rate food security can hardly be achieved in Ebonyi State cities as many urban households do not have access to food that meets their physical and financial requirement for maintaining healthy life, talkless of catering for their taste and nutrition". Bolarin and Adetokunbo (2007) posited that "the concern of food security and nutritional wellbeing in an economy is predicated by the human element in the economy."

What Urban Agriculture is in Ebonyi State, Nigeria

Egu (2020) described urban agriculture in Ebonyi State as a farming system which entails gardening, animal rearing such as rabbitry, piggery, goat and sheep rearing, snail and bee keeping, fish farming, poultry and mushroom

keeping in vacant plots or one's compound or gardens in the city and this agricultural procedure involves intensive production methods using wastes and the re-use of these wastes like waste water, worn out tyres for snail keeping, discarded jerry cans or containers or used cement or rice bags that are thoroughly washed, filled with good soil is good enough for yam planting while sawdust that are well moistured could serve as a base for growing mushrooms. These agricultural practice(s) are limited to the confines of one's compound or back yard or vacant plots within the city.

Urban agriculture according to science direct.com refers to agricultural practices in urban areas and their surrounding regions (pri-urban) and is centralized operations involving horticulture, animal husbandry, acquaculture and other practices for the production of fresh food or other agricultural products. Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO, 2012) opined that "raising awareness of the importance of healthy diet can help access fresh and healthier food. This can help ensure that urban residents have access to nourishment they require to lead wholesome and fruitful lives".

Ogeri (2022) posited that urban agricultural activity or activities in Ebonyi state are not meant for disadvantaged individuals or households rather it is re-definition of having access to culturally acceptable, nutritionally adequate food through local production or imported, non-emergency sources at all times. Ruaf foundations is of the opinion that daily intake of variety of fresh fruits and vegetables is linked to a decreased risk often associated with diabetics, heart diseases and cancer. Jeke (2023) says that urban agriculture provides "access to fresh vegetables, fruits, meat and other agricultural food products which help to boost urban food availability and sustainability at all times".

Ojiuzor (2024) and Ogbu (2018) are on the same page as they observed that "getting involved in urban agriculture comes with a feeling of self-esteem for one to grow and produce household food need. It is supplemental to fresh food and livestock production that complements the inflow of food items from the rural communities (areas)". Urban agriculture is a "freewill enterprise for her participants and it is a social forum for the farmers living in a given neighourhood, it improves physical activity and livelihood of participants". This agricultural practice(s) is not constrained by law rather it is guided by the national policy on agriculture. Urban agriculturists in the state are not adequately documented as they are marginalized "farmers within the farming community" in the state. Dominant participants in this farming venture include civil servants (retired and serving), artisans, traders, house wives, unemployed youths or persons and students who help their parents during vacations.

Urban Food Security in Ebonyi State

Between 2015-2023, the state government in realization of the sustainable development goal (SDG) number two zero hunger and the huge potentials and promise that agriculture holds for the development of the state and to use it to achieve economic prosperity. In this wise, the government under Engr. Dave Umahi boosted food security in the state through the provision of essentials which the state lacked. The essentials lacked by urban farmers were spacious market stalls, access roads linking the rural areas to this markets, water, electricity and large motor parks and toilets. These are in dispenable oxygen which modern markets must possess. The state government embarked on urban renewal programme which saw the construction and relocation of Abakpa (Hossana) market to Margret Umahi International market with modern facilities which situate along the trans African highway that run from Enugu-Abakaliki-Ogoja-Ikom-Cameroun. Kpirikpiri and the New markets received face lifts by way of building more stalls and the expansion of the motor park facilities and other artery roads from the rural areas. These markets has helped to easy off transport fares on food commodities from the hinterlands and they have become wholesale markets which plays the role in the organization, collection and distribution of local and imported agricultural produce. These urban markets were rehabilitated and re-modelled with modern plazas to accommodate more entries, restaurants which ensures secure, healthy, variety of locally and culturally acceptable foods at affordable prices. Lopez (2023) opined "that markets are not considered as an aspect of city planning and their location could be more strategic to meet the needs of a greater number of people and facilitate more efficient and less polluted mobility in cities". This was followed with the rehabilitation and restocking of the Nkaliki poultry and fish farms, the establishment of mushroom farm at old government house premises while fresh pepper, fruits different varieties of vegetables were readily harvested from government house

gardens and available to for sale to urban consumers and marketers (retailers) at the new government house at the centenary city. Demonstration farms at Afikpo and Onueke cities received boost from the government as these farms were expanded and extension workers provided. The fertilizer blending plant in the capital city was reburished and expanded to ensure enhanced production of various brands of fertilizer inputs at affordable prices to the farmers. Private farms in the capital city include Josel farms Ltd, Fide-Mbam farms and the Co-operative Rice Millers Association are examples of urban farmers in the state capital (Abakaliki) that have complemented government efforts in ensuring food availability, accessibility, utilization and stability at all times. The government assisted the rice millers to procure destoning machines, branded rice bags which helped the quality of the rice produced. The rice cluster got improved access roads and ancillary market for her customers. Afikpo urban farmers include Esomchi poultry farms, Onard fish farms, Nnesco integrated farms Ltd, Otunta ranch and the city has the largest fish market in the state while Onueke has the largest animal and tuber crops market in the state. These efforts enhanced the availability of fresh eggs, poultry meat and fresh fish to urban dwellers at all times. This urban renewal programme enhanced income generation base and living standard of urban dwellers.

Dave Umahi's administration embarked/or invested in social protection programme that saw civil servants and other Ebonyians receiving between two hundred and fifty thousand to one million to enhance agricultural activities but civil servants were encouraged to cultivate and rear animals within their compound.

Statement of the Problem

The scale of mining activities in Ebonyi State cities has great impact which is environmental degradation. These mining companies have adopted open caste system which results in land wastage, destruction, contamination. Health experts from the state ministry of health warns that there are potential health risks associated with human health resulting from farming directly on contaminated land (mining sites) and/or consuming the crops that was grown on such soil. These health experts posit that the constant use of waste water from mining sites for urban agriculture irrigation can enhance the spread of water borne diseases among the consuming population of such crops.

No city in the state/country is spared from herdsmen activities who often unleash their cattle on crops thereby destroying and causing urban farmers to incur losses. The issue of construction activities like mining activities, roads, housing estates, both industrial and private have consumed a lot urban land space thereby rendering the urban farmers landless and other ancillary factors include soil erosion, floods which account for the depletion of the available land and poor crop harvests due to draught. Urban agriculturists are not seen as providing quality food alternatives to the urban population as supplies from the rural areas still remain a vital option. These rural farmers are forced with the problems of double taxes from the produce inspectors on the high ways and market levies.

Conceptual Clarifications

Mezieobi and Mezieobi (2019) says that concept clarifications is meant "to provide a common frame of understanding (meaning) between the communicator and his audience and eschew the possibilities of mis-interpretations and conceptual ambiguities."

Urban

Urban refers to areas with high population densities, towns and infrastructure. It can be cities, towns or metropolitan region, education. national geographic.org.

Agriculture

Agriculture entails the cultivation of varieties of crops as well as the domestication of tree crops and animal husbandry, Nkire (2014).

Food

Food refers to things that people or animals eat according to Oxford Advanced Learners' Dictionary. Nwose (2013) states that "food is the most basic requirement of life".

Food Security

Food security is "the state of having reliable access to sufficient quantity of affordable, nutritious and safe food. It is a means that people, at all times have the physical and economic access to enough healthy and nutritious food to meet their dietary needs and live active and healthy lives, meta 1 lama 3.

Kent (2006) defined food security as the "ability and commitment of the government to ensure that its citizens are provided unrestricted access to foods at times" while committee on world food security (WFS n.d) says that "food security is the physical and economic access to adequate food by all household members without risk of losing the access". This assertion was echoed by Food and Agricultural Organization, (FAO, 2001) as she refers to food security "as a situation that exists when all people at all times have physical, social and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food that meet their dietary needs and food preference for active and healthy life".

Sustainability

Sustainability refers to "the use of natural resources when the use is kept at a steady level and is not likely to damage the environment", Njoku (2018).

Research Questions

In carrying out this work, the following research questions were put forward.

i. What is the level of awareness of urban farmers towards food security in Ebonyi State?

ii. To what extent do urban household participate in urban agriculture?

iii. To what extent have urban agriculturist influenced food security in Ebonyi State?

Hypotheses

The following hypotheses were formulated.

i. There is no significant awareness of urban farmers towards food security in Ebonyi State.

ii. Urban honourable do not significantly participate in urban agriculture.

iii. Urban agriculturists have not influenced food security in Ebonyi State.

Methodology

A survey design was adopted for the study. This was to enhance generalization of findings. The population of the study was made up 300 urban farmers from the major urban cities in the state. Since the population is not large, the population was used as the respondents in the research work. The instrument for data collection was researcher constructed made up of three sections ABC containing 10 items each meant to answer each research question and test each hypothesis.

The items have 4-point modified likert scale that has the weights of 4, 3, 2 and 1. Which implies 4 is rated very high extent 3, high extent, 2 low extent and very low extent. The instrument was face validated by two experts from education foundation of Ebonyi State college of education, Ikwo. A reliability index of 0.79 was established using a test-re-test approach. Means were used to answer the research questions while the hypotheses were tested using t-test statistical analysis. Each item was analyzed and a mean of 2.5 and above was accepted while below were rejected.

Research Question 1

What is the level of awareness of urban farmers towards tool security in Ebonyi State?

S/N	Item	Respondent $\bar{X}$	SD	Decision
1	I have a garden at the back of my house	3.0	0.81	HE
2	There are farms within my neighbourhood	2.5	0.70	HE
3	These farms generate income to their owners	2.6	0.65	HE
4	We can find these farms in vacant plots	2.9	0.76	HE

5	Urban farming/agriculture is for everybody	1.7	0.41	VLE
6	Rich people do not engage in urban agriculture	2.2	0.65	LE
7	Urban authorities does not regulate agriculture in the state cities	2.7	0.68	HE
8	People get self-esteem in producing their own food	2.6	0.75	HE
9	Urban dwellers enjoy availability of fresh food	3.0	0.88	HE
10	Urban agriculture is supplemental to food supply from rural areas	2.6	0.76	HE
	Grand Mean	**2.58**	**0.71**	

The table above shows that apart from item number 5, all other items showed were rated a high extent in response to the question or statement since all indicated a rating above 2.5 average. The grand mean for male was 2.58 with SD of 0.71 while that of female was 2.59 and a SD of 0.66.

This shows that the level of awareness of urban farmers towards food security in Ebonyi State is high.

Research Question 2

To what extent do urban households participate in urban agriculture?

This research question is answered by questionnaire items 11 – 20.

S/N	Item	Respondent $\bar{X}$	SD	Decision
11	I am a fish farmer	2.1	0.72	LE
12	My wife and children feed the fish	2.0	0.57	LE
13	We are into vegetable gardening	2.5	0.92	HE
14	My son looks after our goat/sheep farm	3.1	0.81	HE
15	We own a poultry farm behind backyard	2.6	0.72	HE
16	I produce my own feeds for the birds	2.0	0.65	LE
17	My family process cassava into garri and other varieties	2.7	0.62	HE
18	I market food stuffs	2.5	0.71	HE
19	I import yams from neighbouring states	2.0	0.42	LE
20	I am into haulage	1.5	0.21	VLE
	Grand Mean	**2.30**	**0.63**	

The table above indicates the mean rating of the items on the clusted 2 of the questionnaire. Items 13, 14, 15, 17 and 18 show high extent of the participation of urban households in urban agriculture. The implication is that most of the urban dwellers participate in urban agriculture while few do not.

The grand mean and standard deviation of the respondents are x 2.30 SD 0.63. This shows a moderate participation by among the urban households.

Research Question 3

To what extent have urban farmers influenced food security in Ebonyi State?

This research question in answered by questionnaire items 21 – 30.

S/N	Item	Respondent $\bar{X}$	SD	Decision
21	It provides access to culturally, nutritionally adequate food	2.6	1.10	HE
22	There is availability of fresh foods in the market	2.9	0.10	HE
23	Food crops grown in the cities are cheaper	2.2	1.81	LE
24	Urban agriculturists are involved in extraction of raw materials and its processing	2.1	0.10	LE
25	I am involved in raw material processing	2.9	1.11	HE
26	Urban dwellers are involved in distribution	2.0	1.10	LE
27	The prices of food in urban cities are not stable	2.8	1.10	HE
28	Urban agriculturists has improved air quality to the city dwellers	2.4	1.02	LE
29	Urban agriculture reduces carbondioxide emission	2.7	1.12	HE
30	It is a means to recreation, leisure, business entrepreneurship	2.9	1.02	HE
	Grand Mean	**2.55**		

The summary of data analysis in table 3 above showed that respondents agreed that items 21, 22, 25, 27, 29 and 30 influence food security in Ebonyi State with high extent while other do not influence food security in Ebonyi State. The average mean is 2.55 which is greater than 2.5. Therefore, it was agreed that urban farming influence food security in Ebonyi State.

Discussion of Findings

The finding that urban farmers are aware that urban farming helps in ensuring food security is a good development. It is a good sign that with increased participation by more people, the state would be able to sustain other food sufficiency and export to other states in Nigeria.

The research also found out that urban households moderately participate in urban farming. Though not every household is involved, the number involved is reasonable and moderate.

Furthermore, the research found not that to high extent urban farmers do influence food security in Ebonyi State. This can be seen from the responses of the respondents.

Conclusion

From the findings of the research, it is clear that with increase urban farming by households, more food would be produced and food security will he grant guaranteed in Ebonyi State. since most of the lands in the state is fertile for agricultural activities, the increased participation of urban dwellers would boost food sufficiency.

Recommendations

The following recommendations are made:

i. That co-operative societies should engage in urban farming.

ii. Government should allocate some of her reserved areas not developed to urban dwellers for farming.

iii. Incentive should be given to urban dwellers who are involved in urban farming so that others would be attracted to participate thereby ensuring food security.

iv. This study can be replicated in other states of Nigeria.

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A PERISCOPE INTO THE PSYCHO-SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CHALLENGES EXPERIENCED BY FAMILIES OF PERSONS WITH MENTAL DISORDERS IN KADUNA STATE

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Mental health, mental illness, psycho-social, disorder, care, support, well-being

ABSTRACT
Mental health is important at every stage of life, ranging from childhood and adolescence through adulthood. It is as important as physical health to daily living -- a relative state of mind in which a person who is healthy is able to cope with and adjust to the recurrent stresses of everyday living. This study adopted mixed methods, where other related studies adopted one method, utilizing both in-depth interviews and questionnaires, which comprised of a total of four hundred (400) caregivers who have consistently accompanied their mentally ill patients to the hospital in the last six months. The data revealed families of people with mental disorders face a variety of challenges, including: psychological, emotional, financial, and social challenges. Family members often experience disturbing thoughts, emotional disturbance, communication problems, and worry about the future. They may also experience depression, anxiety, sadness, guilt, and sometimes shame. Equally, in the social front, the caregivers experience discrimination, stigma and lack of social support from relatives, the community and the government, thereby leading to increased social distance. Economic challenges are also a problem as the families experience financial constraints emanating from costs for patient care and transportation, and shortages of medicine. Most of them struggle with poverty and interference with income generating activities. In order to address the psycho-social challenges of families caring for their relatives suffering from mental illness in Kaduna state, this research recommends, that families of patients with mental disorders should have better access to financial assistance and psychological support. The federal government in collaboration with non-governmental organizations (NGOs) could provide funding to ease the financial burden and mental health services for caregivers. There is also the need for improved mental health education. This study tend to cover the gap where much has not been done in the northern region concerning care for mental health patients and specifically no single published research on the challenges of caring for mental health patients in the study area.

Introduction

Mental health is a state of mental well-being that enables people to cope with the stresses of life, realize their abilities; it includes our emotional, psychological, and social well-being. It affects how we think, feel, and act, it also helps determine how we handle stress, relate to others and make healthy choices, in order to work productively, fruitfully and contribute to the community. Mental Health is a state of complete physical, mental, spiritual and social wellbeing (WHO, 2022). No health without mental health. Mental health is important at every stage of life, from childhood and adolescence through adulthood. It is as important as physical health to daily living, a relative state of mind in which a person who is healthy is able to cope with and adjust to the recurrent stresses of everyday living. Everyone has mental health, which determines our ability to interact with people, to behave normal, and to take decisions however, any bizarre behaviour contrary to the normal way of behaving is seen as abnormal (Carbonell, et al., 2020).

Any changes in thinking, mood or behaviour, with significant distress and impaired functioning inclusive, over an extended period, can be seen as mental disorder (Sharrock and Happel, 2007; 2021). Therefore, mental illness or disorder is a wide range of conditions that affects mood, thinking and behaviour; it also refers collectively to all diagnosable mental disorders, health conditions involving significant changes in thinking, emotions, behaviour, distress and problems of functioning in social work or family activities. Mental illness is determined by the manifestation of mental defilements, is impermanent, is conditioned, and an ultimate reality. According to Modern psychology and medical science, mental disorder is seen as psychological and behavioural patterns which deviate from the norm, disruptions in an individual' s thinking, feelings, moods and inability to relate to others (Wainberg, et'al., 2017).

Apparently, there are many types of mental illness, where some may require short-term support, others required long-term support, but the common ones are depression, bipolar disorder, dementia, schizophrenia, eating disorder, obsessive-compulsive disorder, post-traumatic stress disorder and anxiety disorder. The major sign and symptoms of mental illness are; mood disorder, personality development disorder, social withdrawal, high and low extremes of emotions, excessive anger, worries or fears and disorganized or confused thoughts (Mokwena & Ngoveni, 2020). Similarly, the devastating consequences or negative impacts of mental health is that, poor mental health leads to problems such as social isolation, which disrupts a person's communication and interactions with others. It also affects how one thinks, feel and behave, their physical health, they may feel overwhelmed, experienced feelings of grief and loss and be fearful of the future regarding the unexpected situations they find themselves in, also societies can have stereotyped views about mental ill health, some people believe that people with such problems are dangerous when in fact, they are at higher risk of being attacked or harming themselves than hurting other people. The consensus was that their condition was incurable and so they were sentenced to a life of roaming the streets until the day they died or disappeared. Sadly, this is the face of mental illness most Nigerians see, and this forms the people's perception of what mental illness is. But ultimately, it affects not only patients but also their families or their caregivers in the same vein it also affects the society as a whole. (Kovacevic, 2023).

Childhood abuse, trauma, or neglect, social isolation or loneliness, experiencing discrimination and stigma, including racism, social disadvantages, poverty or debt, bereavement (losing someone close to you), severe or long-term stress, and having long-term physical health condition are all factors that cause mental health disorder. In another view, stress, conflict or moral weakness also constitute part of the factors (Ministry of Health and Social Welfare, 2016). The prevalence of mental disorder has been studied around the world providing estimates on how common it is; different criteria or thresholds of severity have sometimes been used, and as such, its prevalence is usually higher in low-income countries than in high-income countries. Over a 3rd of people in most countries are reported to have sufficient criteria to be diagnosed at some point in their life. WHO reported in (2001) that about 450 million people worldwide have some form of mental disorder or brain condition. Globally mental illness affects more females (11.9%) than males (9.3%).Subsequently, it also constitutes a major burden of disease for adolescents, in 2019, it was estimated that 1 in 7 adolescents experience mental disorders, which mounts up to 166 million adolescents (89 million boys and 77 million girls) globally. The causes of

the prevalence is based on both incidence and duration of illness, high prevalence of disease within a population might reflect incidence or prolonged survival without cure or both.

In Nigeria, fewer than 10 percent of those battling with mental illness have access to mental healthcare. Perhaps access is mainly limited to cities, leaving the rural areas without resources for psychiatric care. Those people do not have access to mental healthcare, resulting to self-medication, self-diagnosis and misunderstanding or denial of their symptoms. They are mainly children and adolescents (Moffet, 2019). It is essential to realize that it is not just the person with mental illness who needs help but also their loved ones and the society at large, as mental health can be challenging to deal with, nevertheless it is not impossible to overcome. Healthcare in Nigeria, especially for those with mental health issues, is poorly managed, underfunded and out dated. Nevertheless, the Nigerian laws are out dated and contradict decades of mental health researches.

Review of related literature

Existing studies on the challenges experienced by Nurses, caregivers and also health doctors provide helpful starting points, but there exists significant gaps. Most of the empirical literature studied several aspects concerning care for mentally ill patients though through different methods and areas. Nevertheless, not much has been done in the Northern region of Nigeria concerning the care for mental health patients and specifically no single published research on challenges of caring for mental health patients in this study area (Examples of these literature include Gureje et al. 1995; Hayward & Bright, 1997; Corrigan & Watson, 2002; Sharrock and Happel, 2006; Bambling, et.al.2007; Welthagen et'al., 2004; Imam et'al., 2021; Baker and Naidu, 2017).

In 1984 Lazarus and Folkman created the transactional model of stress and coping, which aims to help people cope with stressful situations. It contented that a person's capacity to cope and adjust to challenges and problems is a consequences of transactions (or interactions) that occur between persons and their environment. Its components consist of the following key constructs: primary Appraisal, and Secondary appraisal. Caring for mental health patients presents numerous challenges that can be examined through the lens of the transactions; model of stress and coping (TMSC) Proposed by Richard Lazarus and Susan Folkman (1984). This model provides insights into how individuals perceive and respond to stressful situations, such as the provision of care for mental health patients. According to the TMSC individuals engage in a transactional process with their environment, where the primary appraisal involves evaluating the significance of a particular situation and the potential stress it may induce.

The secondary appraisal focuses on evaluating one's available coping resources and determining the appropriate coping strategies. The model also emphasizes the importance of coping efforts and the impact of the appraisal process on the individual's well-being and adaptation. Afterwards, in conclusion, the transactional model of stress and coping provides a framework to understand the challenges faced by mental health caregivers. Emotional demands, role overload, stigma and social isolation, and ethical dilemmas are some of the key challenges that can affect the well-being of caregivers. Addressing these challenges requires interventions that focus on enhancing emotional support, providing respite and self-care opportunities, reducing stigma, and promoting ethical decision-making process in mental healthcare settings.

Caring for mental health patients poses several challenges due to the complex nature of mental illnesses and the unique needs of individuals experiencing these conditions. One relevant theory that can help explain these challenges is the Recovery Model, which emphasizes the importance of person-cantered care and empowering individuals in their journey towards recovery. According to a study by Corrigan (2004), stigma can prevent individuals from seeking help and engaging in treatment, thereby hindering their recovery process. One of the significant challenges faced by mental health patients is the pervasive stigma and discrimination associated with mental illnesses. Negative attitudes and stereotypes surrounding mental health can lead to social isolation, reduced opportunities for employment, and limited access to adequate care.

According to the World Health Organization (2019), around 50% of individuals with mental disorders do not receive the necessary treatment due to various barriers, thereby impeding their recovery and overall well-being.

Mental health patients often face challenges in accessing appropriate and timely care. Factors such as geographical location, financial barriers, and shortage of mental health professionals contribute to inadequate service provision. The mental health care system is often characterized by fragmentation, with multiple providers and services involved in the care of individuals with mental illnesses. This fragmentation can lead to poor coordination, communication gaps, and a lack of continuity in care.

According to a study by Drake et al. (2001), fragmented care systems pose challenges in the delivery of comprehensive and integrated services, hindering the recovery process. The Recovery Model emphasizes the importance of empowering individuals and involving them in shared decision-making regarding their treatment and care. Nevertheless, power imbalances and paternalistic attitudes within mental health systems can limit patients' autonomy and agency. Research by Slade et al. (2014) highlights the need for a shift towards collaborative approaches that prioritize individuals' preferences, goals, and values in the recovery process.

Vygotsky, the prominent founder of the socio-cultural theory, believed that human development depends on social interaction and can significantly differ between cultures.it emphasizes the impact of social interaction on individuals' mental development. It argues that mental illness is not an inherent trait but rather something, that develops overtime. The theory examines how individual is influenced by their environment, culture, and family in order to develop their mental illness. He outlined 3 main concepts related to cognitive development such as: culture is significant, in learning, language is the root of culture, and individuals learn and develop within their role in the community. In conclusion, caring for mental health patients presents several challenges that must be addressed within a sociocultural framework. Stigma and discrimination, limited resources and access to care, cultural competence, and inter-sectionalism are crucial factors influencing the provision of mental health care. By acknowledging and understanding these challenges, healthcare professionals can work towards creating an inclusive and supportive environment, improving access to care, and providing culturally sensitive mental health services for all individuals.

Study area and Methodology

This study was originally designed to be carried out in the Federal Neuro-psychiatric hospital, Barnawa, Kaduna South Local Government area -- one of the four LGAs that constitute the Kaduna metropolitan area. But the research extends to include caregivers who visit and sometimes stay in the premises of the hospital where their relatives receive treatment. The hospital is situated along Aliyu Makama road, in Barnawa which is a suburb of Kaduna town, which is the location of the Federal Neuro-Psychiatric Hospital, also the state capital of the defunct northern region of Nigeria. The concentration of many strategic military, industrial, political, educational and religious institutions in the state capital has attracted a lot of people from other parts of the country to the Kaduna town. Founded in 1975 by the defunct North Central Government, at inception, the hospital was known as psychiatric hospital, Kakuri, it was however in 1996 when the hospital was taken over by the Federal Government of Nigeria that it was renamed as Federal Neuro-Psychiatric Hospital, Kaduna. It is one of the eight psychiatric hospitals in the country. Presently, the hospital is a 220-bed space facility with 289 clinical staff and 116 non-clinical staff. The hospital has five (5) units namely psychology and psychotherapy unit, the female unit, the male unit, the toxicology unit and drug addiction treatment education and research (DATER) unit.

In terms of population of the study, it consists of parents, guardians or any family member who has a son or daughter or a relative as the case may be, that is receiving treatment either as in-or-out patient at the Hospital during the study. These family members of the mentally sick patients include persons from different ethno-religious background irrespective of their socio-economic status, age and gender. To select the sample for the study the researcher paid attention on family members whose children or relatives are either inpatient or outpatient at the Hospital in Kaduna. From the available records obtained from the hospital there are a total of one hundred and eleven (111) in-patients receiving medical treatment in the five different wards of the hospital as the time of the study. The records showed that majority of the patients are in the male ward (31), Dater ward (31) and toxicology ward (21). While only seventeen (17) and eleven (11) patients are in female and psychology and psychotherapy wards respectively. With the record of the inpatients

obtained, the researcher contacted the head of the health workers in each of the wards and requested for the visitation time of each parent, guardian or family member as the case may be. With the recorded visitation time the researcher made a schedule of when each of the visiting family members would be contacted and interviewed. Given the small size of the study population the entire parents, guardians or family member of the one hundred and even (111) inpatients at the hospital were used for the study.

After explaining to such family member, the reason for the study he/she is then asked if willing to take part in the study. At the end, one thousand, eight hundred and sixty-six (1,866) parents or family members indicated that they would be taking part in the study. Out of the one thousand, eight hundred and sixty-six (1,866) that consented to participate in the study, those who have been coming with their patient to the hospital in the last six months were identified from the hospital records at out-patient department. This category of caregivers was selected for the study because it is expected that they are likely to be knowledgeable about certain aspects of mental illness and are also familiar with the certain processes and operational procedures of the hospital. At the end of the identification process a total number of one thousand, seventy-eight (1,078) caregivers who have consistently accompany their mentally ill patients to the hospital in the last six months or more were shortlisted.

The names of the one thousand, seventy-eight (1,078) obtained was then segregated on the basis of gender and it was noted that while there was a total of eight hundred and eight (808) male caregivers who usually accompany the patient to the hospital on clinical days the remaining two hundred and seventy (270) are females. The list of both the male and female caregivers was serially compiled and arranged starting with those with the lowest age to the oldest. This arrangement of ages of the study population in ascending order is to ensure that both the young and older caregivers are included in our sample. Given that the sample size required from the segregated group of male and female is two hundred and eighty-nine (289), this suggests that the number of males in the sample will be greater than that of females since the study population shows that there are more males than females. On the basis of this consideration one hundred and ninety-two (192) males and ninety-seven (97) females were selected for the study. Prior to the sample selection, the sampling fraction for both the male and female groups was calculated. The calculation showed that the sampling fraction for the male group is four (4) while that of the female is (3). This implies that the sampling interval is every 4^{th} and 3^{rd} element for the male and female respectively.

Using fourth (4th) and third (3^{rd}) elements as the random start, every fourth and third unit of analysis from the list compiled on the basis of age was selected. This procedure was repeated until the required one hundred and ninety-two (192) male and ninety-seven (97) females are selected for the study from both groups. As such a total of one hundred and eleven (111) in patients was added to the (289) out patients which implies that a total number of four hundred (400) caregivers were recruited for this study. Those selected were contacted and informed and are required to give the researcher a date that would be convenient for them to come to the hospital for the questionnaire administration. Prior to the questionnaire administration and the conduct of the in-depth interview the researcher trained the two research assistants on the basic skills and techniques of conducting IDIs as well as providing them with detail information on the meaning and requirement of each question contained in the questionnaire and how the respondents are expected to fill the questionnaire. The qualitative data collection instrument used for this study was an in-depth interview guide. On the whole, twenty-nine (29) in-depth interviews (IDIs) were carried out in this study. These comprised ten (10) IDI's with doctors, ten (10) with nurse and nine (9) with social welfare officers. Essentially, the IDIs provided useful insight and in-depth knowledge on the characteristics of the informants, common types of mental illness, type of challenges experienced by the health workers while delivering mental health services to their respective patients and the coping strategies they adopt against such challenges.

The general socio-demographic characteristics of the informants was determined from the information obtained on their respective ages, gender, level of educational attainment, religious affiliation, occupation and number of children. Given the educational background of the informants the interviews were conducted in English. All the interviews conducted took place in the offices of the respective informant. The IDIs were

conducted by the researcher who moderated all the interview sessions. Detail notes of all relevant issues discussed were taken by the researcher and one of the research assistants who also severed as a note taker. The issues discussed were similarly captured on tape so as to ensure that important information is not left out. The qualitative data derived from the in-depth interviews were first of all transcribed and translated and sorted out according to the research objectives. The transcriptions were then reviewed and relevant quotations that captured the themes and ideas being expressed in each question were noted and compiled. Since the discussion covers the same topics in more or less the same order, the research report provided a balance between the direct quotations of the participants and the summarization of their discussions.

The quantitative data generated from the questionnaire survey were first checked for consistency and finally edited. After cleaning, the data were coded and analysed using the Statistical Package for Social Science [SPSS] version 25.0. Two types of analytical techniques were employed in the analysis of the quantitative data to achieve the stated objectives of the study, namely, the univariate and bivariate analyses. The univariate analysis involved the use of descriptive statistics to examine the socio-demographic characteristics of the respondents, among other relationships between some selected variables.

Data Analysis and Discussions of Findings

The findings of this study as obtained from the analysis of the research questions indicated that, based on the available information, the research conducted on the psycho-social challenges experienced by families of persons with mental disorders in Kaduna state provides valuable insights into the complex dynamics underlying these challenges. The patients in this study ranged from 18 to over 60 years of age, with the largest proportion being between 18-29 years (31.5%) and 30-39 years (15.2%). This age distribution is consistent with global patterns where the onset of severe mental illnesses, such as schizophrenia and mood disorders, typically occurs in late adolescence to early adulthood (Kessler et al., 2007). Studies suggest that early onset mental illness significantly disrupts key developmental milestones, including education and employment (Patel et al., 2007). This is evidenced in this study, where nearly half of the patients (48.8%) were unemployed, consistent with findings that mental illness often impairs an individual's ability to maintain steady employment (Hakulinen et al., 2019). Employment rates among individuals with mental disorders are consistently lower than the general population across both high-income and low-income countries (Thornicroft et al., 2009).

The Families of individuals with mental disorders face a broad range of challenges which includes psychological, economical, and social challenges. Financial challenges were reported by 25.2% of the respondents, with 15.6% of them describing these issues as very severe. While a notable 19.8% considered financial difficulties marginally or moderately severe, 19.8% reported that these challenges were negligible. This underscores the economic strain placed on families, though the severity of financial hardship varies significantly among households. These results are consistent with studies by Bauer et al. (2012) and Chisholm et al. (2003), which found that mental illness imposes a significant financial burden on households, often leading to long-term economic strain.

Psychological challenges emerged as the most significant burden for families, with 44.3% of respondents identifying them as severe, and 11.1% of these respondents classified them as very severe. A majority, 58.6%, rated their psychological struggles as marginally or moderately severe, while 30.4% perceived them as negligible. This data suggests that psychological difficulties are a major concern for most families, with emotional stress playing a central role in their caregiving experience. These findings are similar with previous studies showing that caregivers of persons with mental illness often experience high levels of psychological strain, leading to mental health disorders such as anxiety and depression (Schene, 1990; Perlick et al., 2007).

In terms of social challenges, 19.4% of the respondents experienced difficulties, with 16.2% of these families describing the challenges as very severe. A slightly larger portion, 54.1%, considered social challenges as marginally or moderately severe, while 29.7% regarded them as negligible. These figures reveal that social isolation and the strain on personal relationships are less common than psychological and economic challenges but still affect a significant number of families. The stigma attached to mental illness further compounds these challenges, as nearly 70% of caregivers reported

facing discrimination, a figure that mirrors studies conducted by Corrigan et al. (2004), which highlighted the isolating effects of societal stigma on families of mentally ill individuals. Stigma not only affects social interactions but also deepens the emotional distress of caregivers, reinforcing feelings of helplessness and marginalization (Corrigan and Watson, 2002).

Caregivers/Relatives of patients with mental disorders face a range of social challenges that further complicate their ability to provide care. Community support was reported by 31.2% of respondents, showing that a portion of the community plays a positive role in assisting these families. Nevertheless, this still leaves 68.8% of caregivers without adequate community support, indicating that the majority feel socially isolated or unsupported. Additionally, family support emerged as a critical factor, with 71.9% of families receiving assistance from relatives, underscoring the V importance of familial networks in caregiving. This highlights that, while community backing is often lacking, family members step in to fill the void.

Educational attainment among patients was relatively high, with 45.7% having post-secondary education. Nevertheless, despite high educational levels, the unemployment rate remains significant, indicating the severe impact of mental illness on functional outcomes. These findings align with research indicating that educational attainment may not translate to employment opportunities for individuals with chronic mental health conditions (Schmidt and DiNitto, 2013).

The socio-demographic profile of patient relatives showed a wide age distribution (18-77 years), with a significant portion (55.4%) having post-secondary education. Despite relatively high educational levels, 67.5% of the relatives were self-employed, which may reflect the flexible nature of self-employment that allows caregivers to balance work and caregiving responsibilities (Sinha et al., 2013). This finding is consistent with the global trend of caregivers, particularly women, often shifting to less formal employment structures to accommodate caregiving duties (Pinquart and Sorensen, 2007).

A majority of the caregivers (63.8%) were married, which provides potential social support, but also places additional emotional and financial strain on households already dealing with the complexities of mental illness. Studies have shown that caregivers who are married often report higher stress levels due to the added responsibility of managing both family and caregiving roles (Cousins et al., 2003). Religion plays a significant role in this community, with 63.5% of both patients and relatives identifying as Muslims, reflecting the cultural and religious composition of northern Nigeria, especially in the federal Neuro-psychiatric hospital, Kaduna.

Families of individuals with mental disorders experience significant psychosocial and economic burdens. This finding is consistent with numerous studies that have demonstrated the emotional and financial toll mental illness places on caregivers. In this study, 84.8% of caregivers reported experiencing stress, 75.9% reported emotional distress, and 76.4% reported depression. These findings are similar with previous studies showing that caregivers of persons with mental illness often experience high levels of psychological strain, leading to mental health disorders such as anxiety and depression (Schene, 1990; Perlick et al., 2007). The stigma attached to mental illness further compounds these challenges, as nearly 70% of caregivers reported facing discrimination, a figure that mirrors studies conducted by Corrigan et al. (2004), which highlighted the isolating effects of societal stigma on families of mentally ill individuals. Stigma not only affects social interactions but also deepens the emotional distress of caregivers, reinforcing feelings of helplessness and marginalization (Corrigan and Watson, 2002).

Financially, the study found that 80.1% of families face the high cost of medication, and 64.3% reported a decline in household income due to caregiving responsibilities. These results are consistent with studies by Bauer et al. (2012) and Chisholm et al. (2003), which found that mental illness imposes a significant financial burden on households, often leading to long-term economic strain. The reliance on borrowing and the subsequent indebtedness reported by 61.4% of caregivers is a common theme in literature on the economic impact of chronic illness, as families struggle to meet the cost of care (WHO, 2003). The financial challenges reported in this study also echo findings from Nigeria and other low-income countries, where the costs of transportation to healthcare facilities (reported by 50.9% of participants) and limited access to financial assistance exacerbate the burden on caregivers (Ssebunnya et al., 2010). The study suggests that the government

and health services should develop policies to alleviate these financial pressures through subsidies or social safety nets, similar to recommendations made by Patel et al. (2010) regarding mental health care in low-resource settings.

Conclusion

This study examined the psycho-social as well as the economic challenges faced by families of patients suffering from mental disorder receiving treatment in the Federal Neuro-psychiatric hospital, Barnawa, Kaduna State. Mental health is important at every stage of life, ranging from childhood and adolescence through adulthood. It is as important as physical health to daily living -- a relative state of mind in which a person who is healthy is able to cope with and adjust to the recurrent stresses of everyday living. Often studies focus on the mental patients or the health workers themselves, or even the macro structure – the hospitals and the services offered but ignoring the caregivers, notably families of the patients, whose immense contributions cannot be overlooked in the overall treatment process. This study adopted a mixed method approach, combining both qualitative (in-depth interviews) and quantitative (questionnaires), which involved men and women, totaling four hundred (400) families or caregivers of mentally ill patients, who have consistently accompanied their mentally ill patients to the hospital in the last six months. The findings of the research indicated that families of people with mental disorders face a variety of challenges, including: psychological, emotional, financial, and social. They often experience disturbing thoughts, emotional disturbance, communication problems, and worry about the future. They may also experience depression, anxiety, sadness, guilt, and sometimes shame. Equally, in the social front, the caregivers experience discrimination, stigma and lack of social support from relatives, the community and the government, thereby leading to increased social distance. Economic challenges are also a problem as the families experience financial constraints emanating from costs for patient care and transportation, and shortages of medicine. Most of them struggle with poverty and interference with income generating activities. In order to address the psycho-social challenges of families caring for their relatives suffering from mental illness in Kaduna state, this research recommends, that families of patients with mental disorders should have better access to financial assistance and psychological support.

The findings are significant and multifaceted. Caregiving for persons with mental illness has its advantages, yet it has multiple social and psychological challenges for both family caregivers and mental health professionals. Coping strategies and skills are important to the well-being of the caregiver and the patient. Tackling these problems needs a collaborative approach between health care providers and the government so that the needs of the caregiver and the family in general can be addressed. In line with the above therefore, replication of the study with a broader sample from different hospitals including communities will be useful for further enriching the knowledge base of the phenomenon and in providing a foundation for future research in clinical practice.

Policy Recommendations

Based on the findings of this research, the following recommendations have been offered in order to enhance the wellbeing of family members of people affected by mental disorder in Kaduna state:

1. *Enhance Support for Caregivers*: Families of patients with mental disorders should have better access to financial assistance and psychological support. The federal government in collaboration with non-governmental organizations could provide funding to ease the financial burden and mental health services for caregivers.

2. *Improve Mental Health Education*: Increasing public awareness about mental health and reducing stigma should be a priority. Community education programs can help demystify mental illness and the work of mental health professionals, fostering a more supportive environment for patients and caregivers.

3. *Comparative Studies across Regions*: Future research could compare psychosocial and economic challenges faced by families and health workers in different regions of Nigeria. This would provide a broader understanding of mental health challenges across varying socio-economic and cultural contexts.

4. *Exploration of Technological Solutions*: Future studies could explore the use of digital tools, such as mobile applications and tele-health services, to support both caregivers and health workers in managing mental health care. This could potentially reduce some of the economic and emotional burdens associated with in-person visits to psychiatric facilities.

5. *Inclusion of Broader Populations*: Future studies should include a more diverse range of mental health workers, including psychologists and counsellors, as well as patients from varying socio-economic backgrounds. This would provide a more comprehensive view of the challenges and coping strategies within mental health care in Nigeria.

6. *Evaluating the Impact of Public Education Programs*: Further research could assess the effectiveness of mental health education programs in reducing stigma and improving public attitudes towards mental illness and mental health professionals.

7. *Longitudinal Studies on Mental Health Interventions*: There is a need for longitudinal studies that follow families and patients over time to assess the long-term impact of interventions aimed at reducing the psychosocial and economic burdens of mental illness. This would help in identifying sustainable strategies for improving mental health outcomes.

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

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Adaptation, Climate Change, Strategy, Environment, Human security paradigm

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 riskier 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 to manifest 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 extra-terrestrial factors the 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 ultraviolet emission). 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 showing the 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 greenhouse effect, some of these measures that can be taken to mitigate climate change include;

- Research into geo-engineering to produce more environmentally 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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EXAMINING THE IMPACT OF EXCHANGE RATE REGIMES ON INFLATION IN NIGERIA

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Inflation, Nominal exchange rate, NKPC

ABSTRACT
This study empirically examining the impact of exchange rate regimes on inflation in Nigeria. Using quarterly secondary data, it was structured from 1981 to 1986 for fixed exchange rate and also 1987 to 2023 for managed flexible exchange rate. The variables used were Consumer price index (cpi) that captured inflation as dependent variable while Nominal exchange rate (nexrt), fixed and managed flexible exchange rate, and real gross domestic product (rgdp) as an independent variable. The variables were tested for the unit root test, both the ADF and PP unit root tests established that all the variables were stationary at both level (I(0)) for CPI and first differencing (I(1)) for nexrt and rgdp. The ARDL Bounds indicated test that there exists a long run relationship among the variables, they were co-integrated. The result of the open economy fixed exchange rate model shows that the co-efficient of output gap is -0.1146 and it was found to be statistically significant, it means that there is a trade-off between inflation and Unemployment during the fixed exchange rate regime while the result also showed that the managed flexible exchange rate regime is characterized by an output gap of 1.2920, which was found to be statistical insignificant, it means that there is absence of trade-off between inflation and unemployment during manage flexible exchange rate regime because a stronger positive relationship between inflation and unemployment may indicate stagflation pressure, where both inflation and unemployment rise simultaneously. In conclusion, managed flexible exchange rate regime is more impacted positively than fixed exchange rate regime. The study recommends that the Monetary authority should put more effort to control Nominal Exchange rate so that it would not cause inflation in Nigeria by supplying adequate US$ into Nigeria foreign exchange market when necessary.

Introduction

According to CBN (2017), the CBN shifted from a fixed exchange rate regime to a managed flexible exchange rate regime due to fact that of Economic reasons i.e inability to sustain fixed rate, and currency misalignment making Nigeria exports uncompetitive in the global market. Mândricelu (2012) viewed Inflation as one of the most dangerous economic phenomena manifested in contemporary economies. Inflation appears in a nation when there is excess supply of money compared to the volume of goods and services in the economy. Both developed and underdeveloped nations attempt to increase household income thereby increase the purchasing power of the household as a result of this lead to inflation through price increase of goods and services. To Control inflation is difficult in less developed nations compared to the advanced nations, the main reason is that advanced nations have faced relatively little, passing periods of inflation.

Exchange rate policy, given an open economy framework, is very crucial in the monetary transmission mechanism. Mthuli and Ndou, (2011) Exchange rate affect aggregate demand channel of the monetary transmission of monetary policy. It affects the relative prices between domestic and foreign goods and foreign demand for domestic goods. The direct exchange rate channel for monetary policy transmission affects inflation through the domestic price of imported goods and intermediate inputs, which are components of consumer price inflation. In addition, it affects nominal wages via the effect on inflation on wage setting, the foreign demand for domestic goods which impact on the aggregate demand for domestic goods.

Statement of Problem

Zubair, George, and Aliyu (2013), exchange rate stability remains an important issue that usually dominates the policy-making agendas of governments both in the developed and developing countries. This is so because it has broad implications not only for international trade and balance of payments but also for the general price level, for the conduct of monetary policy and macroeconomic stability". In spite all the efforts of the monetary authority to stabilize exchange rate in the fixed exchange rate regime, inability to sustain fixed rate, currency misalignment, and Dutch disease were associate problems of fixed exchange rate regimes. These problems call for managed flexible rate regimes to replace the fixed exchange rate regime.

Conceptual Literature

i) Exchange rate

According to CBN (2017), the rate of exchange is the price of one currency in terms of another currency, in other words, it is the current market price for which one domestic currency can be exchanged for foreign once. It is usually expressed as some units of a domestic currency that will buy one unit of a foreign currency and vice versa. For instance, the Nigeria naira per the United States (US) dollar (N/US$) or US dollars per Nigeria Naira (US$/N). If one US Dollar can be exchanged for N570, then one Nigeria naira can be exchanged for US$0.002. The role of the exchange rate in an economy cannot be overlooked because imports and exports also play a major role in the economy. Exchange rate instability affects the prices of imports, exports of commodities and services. If the value of money, for instance, Nigeria naira decreases, imported commodities become high-priced, and this would result in a reduction of the volume of imports in Nigeria.

ii) Managed flexible rate regime

Chung and Yang, (2000), described a freely floating exchange rate system or flexible exchange rate system is one in which the exchange rate, at any time, is determined by the interaction of the market forces of supply and demand for foreign exchange. CBN (2017) indicated that, the degree of flexibility of the exchange rate depends on the nature of government intervention in which event a clean float or managed float can result. A clean float or independent float results where the government does not intervene in exchange rate determination to establish its level. A managed float results where the government intervenes in the foreign exchange market to manipulate the exchange rate to the desired rate because the authorities have views about where the exchange rate ought to be or not. In addition, CBN (2017) stated the monetary authority may also attempt to influence the exchange rate without having a specific exchange rate path or target. The government worries if the exchange rate depreciates a lot or appreciates so much as to threaten trade competitiveness and so intervenes directly or indirectly. Indicators for managing the rate are broadly judgmental (i.e balance of payment position, international

reserves, parallel market development), and adjustments may not be automatic.

iii) Fixed rate regime

Fajgenbaum & Quirk, (1991), described a fixed exchange rate system is one in which exchange rates are maintained at fixed levels. Each country has its currency fixed against another currency. It may seldom be changed (hard peg) or changed occasionally (adjustable peg). Step devaluations against a major currency are the least ambiguous examples of fixed exchange rate policies. Obadan (2009), gave some numbers of reasons why the fixed exchange rate is influential: (a) To reduce transactions costs (b) certainty in international transactions arising from reduction of exchange rate risk which can discourage trade and investment (c) To promote orderliness in foreign exchange markets; and (d) To provide a credible nominal anchor for monetary policy. Fixed exchange rates may take the form of (i) firmly fixed exchange rate regimes such as currency boards, monetary union and dollarization (the three are also known as hard pegs) and (ii) other conventional fixed peg arrangements such as single currency peg and pegging to a basket of currencies. Hard pegs tended to become increasingly popular in the aftermath of the East Asian financial crises. The main argument in favour of a hard peg is the need to make monetary policy credible. Related to this is the alleged ability of hard pegs to induce discipline, whether fiscal or monetary.

iv) Inflation

Inflation could be defined as a continuing rise in prices as measured by an index such as the implicit price deflator for Gross National Product (GNP) or by the consumer price index (CPI)". CBN (2017), view that Inflation is often be described as a state when "too money is chasing too few goods. When inflation is present in a country, the money loses purchasing power. The purchasing power of a given amount of Nigeria naira will be smaller over some time if there is inflation in the economy. For example, supposing that N100.00 can purchase 100 shirts in the current year if the price of shirts is twice next year, the same N100.00 can only afford 50 shirts".

CBN (2017) further added that there are two key words must be borne in mind when defining inflation, i) General or aggregate, which indicate that the increase in prices that make-up inflation must cover the whole basket of goods and services in the economy as distinct from an isolated increase in the prices of a single goods or group of goods. However, changes in the individual prices or any combination of the prices cannot be considered as the occurrence of inflation because a situation may arise such that a change in an individual price could cause the other prices to increase. For instance, petroleum product prices in Nigeria, this again does not signal inflation unless the price adjustment in the basket is such that the general price level is induced to increase and ii) increase in the general level of prices must be persistent for inflation to be said to have happened or occurred. The general price level must show a tendency of a sustained and continuous increase over different periods and this must be disjunctive from a situation of a one-off rise in the price level.

Theoretical Review

i) The New Keynesian Phillips Curve (NKPC) Theory

The New Keynesian Phillips Curve (NKPC) theory has been influential in shaping modern monetary policy and inflation targeting frameworks. The NKPC theory is a macroeconomic model that combines elements of Keynesian and neoclassical economics to explain the relationship between inflation and unemployment. It was developed in the 1990s by economists such as Joseph Stiglitz, George Akerlof, and Julio Rotemberg. The NKPC theory implies that Inflation is determined by expected future inflation, current output, and potential output. Monetary policy can influence inflation through expectations and output. The Phillips curve is downward-sloping, but not necessarily linear.

The NKPC equation:

$$\pi t = \beta E\pi t+1 + \kappa(yt - y^*)$$

Where:

πt = inflation

$E\pi t+1$ = expected future inflation

yt = current output

y^* = potential output

β = the discount factor

κ = the slope of the Phillips curve

The key features of the NKPC theory are i) Micro-foundations: The model is based on individual firms' pricing decisions, rather than aggregate demand and supply curves. ii) Sticky prices: Firms adjust prices infrequently due to menu costs, information costs, or other imperfections. iii) Calvo pricing: Firms set prices for a random duration, leading to a distribution of prices across the economy. iv) Forward-looking expectations: Firms set prices based on expected future inflation and marginal costs and v) Monopolistic competition: Firms have some market power, allowing them to set prices above marginal cost.

Empirical Review

Several researchers have empirically examined the impact of exchange rate on inflation in both developed and underdeveloped countries including Nigeria. More or less empirical studies focus on the speed of adjustment of inflation in each exchange rate regimes. The study shall thus consider a few of these studies in greater detail to enhance our idea about their methods and findings.

Musa, (2021) examined the effect of exchange rate volatility on inflation in Nigeria using annual time series data covering the period 1986-2019. The study employed the vector error correction model (VECM) and the generalized autoregressive conditional heteroskedasticity (GARCH) to ascertain the long-run effect of exchange rate volatility on inflation. Using the Consumer price index to capture inflation being the dependent variable while nominal exchange rate (NER), money supply (MS), import (IMP) and export (EPT) were used as the explanatory variables. Findings indicate that nominal exchange rate (NER) and money supply (MS) had a positive and 5% significant impact on the consumer price index. It was recommended that "growth of money supply should be controlled by the central bank to reduce inflation to the barest minimum".

Eneh, and Amakor, (2021), examine the implications of foreign exchange regimes on selected macro-economic indicators in Nigeria from 1999 to 2020. The study adopts Ex-Post Facto and time-series research design. Secondary data retrieved from the CBN statistical bulletin, Federal Inland Revenue Service (FIRS) and National Bureau of Statistics for various years were used. The data analysis technique that was utilized was multiple regression analysis. The relationship between exchange regimes and inflation was positive though not significant at 5%. The relationship between exchange regimes and current account balance (CAB) was positive but not significant at 5%. The study recommends that the CBN continues to critically examine the exchange rate system in Nigeria especially because of the potential devaluation of the Naira in the community of other currencies.

Altunoz (2020) examined Pass-through effects of exchange rate on Inflation in Turkey. ARDL Boundary Test is preferred for the 2010-2018 period. Domestic producer price index (PPI) were used as an independent variable and weighted nominal exchange rate (EXC), world crude oil prices (OIL), domestic money supply (M3) and the capacity utilization rate (CUR) were used as dependent variables. The results indicate that, 1% increase in nominal exchange rate, 0.11% increase in domestic producer price index and 1% increase in world oil prices increase the producer price index by 0.07%. Similarly, a 1% increase in M3 money supply, a 0.28% increase in the producer price index and a 1% increase in the capacity utilization rate lead to a 0.31% increase in the producer price index. It is also understood that all variables in the model increase inflation. However, findings shows that, the long-term effects of the exchange rate effect on domestic prices remain low. In addition, the lowest transition effect on producer prices is attributable to crude oil prices. The other two variables M3 and the capacity utilization rate have a stronger effect on domestic prices than the exchange rate effect. The other two variables M3 and the capacity utilization rate have a stronger effect on domestic prices than the exchange rate effect.

David, Koye, and Adebowale, (2019), examined the effect of exchange rate regimes on inflation in Nigeria from 1970 to 2015. Using Autoregressive Distributed Lag (ARDL) approach to estimate the parameters, the result shows that "the past one-year value of exchange rate has a negative and significant impact on the current inflation rate. The inflation rate increased more during the fixed exchange regime compared to the floating exchange rate regime. They recommend that the government of Nigeria must continue to ensure that it

achieves exchange and interest rates stability to stem inflationary tendencies".

Musibau (2018), examine the influence of different exchange rate regimes on Nigeria's inflation performance between 1970 and 2012. Estimates of the co-integrating regression were employed. He finds deeds to be "the relevant dimension for inflation in the context of crawling pegs, only hard pegs seem to be important in the context of words. The results hold even after controlling for the growth in money supply and interest rate. The hollowing out the hypothesis in the case of Nigeria is therefore not confirmed. The results show that pegged exchange rate regime plays a significant role in anchoring expectation, improve credibility and consequently reduce inflation when it is backed by de facto consistent behaviour".

Ndubuisi Marcellinus Nwaru (2017), examine the "effect of exchange rate on inflation in Nigeria using annual data from 1970 to 2014, the multiple regression method was adopted. The unit root and Johansen co-integration tests were used to test for the stationarity and co-integration respectively of the variables (inflation, money supply, exchange rate, and real gross domestic product and import prices). The findings show that inflation was responsive to lagged inflation, exchange rate, money supply and import prices at a 5% significance level. Thus, the study concludes that the exchange rate is a veritable tool to manage inflation in the country; therefore, the Central Bank of Nigeria should use policies that have a direct effect on inflation as policy measures in combination with an exchange rate policy to check inflation movement in the country, especially policies on monetary growth and import management to manage inflation. In addition, exchange rate management policies can also be used to support other macroeconomic policies".

Sanam and Fetullah (2017), discussed the relationship between inflation and Exchange rate based on time series data, using the Vector Autoregression (VAR) model and Hendry General to Specific Modeling method. They used annual data for the period 1976-2012 for the Hendry method using inflation and Exchange rate as variables. Quarterly data were also used from 1997: 3 - 2011: 4 to estimate the VAR model, using money supply, exchange rate, and inflation rate as variables. The result of the Hendry model obtained that there was a direct relationship between Exchange rate and inflation. An expansion in foreign exchange rates makes the inflation also expand. When the money supply variable was included in the VAR model, the effects of exchange rate and money supply on inflation has been investigated as well. According to the results, both the exchange rate and money supply affect inflation positively. In conclusion, the contribution of the exchange rate on inflation was lesser than the money supply.

Aham & Emeka (2016), investigated "the relationship between exchange rate and inflation volatility and stock prices volatility in Nigeria, using time series quarterly data from 1986Q1 2012Q4. The volatilities of exchange rate and inflation in their study were calculated using standard GARCH (1,1) models. The relationship between exchange rate, inflation volatility and stock prices volatility were examined using GARCH (1,1)-S models of an extended GARCH-X model. The findings of the study show that there was a negative relationship between stock market prices volatility and exchange rate and inflation volatility in Nigeria".

Abiodun Bada et al (2016), examine the "exchange rate pass-through effect at the aggregate level into import and consumer prices in Nigeria for the period 1995Q1 – 2015Q1.Variables used were Consumer price index, Nominal Exchange rate, Oil price, Real Gross domestic product, and effective Nominal exchange rate. Utilizing the Johansen approach to cointegration and a vector error correction methodology, the paper found the exchange rate pass-through into Nigeria's CPI inflation to be incomplete. The long-run pass-through elasticities were found to be 0.24 and 0.30 for the baseline and alternative models. The effect was discovered to be higher in import than in consumer prices, which implies that the pass-through effect declines along the pricing chain. These findings were useful in the design and implementation of monetary and exchange rate policies by the Central Bank of Nigeria".

Theoretical framework

The theoretical framework of this research work is tied to the New Keynesian Phillips Curve (NKPC). NKPC has set up a framework on the trade-off between the potential (efficient) output, inflation (gap), and the difference between the real outputs under the assumption of real wage rigidities.

Phillips (1958), from the Simplest Phillips Curve model, firstly examined "the relationship between unemployment and inflation". According to Karanassou et al. (2010), **"**the original equation is given such as:

$$\pi_t = c - bu_t + \epsilon_t \text{ ----------(1.1)}$$

Equation (i) states that, *c* and *b* are positive constants. π_t is a rate of inflation, u_t is a rate of unemployment and $\epsilon_t$is the error term. In the static nature of the Equation (i), the steady-state and rate of long-run unemployment are identical". Phelps (1967; 1968) and Friedman (1968), in the seminal contributions, stated that "a dynamic extension of the Equation (i) is the so-called traditional Keynesian Phillips curve can be written as follows:

$$\pi_t = c + a\pi_{t-1} - bu_t \text{ ----------(1.2)}$$

Equation (ii) state that, the autoregressive parameter is $|a| <1$. Similarly, to the static case in equation (i), there is a long-run trade-off and no natural rate of unemployment. The hypothesis of a natural rate of unemployment (u^n) gave rise to the Expectations Augmented Phillips Curve that can be shown as follows:

$$\pi_t = \pi_{t-1} - b(u_t - u^n) \text{ ----------(1.3)}$$

In the equation (iii), adaptive expectations are identical to the Expectations Augmented Phillips Curve under the random walk/rational expectations assumption". Karanassou et al. (2010) argued that "the main difference between two frameworks is that the random walk/rational expectations can separate the short and the long-run". Blanchard and Gali, (2007), mentioned that "the standard NKPC has some fractions such as staggered price equilibrium, firms, efficient allocation (first best), people, and flexible price equilibrium (second best). The standard NKPC can also be written as follows:

$$\pi_t = \beta E\pi_{t+1} + K(y_t - y_t^*) \text{ ----------(1.4)}$$

In the equation (iv), inflation (π_t) is a function of expected future inflation ($E\pi_{t-1}$), of the deviation from actual (y_t) and potential output (y_t^*) known as output gap". Blanchard and Gali (2007), also "introduced real wage rigidities into the standard NKPC framework, and re-examined flexible price equilibrium (second-best) and staggered price equilibrium". Blanchard and Gali, (2007), the framework "allow policy trade-offs and implications for the output cost of disinflation. They also discussed some alternative approaches, such as distortion shocks, different structures of wage and price setting and the behaviour of inflation. They derived the relationship between inflation and unemployment. In addition, they firstly and explicitly introduced unemployment". Blanchard and Gali, (2007), "Secondly, rewrote the inflation equation in terms of unemployment that can be written as follows:

$$\pi_t = \frac{1}{(1+\beta)}\pi(-1) + \frac{\beta}{(1+\beta)}E\pi(+1) - \frac{\lambda(1-\alpha)(1-\gamma)\theta}{\gamma(1+\beta)}u + \frac{\alpha\pi}{(1+\beta)}\Delta V + \epsilon \text{ ----------(1.5)}$$

In Equation (v), inflation is a function of past and expected future inflation, of the unemployment rate (*u*), and the change in the real price of the non-produced input (ΔV). The term (ϵ) is proportional to (π-Ɛ(π-1) so it is white noise, and orthogonal to all variables at *t* -1, on the other hand, $\underline{\lambda}$ is the price rigidity and γ is the wage rigidity".

Blanchard and Gali (2007), added that "terms of trade volatility on the open economy is indirectly described within the real price of the non-produced input. In the equation (v), it is important to note that there are also different open-economy frameworks for the NKPC in the literature, such as those examined by Batini et al. (2005), Rumler (2007), Kuttner and Robinson (2010) and Mihailov et al. (2011). The framework of the NKPC in equation (v) can be estimated by using Generalized Method of Moments (GMM) or Instrumental Variables (IV) that parameters have certain constraints".

Model Specification.

The impact of exchange rate regimes on inflation rate in Nigeria, this study estimates both long-run and short-run models to determine the likely impact of both the fixed and flexible exchange rates on inflation in Nigeria during the period of study.

The model could be expressed in a functional form for a fixed exchange regime, Econometrics model I.

$$\boldsymbol{logcpi = \beta_1 logcpi_gap_t(-1) + \beta_2 logcpi_gap_t(1) + \beta_3 logrgdp_gap_t + \beta_4 fxex_t + \beta_0 + \varepsilon_t} \quad \text{(3.1)}$$

The model for a Managed flexible exchange regime could be expressed in a linear form, Econometrics model II.

$$\boldsymbol{logcpi = \beta_1 logcpi_gap_t(-1) + \beta_2 logcpi_gap_t(1) + \beta_3 logrgdp_gap_t + \beta_5 logflex_t + \beta_0 + \varepsilon_t} \quad \text{(3.2)}$$

Where:		fxex =	Fixed exchange rate
cpi =	consumer price index (inflation)	Log =	logarithmic function
rgdp =	Real gross domestic product	β_0-β_5 =	Parameter to be estimated
flex =	Flexible exchange rate	ε_t =	Disturbance Error term.

Result and Discussion

i) Unit Root Test

The result of the Unit root test is captured in the table 1.

Table 1 below indicate the result of the unit root test (Summary of Unit root test)

Variable	**ADF**			**PP**			**KPSS**		
	level	***First Diff***	***I(d)***	***level***	***First Diff***	***I(d)***	***level***	***First Diff***	***I(d)***
Log(rgdp)	0.136[a]	-4.212[a**]	I(1)	0.657[a]	-13.642[a**]	I(1)	1.438[a]	0.307[a**]	I(1)

Log(nexrt)	-2.205[a]	-6.858[a**]	I(1)	-2.418[a]	-17.094[a**]	I(1)	1.065[a]	0.042[a**]	I(1)
Logcpi	-3.023[a**]		I(0)	-3.055[a**]		I(0)	0.427[a**]		I(0)

Source: Analysed by the Author (E-views 10)

To assess the impact of fixed exchange rate regime on inflation in Nigeria, stationarity of the time series data (Fixed exchange rate, Real Gross domestic product, Consumer price index,) used in this research work was examined using the Augmented Dickey-Fuller (ADF) Unit Root Test and Phillip Peron (PP) unit root test while Kwiatkowski-Phillips-Schmidt-Shin (KPSS) is employed to authenticate the correctness of ADF and PP unit root test. In this study, 5% critical value is used.

Table1 shows that having tested for the unit root test, both the ADF and PP unit root test established that all the variables are stationary at both levels (I(0)) and after first differencing(I(1)). Similarly, the KPSS unit root test confirms the result found under the ADF and PP indicating that the variables are the combination of I(0) and I(1).

ii) Correlation matrix

The result of the correlation matrix is presented in table 2

Table 2: Correlation matrix

Correlation	**logcpi**	**Log(rgdp)**	**Log(nexrt)**
Logcpi	1.000000		
Log(rgdp)	-0.424204	1.000000	
Log(nexrt)	-0.263127	0.728030	1.000000

Source: Analysed by the Author (E-views 10)

It is imperative to determine whether the model is suffering from a serial correlation problems. From table 2 above shows that rgdp and cpi are inversely related and have a weak correlation (-0.424204), nexrt and cpi also have inverse relationship with weak correlation

(-0.263 127), nexrt and rgdp have positive and direst relationship with strong correction (0.728030). It implies the absence of correlation among the variables. Therefore, our model is free from serial correlation problems.

iii) Optimal lag length selection

This section presents the result of the optimal lag length selection.

Table 3: Lag length criteria selection

Lag	LogL	LR	FPE	AIC	SC	HQ
0	-304.6075	NA	39.64848	20.70717	20.98741	20.79682
1	-159.1686	223.0063	0.028340	13.41124	15.37292	14.03880
2	-89.89129	78.51430*	0.004226*	11.19275*	14.83587*	12.35822*

Source: Analysed by the Author (E-views 10)

It becomes pertinent to determine the optimal lag length. The Optimal lag length is determined by both the Akaike Information Criterion (AIC) and the Schwarz Information Criterion (SC). The table below shows the lag length structure.

The result in table 3 portrays different lag length criterions and the respective lag length chosen. From the results, LR test statistics, the Final Prediction error, Akaike Information Criterion, Schwarz information criterion, and Hannan-Quinn information criterion obtained lag length structure for INTRT, LOGRGDP, LOGNEXRT and LOGCPI. According to the econometrics analysis/techniques, AIC and SC is always the main focus in the lag length criteria, but in a situation whereby the two possess the same lag length or a situation whereby the SC is greater than the AIC, it's always advisable to go for the SC. This study made use of the SC as the lag order selected by the criterion. After establishing the lag order length, which is Lag 2, the Co-integration and long-run equation results have to be estimated.

iv) ARDL Bounds Co-integration Test

The result of ARDL Bound Co-integration test been captured in table 4

Table 4: Cointegration test (ARDL Bounds test)

Test Statistic	**Value**	**K**	**Significant**	**I0(Lower Bound)**	**I1(Upper Bound)**
F-Statistic	5.153619	5	10%	2.08	3
			5%	2.39	3.38
			2.5%	2.7	3.73
			1%	3.06	4.15

Source: Analysed by the Author (E-views 10)

Having established that the variables are integrated of a different order, it is very important to determine whether there exists a long-run equilibrium relationship amongst them. Co-integration describes the existence of an equilibrium or stationarity relationship between two or more times series each of which is individually non-stationary. Therefore, since our variables are of I(0) and I(1) respectively, to test for the co-integration, the ARDL Bounds test will be employed to determine the existence of a long-run relationship among the variables. From table 4, the F-Statistic value (5.15) is greater than both the lower and the upper bound, it implies that there exists a long-run relationship among the variables. This result means that in Nigeria's

case, the hypothesis of no co-Integration among the variables should be rejected. It, therefore, necessitated the estimation of both the short run and long-run model.

v) Result of Impact of exchange rate regimes on inflation in Nigeria.

The result of inflation dynamics across the two exchange rate regimes in Nigeria for the period under study. The result is presented in table 5

Table 5: Results of Open Economy NKPC for Fixed and Manage flexible Exchange rate

Dependent Variable: logcpi					
Fixed Exchange rate Regime			**Managed Flexible Exchange rate Regime**		
Variable	Coefficient	Prob	Variable	Coefficient	Prob
Logcpi_gap(-1)	1.3742	0.9016	**Logcpi_gap(-1)**	0.3462	0.9195
Logcpi_gap(1)	-0.0349	0.0001**	**Logcpi_gap(1)**	0.6490	0.8408
Logrgdp_gap	-0.1146	0.0001**	**Logrgdp_gap**	1.2920	0.7856
Logfxex	0.0789	0.2102	**logflex**	0.0657	0.0000**
C	-1.1530	0.0000	**C**	-2.0690	0.0000
R^2: 0.9965			**R^2: 0.6340**		
Adjusted R^2: 0.9960	-		**Adjusted R^2: 0.6222**		

Source: Analysed by the Author 2023 (E-views 10)

Diagnostic tests

To check the adequacy of the model, this study carried out a series of a diagnostic tests to get a valid result and inference.

i) Linearity test (Ramsey Reset Test)

The result of the linearity test (Ramsey Reset Test) is presented in table 6

Table 6 Linearity test

	Value	**Df**	**Probability**
t-statistic	1.553237	102	0.1235
F-statistic	2.412547	(1,102)	0.1235

Source: Analysed by the Author (E-views 10)

Table 6 shows the output from the Ramsey reset test reports the test regression, the F-statistic and t-statistic for testing the hypothesis that the coefficients on the powers of fitted values from the regression are jointly zero, that is, the model is correctly specified. The null cannot be rejected since the p-value is more than 0.1. Hence, the model is correctly specified.

ii) Stability test

It is said to be stable if the green line lies within the red line using the CUSUM residual test. The CUSUM test satisfies the stability condition because the line falls within the graph. The graph is shown in Figures 2.

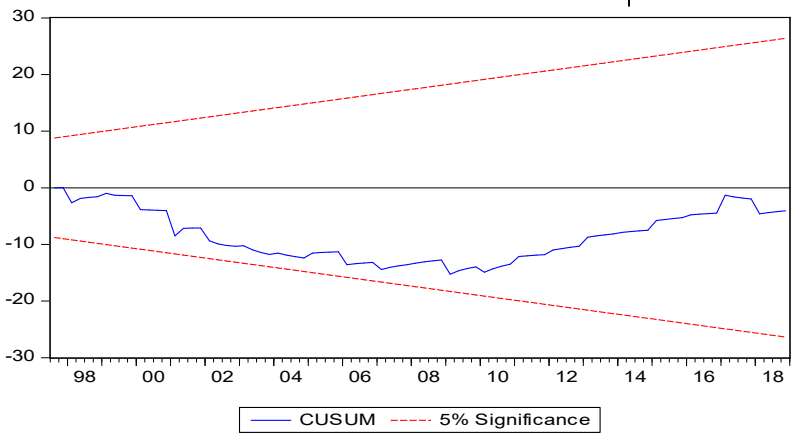


Figure 2: CUSUM Residual Test

Discussion of Results

Table 5 shows the result of the open economy fixed exchange rate model shows that the co-efficient of output gap is -0.1146 and it was found to be statistically significant. This means that there is a trade-off between inflation and Unemployment during the fixed exchange rate regime. The trade-off indicates that a 1% reduction in output gap or unemployment will be sacrifice with about 11.5% rise in inflation during fixed exchange rate regime in Nigeria. However, the co-efficient of exchange rate was statically insignificant (P-value 0.2102). This suggests the absent of exchange rate pass-through for the period under fixed exchange rate. Therefore, the findings indicate that inflation dynamics under fixed exchange rate regime approximated the open economy NKPC into a closed economy because exchange rate pass-through to domestic inflation has no impact. The R squared (R^2) is 0.9965, this indicate that the explanatory variables best explained the behaviour of the dependent variable (CPI) by 100%.

In addition the result also showed that the managed flexible exchange rate regime is charaterised by an output gap of 1.2920, which was found to be statistical insignificant. This means that there is absence of trade-off between inflation and unemployment during manage flexible exchange rate regime because a stronger positive relationship between inflation and unemployment may indicate stagflation pressure, where both inflation and unemployment rise simultaneously. Thus, the result impulse LR-NKPC (Long-run new Keynesian Phillip Curve) that exhibits Stagflation behavoiur during monetary expansion. However, the co-efficient of exchange rate was found to be 0.0657, which was statistically significant. This means there is presence of exchange rate pass-through during managed flexible rate regime. The size of the exchange parameter indicates about 6.6% of domestic inflation measured due to exchange depreciation by this means that 1% rate of managed depreciation pass-through to domestic inflation as a 6.6 % rise, which is in line with the findings of Ohemeng, Agyapong, and Ofori-Boateng (2021). The R squared (R^2) is 0.6340, this indicate that the explanatory variables best explained the behaviour of the dependent variable (CPI) by 63% while the remaining 37% explanatory variables were not captured in the model.

Conclusion

In conclusion, it has been observed from the study that i) to assess the impact of exchange rate regimes on inflation in Nigeria, findings indicate, the Managed flexible exchange rate has more impact on inflation than during the fixed exchange rate regime, the study recommends that

Monetary authorities aggravate the effort to make sure that the exchange rate is kept stable. A stable exchange rate makes the domestic price of goods to be stable. Hence, CBN should maintain a stable exchange rate by allowing it to be determined competitively.

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ADMINISTRATIVE LEADERSHIP CONFLICTS AND CAUSES IN NIGERIA'S HEALTH SYSTEM

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Administrative, Conflicts, Health System, Leadership

ABSTRACT
Identification of the existence of conflicts, and evaluation of stakeholders' opinions on the possible causative elements, are the main thrusts of this study. Survey research design was adopted on the informed populations of medical doctors, medical laboratory scientists, nurses, optometrists, pharmacists, physiotherapists and radiographers, practising in the six Area Councils of the Federal Capital Territory Abuja, Nigeria, using a stratified sample size of 1642. Primary data were opinions directly obtained from the respondents. Secondary data were from textbooks, journals and gazetted government documents. This study established that conflicts exist over Nigeria's health system leadership, with the major causes being:non-respect of lawful professional boundaries, arrogance among professionals, unacceptability of foisted leaderships, and ambiguities in Government regulatory guidelines and Minor causes are: inferiority complex among certain professionals, inter-professional congestions in pursuing compatible goal of patients' well-being, incompatibility of goals when professional interests are prioritised, scarcities of resources and positions. It is recommended that the respective curricular of health professions' training schools, should be reviewed to inculcate discipline, conviviality and team-spirit in the out-going graduates. The continuing professional development programmes for practising professionals should be expanded to have inter-professional cross-fertilization of ideas, for better tolerance among health professionals.

1.0 Introduction

1.1 Background to the Study

Differences in perceptions on the existence of administrative leadership conflicts in the health subsector of Nigeria have been observed. While some people insinuate that no conflict really exists, others call attention to some instances that could be palpable evidences of conflicts. In healthcare systems where splits of a second could make a difference between life and death, conflicts among the workforce would be least desirable. More so, improvements in health management demands teamspirit. Considering also the import of health on global economic stability (Collins 1993) and power, attention needs to be paid to all factors that would work synergistically to keep health systems in near perfect state. One of them is the identification and resolution of overt and covert conflicts within the system, and among professionals who have been independently developed right from their training institutions, and affiliated thereafter to different unions. To achieve the global Sustainable Development Goals' healthcare components in Nigeria, addressing conflicts in health institutions' leaderships would be highly desirable.

Conflicts at workplace could present important challenges that can affect one's career development (Wilmot &Hocker 2001), implying that there is a need to definitively identify the existence of conflicts, if it does, for the correct remedy to be administered. An unresolved and ignored conflict can set stress and destructive forces in motion, that can decrease productivity, spread conflicts to initially-unaffected parties, and ultimately decrease workers' morale, and retard physical and mental health. The already bleak walls of the Nigerian health system would face the danger of total collapse if conflicts are allowed to precipitate a disgruntled nurse, depressed pharmacist a grumbling medical laboratory scientist, a disillusioned medical doctor who complains and rejects a non-doctor as the health minister or commissioner. All these set the scenario to evaluate the question of conflict existence or nonexistence, in the Nigerian health system.

The following research questions are pertinent:

i. Do conflicts really exist over administrative leadership in Nigeria's Healthcare system?

ii. What are their major and minor causes?

1.2 Objectives of the Study

The main thrusts of this study are to:

i. Establish the existence of conflicts over administrative leadership in the Healthcare system of Nigeria.

ii. Ascertain if certain elements are major and some others minor causes of administrative leadership conflicts in Nigeria's health system.

To clarify the objectives above, the following hypotheses are propounded in the Null form:

i. There is no significant agreement among health professionals on the existence of conflicts over administrative leadership in Nigeria's health system.

ii. There is no significant dichotomy into major and minor causes of administrative leadership conflicts in Nigeria's health system.

1.3 Relevance of the Study

Theoretically, this study adds flesh to the body of knowledge in the areas of leadership and healthcare system administration, as well as conflicts studies. Empirically, the study would give insight to health policy-making, especially in leadership appointments in Nigeria's health system. Foreign governments and international organizations may find ituseful, as they may wish to compare the finding with their contemporary situations. Among healthcare professionals, it would help to reduce delusions, and challenge all to brace up with realities, in pursuance of the Sustainable Development Goals' Health Component.

1.4 Literature Review and Theoretical Framework

Conceptually, Leadership is as old as creation. It could be said to be instituted by God in (Genesis 1:28), (Goodnews Bible 2005), probably to avert the brutish and selfish characters of man in the State of Nature, which Thomas Hobbes (Ujo 2001) in the l7th C, lucidly theorized on. A summarised position of Scholars on leadership could be stated as: that band that holds people together and point them to the organizational

goal, catalytically motivating them to achieve organizational purpose. This implies that there ought to be reasonable harmony for leadership to be able to bind. It would be practically impossible to bind together riotous and disharmonious elements in pursuance of organizational goal. So, conflict must be reduced to the barest minimum for leadership to fulfill its mandate.

Williams et al (1984) description of leadership as the "Queen of all managerial functions", is an appreciation of Henri Fayol management functions principles: planning, coordination, commanding and controlling, with Gullick's addition of 'reporting, staffing, directing and budgeting' as critical components also. Nonetheless, some scholars conceptualized leadership as just a management duty that becomes most relevant at the supervisory level of management, but with a reduced relevance at the topmost levels (Plunkett, et al, 2002). However, it is instructive to note that leadership is required at all levels of management. Since leadership determines the progress, retrogression, or even death of any organization (Tyoor and Agada, 2003), conflict should be kept low within its rank and file.

The demand that a leader should be a team-player, and have high quotients (of intelligence, social, adversity-coping and emotionalstability), pre-supposes that ability to resolve conflicts, is required of him. Conflict, according to Caser, is a struggle or quarrel (in Wilmot and Hockey, 2001). His opinioncame from the USA-USSR Cold war background, as shown in his definition of conflict as a struggle over values and claims to scarce status, power and resources, aimed at neutralizing, injuring or eliminating opponents, in a win-or-lose mindset. Mary Parker Follet (Ujo 2005) expressed reservations about the extreme war opinion above. She opined that conflict may not be warfare, but a mere appearance of divergent opinions or interests, which of course, are normal and unavoidable components of societal existence. This opinion seems to capture the mood in this study of conflicts over leaderships in the Nigerian Healthcare sub-sector. However, the alleged threats to life and extinctions of profession(s) in Nigeria's National Hospital Abuja in 2015 by some health professionals seemed to give credence to the warfare posture of the seeming conflicts in Nigeria's Healthcare System.

There is a pre-emption of the fact that leadership emerges any time a human society gets organized (Ujo, 2001). However, that does not presuppose the spontaneous existence of followership. It is therefore important to identify conflict and address it, in order to have effective leadership and loyal followership, since, leadership without followership is questionable. Of all the possible general causes of conflicts, as reported by Wilmot & Hocker (2001), resource scarcity, selfesteem, emotional concerns and power affinity are implicated as prominent factors in conflicts. Elements such as incompatible interest, cultural dynamics, gender identity, religion and over-crowding according Mark and Synder (in Wilmot & Hocker 2001), were also suspected as possible causes of conflicts. The factors or elements possibly involved in Nigeria's healthcare system, if conflicts exist, need to be identified, for proper remedy.

Empirically, the Leader-Member relation principle propagated by Fieldler in 1971 (in Ujo 2003) implies that conflicts should be identified and addressed, and that would be a measure of a leader's favourableness to the led. This is also the idea shared by Robert House, etal (Ujo 2003) in his Path-Goal Theory of leadership, which is a watershed, as it combines behavior and situation to produce various leadership styles that help identify conflicts and proper resolutions, thus making themselves acceptable to the led.

In the UK, Patton (1996) reported that health policy analysts and health managers are brainstorming to address the persistent question of how to deliver and maintain improved healthcare in the face of acrimony, rancour and rivalries among healthcare professionals and in the presence of other social maladies. This implies that conflicts have been in the UK health system. In South Africa, Lloyd (1994) observed that the recognition of management as the overall in the health system's organograms did not stop the bossy superimposition of authority by medical superintendents, thus revealing the existence of conflicts in the health system leadership of South Africa. Mayaki and Stewart (2020), focusing on only three health professions, identified professional identities as a key factor in the Nigerian health system crisis, with elements of hierarchy, role ambiguity and poor communications, also playing out. Abdulraheem, Oladipo and Amodu (2012) had brought to focus the Imperativeness of health professionals responsibly building a new social order in health facility patronage. It can be adduced that conflicts should be identified and

addressed for the professionals to undertake that team work.

In all, the conceptual, theoretical and empirical reviews above revealed some gaps in the literature:

i. there was no statistical statement to declare the existence of conflicts over leaderships in Nigeria's healthcare system.

ii. none of the scholars included 'unacceptable leadership' and some others as possible causes of conflicts over leaderships in Nigeria's healthcare system.

These two gaps are spotted, and are to be filled by this study.

The **Game Theory,** of John Von Neumann and Oskar Morgenstern in 1940, as extensively developed by scholars in the 1950s (Varma 2008), is the theoretical framework of this study. It is applied in circumstances involving two or more participating players, interacting under conflict situations, requiring interdependence of interests to achieve an ultimate goal (patients' well-being), as is the situation in any health system. It implies that it is not feasible for a player to make an enduring independent decision without recourse to the decision of other parties, meaning that, solutions to problems are achieved via a joint and co-operative decision process (Igwe 2007).While the different professionals may tend to align with their respective professional interests, the overall goal remains the well-being of the patient.

1.5 Research Method

Survey research design was adopted, as it provides latitude for use of samples from populations, thus making authentic inferences possible. The primary data were from questionnaire and direct personal observations from informed stakeholders. Secondary sources of data were encyclopaedia, dictionaries, text books, institutional and research reports, government garzetted policy documents, journals, magazines and Internet materials.

The research population is constituted by nurses, pharmacists, medical doctors, medical laboratory scientists, physiotherapists, optometrists and radiographers practising within the six Area Councils of the Federal Capital territory (FCT) Abuja. These orthodox health professionals were chosen because they constitute the well-informed people on the subject matter of study.FCT is a suitable location because of its varying degrees of social strata, tribal and racial mix, cosmopolitan-rural settings, which are apt for authentic generalizations of findings.

The sample size of the FCT Health workers for the study was stratified and calculated using the Taro Yamane formula.

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

Where n= Sample Size

N= Population of study

e= Error margin in the research.

1= a constant(www.academic.edu)

Table 1. Health Professionals in Federal Capital Territory Abuja.

Health Professionals	Population	Sample Size	% of Total Sample Size
Medical Doctors	10,508	385	23.4
Nurses	10.085	384	23.4
Pharmacists	1,681	323	19.7

Medical lab scientists	672	251	15.3
Physiotherapists	168	118	7.2
Optometrists	134	100	6.1
Radiographers	102	81	4.9
TOTAL	23,350	1,642	100

Source: Fieldwork, February 2023

Table 1 above reveals that Medical Doctors and Nurses are leading in numerical strength. It could be a reflection of admissions and graduations from training institutions based on government quota levels to the respective institutions considering facilities available.

On the design of Research Instrument, the question technique was used for the questionnaire. Also, the combination of 'closed response' and 'open response' pattern was used. On the sampling technique 'First come, First Served' among the stratified population was adopted. In each Area Council, locations were chosen to ensure even-spread as well as coverage of both public and private health practitioners. In all, a total of 2,189 copies of questionnaire were distributed, 1,700 (77.7%) recovered, and 1642 that were appropriately filled, were selected.

Results and Data Analysis

Table 2: Opinions of Health Professionals on Existence of Conflicts over leadership in Nigeria's Health System

Admittance of Existence of Conflicts	Healthcare Professionals								
	Nurses	Pharmacists	Medical Doctors	Medical Laboratory Scientists	Physiotherapists	Optometrists	Radiographers	Total	% of Grand Total
Yes	320	312	209	240	106	89	77	**1,353**	82.4
No	64	11	176	11	12	11	4	**289**	17.6
TOTAL	**384**	**323**	**385**	**251**	**118**	**100**	**81**	**1,642**	**100**

$X^2_{Cal.}$ = 300.30, x^2_{tab} a = 12.6 df6, e = 0.05

Source: Fieldwork February 2023

Table 2 above contains a major finding of this study. A large majority, 82.4%, of the surveyed workforce admitted the existence of conflicts over the leaderships of Nigeria's health system. Only a small minority of 17.6%, held a contrary opinion. It is possible that this minority, irrespective of professional leaning, may be part of the fringe beneficiaries of the present schewed appointments to leadership positions in the system. This finding is in agreement with public opinions as exemplified by Alhaji Atiku Abubakar (the erstwhile Vice President of the

Federal Republic of Nigeria) at the 40th Annual Scientific Conference of the Association of Medical Laboratory Scientists of Nigeria, that rancour exists among health professions in Nigeria (Okonkwo 2004).

The implication of the finding is that those skirmishes, bickering and rancour among the health workforce in Nigeria are not mere transient tantrums, rather, indications of deep-rooted conflicts that may not fizzle out with time, if not properly addressed.

Test of Hypothesis 1

H_o: There is no significant agreement among health professionals on the existence of conflicts over administrative leadership the health system

H_1: There is significant agreement among health professionals on the existence of conflicts over administrative leadership in Nigeria's health system.

Hypothesis 1 gave a statistical backing to the finding: $X^2_{cal.}$ = 300.3; X^2_{tab} = 12.6; df6; e0.05 indicating a significant relationship between conflicts over administrative leadership and Nigeria's health system. The high Contingency Coefficient of 0.98, calculated from the Chi-square, established a strong affirmation the existence of conflicts over leadership in Nigeria's Health System. Independent Curricular of the training institutions, coupled with unilateral Continuing Professional Development (CPD) of the health professionals, lacking in inter-professional cross-fertilization of ideas, could partly be responsible for the unacceptability, as opined by Adjei (1995), in his study in South Africa.

Table 3: Causes of Conflicts over Administrative Leadership in Nigeria Health System

Opinions on each cause of conflict	Non respect of Lawful Professional boundaries	Arrogance	Unacceptability of Leadership	Ambiguities in Government regulatory activities	Inferiority complex	Congestion due to compatible goals	Incompatible goals	Scarcity of Resources	Scarcity of Position	TOTAL
Yes (%)	89.7	76.5	74	71.6	24.9	17.4	9.1	**4.1**	3.8	371.1
No (%)	10.3	23.5	26	28.4	75.1	82.6	90.9	**95.9**	96.2	528.9
TOTAL	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**	**900**

$X^2_{Cal.}$ = 422.52;, X^2_{tab} = 15.5073; df8, e = 0.05

Source: Fieldwork, February 2023

Table 3 above reveals the causes of conflicts over Health System leadership in Nigeria. Four of the identified causes were seen to be major as shown by the 89.7%, 76.5%, 74.0% and 71.6% of health professionals, corresponding to non-respect of lawful professional boundaries by professions, arrogance and superiority complex, unacceptability of leadership foisted upon the workforce and ambiguities emanating from government regulatory agencies while five are shown to be minor causes.

It is indeed worrisome that government could complicate instead of clarifying regulatory boundaries. Corruption and power intoxication could be responsible for this factor.

The table also shows that there were low admittance (3.8% - 24.9%) on such factors as scarcity of positions, scarcity of resources, incompatible goals, congestion and confusion due to compatible goals and inferiority complex, respectively, as major causes of conflicts, but high admittance (75-96%) as minor causes of conflicts. Losing focus on the ultimate goal of patients' wellbeing to aggregate the professional group's interest could paint a false picture of incompatibility in goals.

Inferiority complex is seen to be a factor since human ego is always of essence in human relations.Scarcities of positions and resources are inherently constant assumptions that generate conflicts. It is even surprising that healthcare professionals identified them as being minor causes of conflicts in the health system of Nigeria. Self-aggrandisement could mask their real minds on this factor. The picture that conflicts over leadershipin Nigeria's health system have multi-factorial causes has resemblance with the findings of Habte et al (2003)in South African Health System.

Test of Hypothesis 2

Hypothesis 2: H_0: There is no significant dichotomy into major and minor causes of administrative leadership conflicts in Nigeria's health system.

H_1: There is significant dichotomy into major and minor causes of administrative leadership conflicts in Nigeria's health system.

From the staustical tests: X^{2tab} 15.5073 X^2 calculated 422.52; at degree of freedom 8 and error margin 0.05, it is established that 'there is a significant dichotomy into major and minor causes of conflicts over the administrative leadership of Nigeria's health system.

A Contingency Coefficient 'C' of 0.98 shows a strong affirmation that some of those elements are indeed major factors and the rest minor causes.

Conclusion And Recommendations

Conclusion

The study has empirically established that conflicts do exist over administrative leadership in Nigeria's Health System. Non-respect of lawful professional boundaries, arrogance, ambiguities in government regulatory activities and unacceptability of leadership, have been identified by the study, as major factors while inferiority complex, compatible goal congestion, incompatible goals, scarcities of positions and resources are minor causes of conflicts over administrative leadership in Nigeria's health system.

Recommendations

(i) The National Universities Commission should review the Curricula of Health Training Institutions to emphasize discipline and respect of professional boundaries and for one another, as well as inculcate the virtue of team-work.

(ii) Reviews of certain government policies and laws establishing regulatory agencies to avoid conflicting roles should be undertaken, by the Federal Executive Council and the National Assembly.

(iii) Professional health associations and their regulatory councils should design broad continuing professional development programmes that would cross-fertilize ideas from sister health professions.

(iv) Further researches on acceptability of Leadership in Health System of Nigeria should be undertaken.

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ANALYSIS OF *EKE – UNE*: AN ECOCRITTCISM APPROACH

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Accounting services, Booking keeping, financial reporting, financial performance, small and medium enterprise

ABSTRACT
The study was carried out to analyse the text Eke-Une looking at the ecocriticism approach. Eke-Une is an Igbo epic poem written by Emmanuel Obike but without specific date of publication. Poetry is known to be a genre of literature that exposes the aesthetic use of language and portrays captivating themes. The text was analysed, identifying the reasons behind the war and dispute that marred the peaceful co-existence between the people of Isiekwe community and the boa constrictor (Eke une). However, the paper created awareness and broadened the knowledge of the people on the importance of living peacefully in any environment one finds oneself. The literary theory adopted by the researcher as a base for the study is ecocritism theories of Cheryll Glotefelly and Lawrence Bull in 1980 which sees to the relationship and interaction of nature in any given environment especially how they are represented in literary works. The methodology was literary analysis.

Introduction

Literature is a written work of creativity that expresses an author's imagination, experience or thought to raise one emotion or the other. According to Oxford Advanced Learners Dictionary (5th ed) 1999, literature is written works, especially those regarded as having artistic merit. Okodo (1992:20) defines literature as the artistic manipulation of word or language producing oral or written work that could be drawn from facts or imagination. As creative imagination, literature can be structured in form of drama, poetry or prose (fiction and non-fiction)

Specifically, poetry is an integral part of literature with some prominent distinguishing factors from other genres of literature. Poetry itself is concerned with aesthetic use of language to express deep imagination, thought or experience. To make these things (imagination, thought or experience) unique, they are structured in lines and stanzas, that they may be sung as songs and hymns. Akporobaro (2012:34) sees it as the imaginative compositions distinguished by their beauty of forms and expressions (language). All these mean that, poetry is not just imagination, thought or experience put down in a paper but more on the aesthetic use of language which Akporobaro (2012) calls "beauty of forms of expressions".

Literature Review

Literature is used to describe any written work of creativity that expresses an author's imagination, experience or thought which can raise one emotion or the other. The Oxford Advanced Learners Dictionary define literature as written works of artistic merit. Okodo (1992:20) defines literature as the artistic manipulation of word or language producing oral or written work that could be drawn from facts

or imagination. Nwadike (1992:11) defines literature as works or arts that express one aspect of life or the other. In a larger perspective, Anakoro (2021:134) says that literature as a whole provides diverse avenues towards the preservation and transmission of man's cultural values and history. This can only be done by choosing these cultural values as themes in any genre of literature – drama, prose or poetry.

However, poetry is all about poems structured in lines and stanzas, a distinguishing factor from other genres of literature. Prominently, poetry itself is concerned with aesthetic use of language to express deep imagination, thought or experience. Ajani (2008:34) sees poetry as expression of feelings and animation of emotion. Nnabuihe (1999:37) states that, it is the central idea that form the content and theme of a poem. Okoye (2005:2) sees poetry as a piece of writing where deep feelings or experiences are expressed through the medium of language. The use of language in unique in poetry writing because, the emotion, message and aesthetic value is exhibited by the way the poet is able to manipulate his language (words and sentences) and manipulation here is nothing but artistic style of writing as Okodo (1992) says. Again, the message embedded in the theme of a poem may be the poet's imagination, thought, experience or ideas which he/she wants to share with the general public, either to create awareness, teach or correct, as the case may be. These thoughts, imaginations, experience, etc. may be on nature (the creator and the created, life and death, peace and war, folk and follies, etc.). All these put together determine the type of emotion that will be evoked in the poem as the Oxford Minineference Diction (1995:311) says that poetry is the poet's word of quality that touches and pleases the mind. All these definitions reveal the interwoven state of poetry and the mind of the reader that makes Mbah and Mbah (2007:398) advices poets to have anticipated the workings of the human mind while writing their texts. To mention the working of the mind as Mbah and Mbah says, Nwibe (2009:3) enumerates things of the mind as emotional outburst, thought, beauty, imagination, etc. which poetry is all about.

The Synopsis of the Text Eke-Une

Eke-Une is an Igbo epic poem authored by Emmanuel Obike. It is the longest poem in the history of Igbo written anthology. The book is made up of one thousand, five hundred and two lines which are divided into ten chapters, printed by G.S.S Press Port-Harcourt but published by University Publishing Company, Onitsha. Unfortunately, it has no date of publication. The lines are numbered for easy identification and appreciation. The story line is based on some natural phenomena in the Isieke Community in Ibeku Umuahia, Abia State of Nigeria. The story is on the relationship and interactions between the Chief character boa constrictor 'Eke une' and the entire people of Isieke community. The community was benefitting from the boa as it supplies them with water sufficiently in the lake – 'une' that they have their rainy season, the time of farming and other activities best done during rainy season. When the lake retracts (dries up), it leaves behind other smaller animals (fossils) that serve as food to other higher animals, and this time, the community has their dry season. Secondly, the boa constrictor vomits venom called diamond which gives light to the Isieke community and there is peaceful and mutual co-existence and relationship between the two parties (boa and the entire community of Isieke).

However, the cordial interaction and co-habitation was marred when a hunter from the community stole away the boa's diamond. The boa through the openings of the hunter's bag traced the diamond to the community and started swallowing the people. This caused war and disunity between the boa constrictor and the people of Isieke. When the boa started to swallow the people, the community fought back by employing the services of French war fighters who bombed the boa with their war plane, fortunately the bomb did not get the boa, so he retreated to the deepest level of the lake and the people were also tired of fighting, and tried to appease the boa with some items according to the tradition of the land. After that, they evoked the boa to the surface level of the lake and the normal and cordial interaction was restored.

Theoretical Framework

The model used to guide this study is the ecocriticism approach. The theory started in the later part of the 20th century all through the early part of the 21st century. It goes by many names – literary ecology, eco poetics, environmental literary criticism, green cultural studies and finally literature goes green. Joseph Meeker in 1972 call it literary ecology. In 1978, William Rueckert called it literature ecology which he defined as the application of ecology and ecological concepts to the study of literature. Lawrence Buell defined ecocriticism

as the study of the relationship between literature and the environment while Cheryll Glotfelty defined ecocriticism as the study of the relationship between literature and the physical environment. So, bringing all these definitions together, Lawrence Buell and Cheryll Glotfelty in 1980 concluded that ecocriticism is the study of the relationship and interaction between nature and the physical environment especially, how they are represented in literary texts. In other words, ecocriticism aims to evaluate how humans interact with other nature world with the goal of improving how nature treats the environment.

Generally, what made ecocriticism to stand apart from other literary criticisms is that, rather than concentrating on literary works alone, it goes further to examine literary works and the environmental interactions/relationships that appear in the literary works. It pays much attention to non-human objects/issues that have traditionally been pushed to the background, those marginal elements and how they are represented in a given literary work. So, ecocriticism according to Buell begins with high interest in real presentation and examination of how nature is depicted in literary works thereby raising public awareness of attitude towards the natural world.

Natural Phenomena in the Text

The major natural phenomena that appear in the text includes the boa constrictor 'Eke Une, the green lake 'Une' and the 'Ntụrụkpa', and the effect these natural phenomena have on the people of Isieke community and the entire environment generally.

The 'Une' Lake

The poem gives insight on the attribute of the lake, especially how it emerges in the rainy season and dries up in the dry season. The width and breadth of it increase to an overwhelming level with some effects on the people and environment. The community hold it in high esteem in that, they refer to it as 'god' – a deity they worship, reverence and believe in. the reverence accorded to this lake is because they believe that it is the lake that holds the water the boa constrictor' 'Eke' vomits and they are able to have rainy season for their farming. When the boa vomits water, the lake will be filled with water (rainy season) for the people to embark on serious farming period.

Ewoo Une nne m!
Ewoo my dear Une

Nke na-ata n'ọkọchị
That dries up in the dry season

Na-erukwa n'udu mmiri
And erupts in rainy season

I ji Isieke mere mbara
That has Isieke as base

(Page 1, lines 18 – 21)

The myth surrounding 'Une' lake is said to be enigmatic because the water erupts so sufficiently to encircle the entire Isieke community in the rainy season.

Towe iyi une nne m
Increase waters of Une my dear

Sọpụta Ojezuru Igbo
Overflow touch the entire Igbo

(Page 1, lines 8 & 9)

The mysterious seasonal eruption and retraction of water of the lake makes the people to consecrate the lake and worship it as a deity by performing some rituals and sacrifices into the lake. They perform sacrifice and ritual through the service of a priest that takes care of such traditional practices based on the people's indigenous knowledge and wisdom emerge as their experience/experiment to make sense of the workings of their communities or individual, and the interactions with the social and natural world which they live (George, 2004:10). The 'Une' water is useful to the community for farming and other domestic activities at home. Though nobody drinks the water, but when the water retracts, it leaves behind some fossils which serve as food for lower animals around the lake, and to the people of Isieke community as a diety.

Chi ndị ala ma, Isieke
god of the land of Isieke

Ọ bụ gị mere ka mkpekere
you made the fossils

Ghara baghara vughuru
spread everywhere in plentiful

N'ugwu Ameke
on the hills of Ameke

(Page 2, lines 28 – 31)

Eke Une

This is a boa constrictor which is responsible for the seasonal eruption and retraction of the water of 'Une' lake. The Boa constrictor is a very dangerous species of snake which ordinarily inhabits in the jungle. It is capable of depositing a substance (venom) loosely, referred to as a diamond, which illuminates its path as it searches for food at night. The hard skin of the boa serves as protection to it as Nnabuihe (2004:207) says that the boa's skin is so hard that no arrows from any archer no matter the dexterity can pierce it.

Eke na-ehi egwurugwu
'Eke' that forms rainbow

Nke na-agbọpụtakwa diamond n'abalị
That vomits diamond in the night

Chi ndị ala ma, Isieke
The god of the land of Isieke

(Page 1, lines 26 – 28)

Eke na-ehi egwurugwu
'Eke' that forms rainbow

O highasịala ikpa nri abalị
It comes to catch night prey

(Page 2, lines 50 – 52)

Eke na-ehi egwurugwu
Eke that forms the rainbow

Akpụrụla nwa ọnwa ya
Has dragged his moon child

Wee sọrọ isi
And moves here and there

Hiri ọhịa
Inside the forest

Fuu kpum n'une
From there to the lake

(Page 3, lines 71 – 75)

All these show that the boa is capable of causing the rainbow to appear through its emission of its saliva, and the Igbo people believe that rainbow is coined from the boa and its saliva 'eke' and 'egwurugwu' giving us ekenegwurugwu. The boa is also a nocturnal creature that is why it vomits diamond to illuminate its environment in the night so as to be able to catch some prey and the diamond is referred to as the moon (ọnwa) in line 72.

Ntụrụkpa

This is an ordinary Igbo edible plant which its leaves are used to prepare native soup. The tree is symbolic in the Igbo culture in the sense that, it is used as medicinal plant both spiritually and physically, it is also used to mark boundaries between one portion of land and the other, may be due to its long-life span. In the poem under study, the people of Isieke community used this ntụrụkpa tree to mark the boundary between 'une' lake and the neighbouring villages. Both the people of Isieke and this boa recognize and honour this boundary, the people cannot cross over to the other side for any reason and the boa on its side cannot cross over to the side of the community, that becomes a kind of covenant between the Isieke community and the boa.

N'ụtụtụ ndị ichie ala m In
the morning the elders of my land

Wee were ntụrụkpa gaa n'une
Used ntụrụkpa to fence the lake

Werekwa ụdọ
Also used wire

Na ọji gbara asaa
And kolanut of seven pieces

Ọgbụgba ndụ adaala
There comes the covenant

(Page 6, lines 151 – 153)

The poem shows that the boa keeps to this boundary covenant because, in its subsequent appearances, he always drops its daughter

(atụmabalarịa) at that ntụrụkpa tree for Ulku (the husband) to meet her there and the daughter does not pass the ntụrụkpa tree to the other side of the community.

Kokororo ro! O wee highasịa
Very early! It wakes up

Wee kwọrọ ada ya n'olu
And carry its daughter on the neck

Ọ kwọsakwara ya n'alaka ntụrụkpa
Drops her at the branch of ntụrụkpa

(Page 22, lines 605 – 607)

So after the interaction, it is revealed that the daughter (atụmbalarịa) goes back to the lake 'une', from that point.

Ọ laghachiri n'ogbu mmiri na-asị
He goes back to the river saying

Ada mezirinụ!
Daughter that did well

Anya bịa lere! bụ
Eyes should come and see

Atụmbalarịa nke tukwu na ntụrụkpa
Atụmbalarịa that stoops on the ntụrụkpa

(Page 22, lines 611 – 614)

Ecocriticism and Eke-Une

As said earlier, *Eke-Une* is the only known epic poem in the history of Igbo anthology. The book/poem is divided into ten chapters of one stanza, and with one thousand, five hundred and two lines. The story is all about the boa constrictor (eke une) that lives in the green lake (une) and his activities/interaction with the environment in which he lives. The poem portrays this boa constrictor as having a mutual relationship with the other occupants of that environment, till there was a dispute that led to war which both the boa and the people of Isieke community paid the costly prize. The people of Isieke benefit maximally from the boa, for instance, the boa vomits water to fill the lake and water the land so that the people of Isieke will have their rainy season, a time for farming. This aids their planting activities so greatly as they are mainly farmers.

Abadaba iyi ukwu
Long vast river

Nke na-aku otuto
That attracts glory

Eleghe igwe na-akụ
As the sky does

Nke na-ego uzo
The one that is greenish

Eleghe ahịhịa ndụ *As the green grass*

Nke na-alọ ụwa
The one that has come back to life

Mgbe ji na-eru
When the yam is growing

Towe iyi une nnem
increase my dear une river

Sọpụtara o jezuru Igbo
Overflow the entire Igbo

(Page 1, lines 1 – 9)

This shows how excited the people are whenever the boa vomits/releases water to the lake which eventually water the whole land and for their farming and whenever this is done, the people of Isieke community worship and make some sacrifice to the boa constrictor (eke) because they take it as a deity that takes care of farming season in their land. Not only that, that lake when retracts leaves behind some living organisms which serve as food to the lower animals. The boa secretes a substance called diamond which serves as a source of light to the entire community.

Eke na-ehi egwurugwu
The boa that makes rainbow

Nke na-agbọ pụtakwa dịamọnd n'abalị
That vomits diamond in the night

(Page 1, lines 26 – 27)

Eke na-eyi dịamọnd ahụ
The boa that lays the diamond

N'etiti ndaeri
In the midnight

(Page 3, lines 98 – 99)

Ugbu a, e mere ka dịamọnd a
Now that the diamond has been made

Ghọọ ọkụ na-enwuru ọha n'ama
To be the light that shines in the way

Wee wekwaara igwe na mbidi
And shines to the sky and land

Ghaa ya okirikiri rue n'igwe
And goes it round to the sky

(Page 6, lines 177 – 180)

This is evidence that there is peaceful co-existence and interaction between the boa constrictor and the people of Isieke community. But the peaceful atmosphere is disrupted when the hunter steals away the diamond and the boa follows the glimpse of light from the hunter's perforated bag to trace him to the community and starts swallowing human beings.

Ọnwa a sị gị apụtala apụta
moon, you were asked not to come out

Asị gị maa gugururu kpụrụ
Were you asked to stretch yourself

Lee i ghoole ọnụ
See, you have opened your mouth

Ndị añụmañụ eriela ọsọ
Drunkards ran away

(Page 9, lines 212 – 215)

Anu ụrụ nke na-eyi diamond
Fleshy animal that lays diamond

Akwa gị awaala,
Your boundary is broken,

Hapụrụ anyị ụmụ mmadụ
Leave the people alone

Mara gugururu zuru ike
Rest and stretch no more

(Page 9, lines 216 – 219)

This ugly situation continues until the community appease the deity by making some sacrifice according to the custom and tradition of the land.

However, before the reconciliation/appeasement, the poem reveals how the Isieke people invite the French fighters who bombs the boa these three times, forgetting all they have been benefitting from the boa and the reason why the boa passes the boundary (the ntụrụkpa) to swallow the people.

Mgbe ihe a tụrụ ha n'ọnụ
When they were confused

Weere ọsọ kpọkue France
Speedly call on the France

Ha rịọrọ ka ha weta ụgbọ elu
To bring their airplane

Ka e were bombua eke ahụ
And bomb that boa

Ha kpebiri na ndị French
They agreed that French people

Na ndị Isieke ga-eme
And Isieke people will connive

(Page 10, lines 243 – 247)

On the other hand, the boa releases saliva to the war plane and the atmosphere is filled/covered with smoke which destroys the plane and hazardous to human lives and the entire ecosystem.

Eke akpujue asụ n'ọnụ
The boa gathered saliva in the mouth

Chiriririm, igwe ahịola anwụrụ
Pour it out, smoke filled the sky

Ugbo elu ezekasịa
And the plane destroyed

(Page 10, lines 275 – 277)

The conflict made the boa unable to release water again to fill the lake and so the waters of the lake retracts and leaving the whole environment so filthy as to cause severe inconveniences on the people.

Ma mgbe une tasịrị
But when the lake retracts

Ọnụọba tasịkwara
The depth also dries

E wee hụ nkwọ ntadị ọtụtụ
The small fossils were seen

Ka ha na-erugharị n'ebe
As they move around

Ahịhịa ndụ na-eto
Green leaves grow also

Na-achọ iburu awọ
Want to cover the frog

N'ebe mmiri une diburịị
Where the water of the lake was

(Page 17 & 18, lines 469 – 475)

Despite the troublous times, the poem shows reconciliation which follows immediately after the conflict and the normal interaction and co-existence in the environment quickly restored.

Eke wee malite ịgbọ agbọọ
The boa starts vomiting

Koho, koho, ghoo gho
Koho, koho, ghoo ghoo!

Mmiri une wee si ya n'ọnụ na-apụta
Waters of the lake coming out his mouth

N'echi ya une agbajue
By tomorrow the lake is filled with water

Wee na-ebugharịkwa ndị nọ
Turning the people

N'ụgbọ ogwe osisi
In the wooden boat

(Page 19, lines 529 – 534)

In a peaceful environment, the occupants really enjoy their living. During the war between the Isieke community and the boa, the water in the lake dries up because the boa refused to vomit water into the lake, and the people of Isieke on the other hand were unable to farm nor carry out some of their domestic activities because of lack of water, and that's why ecocriticism advocates for mutual relationship and interaction in any given environment. The poem equally depicts the food chain among the occupants of the environment. In ecology, it is through this food chain (processes by which food is produced and consumed) that some inhabitants of the community live. When the lake is full, the people farm and produce food and when the lake retracts, it leaves behind some smaller organisms which serve as food to the higher animals.

Bịa hụrụ ha
Come and see them

Ma oko ma ugo
Both eagles and other birds

Ka ha na-avụkpo
As they are gathering together

Ha weere nwayoọ na-atụtụrụ
They are quietly picking

Ma ụmụ ha ma idide, laa n'elu
Both their children, the earthworm, on top of
the tree

It is good to note that every level of war or dispute leaves many casualties, even some innocent people as victims. Those that are alive will start building up themselves with little or nothing in their hand.

N'ikpe azụ igwe nnụnụ lọghachiri
At last the birds came back

N'elu ikwule wee na-ele
On top of high place looking

Ụmụ na-añụ ara: ha na-akpaịrị ha
Sucking children insulting them

Anya ufu na-ele ọkụkọ
As the hawk looks at the fowls

Nke a mere ka "ja banu"
This brought lamentations

Na-ada n'ọnụ nne na nna niile
From all the parents

This pain and lamentation may continue for a long time before the people will pick up with life activities again and that is the reason why the ecocriticism believes in mutual co-existence in a given environment so that lives and properties, even the entire ecosystem will be well preserved. The adverse effect of war and conflict cannot be overemphasized. War brings lamentations, mourning, crying and weeping for lost and destruction of lives and properties, at times, people are forced out of their dwelling places, communities or countries to be refugees in an unknown place.

O sịwakwa n'ọnụ ọbaa
He is from the caves

Wee laa mba ebighị ebi
To a land eternal

Wee lakpuo n'osimiri ime ala
To the depth of the sea

Na ndụ na-abụghị n'ọnwu
In life not in death

(Page 51, lines 1488 – 1491)

The poem shows how the suckling children are abandoned, the owl and hawk pursuing the chicks (proverbial) for prey and lamentations by the elderly ones (fathers and mothers). That is the reason why this school of thought advocates for a peaceful co-habitation among all living organisms both small and large in any environment.

Conclusion

The write-up concerned itself with the Igbo epic poem called Eke-Une, written by Emmanuel Obike. In view of the study, various definitions of literature were made and later narrowed it down to poetry which is the centre of this study. The analysis of the poem was done from the ecocriticism point of view, showcased some prominent natural phenomena like the boa constrictor 'Eke Une' which is believed to be the only source of water to the green lake 'Une'. Whenever it vomits, the lake will be filled with water and that results in rainy season and when the boa swallows back the water, the lake will dry up (retraction) resulting in dry season and that is how they (the Isieke community) get their dry and rainy seasons. The study revealed that the Isieke community in Umuahia Ibeku, Abia state serve and worship the boa and the lake as a deities. The next feature is the 'Une' lake which its width and breadth increases to an overwhelming level and causes some discomfort to the inhabitants of the community. The lake is said to be so deep as to house the boa constrictor, it emerges and retracts according to time and season. Finally, the poem explains the 'Ntụrụkpa' tree as a tree which is used as a boundary between one portion of land and the other. It indicates boundaries and land demarcation (that is a point which one area ends and another begins).

The poem was analysed and looked into from the perspective of the ecocriticism approach whose concern is to examine the relationships and interactions that exist amongst humans and other nature in a given environment, especially, as represented in the literary works of authors. Various areas and aspects of these interactions and relationships were brought out and analysis showed that it is better to maintain a peaceful co-existence in a given environment than disagreement and quarrelling. It is only when this is done, that the inhabitants of the community/environment (both small and large) will benefit from one another.

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HUMAN SECURITY AND LAND BORDERS CLOSURE: A HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE

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Border Closure, Human Security, land border

ABSTRACT
The paper examined how concerned of national interest and human security led to Nigeria land border closure in 2019.The paper employs the historical method to reviewed and analysed Data. The work adopted the liberal theoretical framework which justified trade liberalization and free movement of people and goods from one place to another as a gateway for modernization and economic development. The paper argued that, the best decision taken by Nigeria federal government was the closure of her land border which stimulate economic growth and enhanced human security. The major findings of the paper revealed that smuggling activities in Nigeria is due to porous nature of Nigeria land borders, consequently insecurity and inflation have been on the increase with serious security implications on the citizens wellbeing and security. The paper also revealed that what influenced government closure of the borders was due to proliferation of light and heavy weapons across the Nigeria borders hence the executive order for border closure in 2019.The paper concludes that despite federal government acclaimed success of border closure of the nation land borders the closure did not yield the desire results.

Introduction

The movement of man from one place to another predates written history. Since the Stone Age, man has always moved from one place to another for various reasons which range from searching for food as hunter gatherers to seeking for asylum from persecution or wars in the contemporary period.[5] The movement of

[5] Yeboa F. Garba, "Free Movement and Regional Integration in the ECOWAS Sub-Region", in J.K Teye ed., Migration in West Africa; *Springer Series*(2022):12-14

people from one place to another has socio economic and political implications for both the original location and the destination. The rise of Westphalian styled states with defined borders from 1648 raised the consciousness of nations to regulate movements into and outside their territorial boundaries for security, economic, political and social reasons. The experience of the Great Wars (1914-1918 and 1939-1945) further triggered debates about whether or not states should maintain their borders strictly or whether there should be less strict restrictions. In the context of Africa, colonialism divided ethnic nationalities in the creation of colonies; later making migration impossible as the groups had to maintain contact with their kin. The question of trans-border movements became even more relevant with the rise of international, regional and sub-regional organizations such as United Nations, Africa Union (AU) and Economic Community of West Africa States (ECOWAS) as countries with different politico-economic capacities became constantly integrated through treaties, charters and protocols which permitted movements of people across national borders. Trans-border movements of people became a global issue with supra natural frameworks needed to control it. The negative impacts of these movements have been felt more by the economically advanced countries and the consequences have been far reaching for these countries. The Federal Republic of Nigeria, for example, has endured the negative impacts of trans-border movements in the West African region necessitating the temporary closure of her borders in February 2019.[6] This paper primarily is concerned with the reasons for the closure of Nigeria land borders which mainly hinge on issues of human security as it affects Nigerians. Secondarily, the paper historicizes the policies and protocols guiding trans-border movements and integration; the position of the Federal Republic of Nigeria concerning the protocols (particularly the 1979 ECOWAS Free Movement Protocol) and espouses theories backing free movement of persons.

An Overview of Border Closure in Nigeria

Border Closure globally, is a protectionist mechanism which nation-state deployed to prevent the movement of unwanted persons and goods from territorial jurisdiction into into it Territory.It can also be restriction or ban on the importation and exportation of some "essential" goods or articles by the state, historically border closure in Nigeria can be traced back to the era of military rule in 1979 where measures were imposed on some items that found their way into the country.[7] Within that period it was Sustained up to shagari regime.Restrictive measures such as the used of import licences and quotas were used to curb the influx of rice importation into Nigeria.Only few individuals and government agencies were issued licences at no tarrif charge.[8] It is Worthy of note that the Shagari's government went as far as expelling many African migrants which was term "Ghana most go" an era in Nigeria history which witnessed many Ghana leaving Nigeria against their wishes.

In a similar maner the military regime of general muhammadu Buhari of 1983 - 1985, he also orders the closure of the borders as a measure against acute smuggling of drugs and agricultural produce, human trafficking, prostitution, child labour, insurgency etc.[9]

Furthermore,the democratic government of president Olusegun Obasanjo in 2003 order the partial closure of borders due to an alarming increase in the crime rate along the nation borders.It is partinent to emphasized that border closures basically basically as rationalized and justified consistently by various regimes in Nigeria was enforced on interest of national security, Human security and the socio economic

[6] T. Yeboah et al., "Broadening the Remittance Debate: Reverse Flows, Reciprocity and Social Relations", in *Journal of International Migration* (2019):1-22

[7] Adepoju.A. Expulsion of Illegal from Nigeria.Round two migration.World magazine 14(5)1986.P 21

[8] Adepoju.A. Undocumented migration in Africa.Trends and Policies, international migration 21 (2) 1983.P 204

[9] PUNCh Newspaper August 2019

challenges that confronted the nation as of that period.[10]

In the same vein, the wake of the last quarter of 2019, the federal government of Nigeria under the leadership of president Muhammadu Buhari ordered for the closured of all borders connecting Nigeria with all others African neighboring countries of Cameroon, Chad, Niger and Benin in central Africa, central Africa, west Africa and West Africa respectively.

The Liberal Theory and Trans-Borders Movements

The central idea of liberalism as a theory of international relations is cooperation and the essentiality of interdependence among countries. The theory, championed by scholars such as Joseph Nye and Keohane draw inspiration from the idealist ideas of idealist such as World War 1 era American President, Wilson Woodrow and his idea of collective global security post World War.[11] Liberal scholars argue that due to globalization, interactions among countries and interdependence is key to the prosperity of countries. Liberalist refute the pessimistic theorizations of the Realist scholars such Hans J Morgenthau and John Singer and argue that international cooperation is possible and that no country can exist in complete isolation from the other countries. [12] The liberalists argue that organizations such United Nations and sub-regional organizations such as ECOWAS are central to international integration. The role of Multi-National Corporations (MNCs) and big corporations in the integration process is also emphasized by the liberal theorist. A free border policy or less strict immigration laws, the liberals argument was key to international development and growth. Under a free border policy, international cooperation and the integration process is hastened; international organizations play the role of regulating the integration by initiating supra national laws. Apart from facilitating economic and cultural integration, the liberalists argue that interdependence reduces the possibility of war.

A Historical Overview of Free Movement Protocols

The end of World War II and its consequences drew the attention of the world towards a new paradigm. The idealist reignited their push for international cooperation and the need to establish a global security framework that would guaranty global peace and security as well as the development of individuals globally. The United Nations was established in 1946 with its headquarters in San Francisco, New York.[13] The United Nations is dedicated to ensuring global peace and security through its charters, protocols, conventions and agencies which member countries are party to. Article 13 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) adopted and ratified in 1948 by almost all member countries of UN (including Nigeria) categorically stating the right of individuals to travel and settle wherever they wish.[14] Regionally, the African Union, initially known as Organization of African Unity founded in 1963 has played an important role in the integration of Africa through the Free Movement of Persons Protocols adopted in 2018. The African Union Free Movement Protocol has 11 articles. Article 5 of the protocol addresses the question of progressive realization stating thus:

> *The free movement of persons, right of residenceand right of establishment shall be achieved progressively through… implementation of the right of entry*

[10] Aniukwu.c. Nigeria's border closure policy: Appraising it's impact and prospect.university of Illinois,Ubana-Champaign ,2020 P 1 . https:///www.researchgate .net/publication July 28 ,2024

[11] R. O Keohane and J. S Nye, *Power and Interdependence: World Politics in Transition* (Boston: Little Brown, 1977), 25.

[12] J. M Owen, " How Liberalism Produces Democratic Peace", *Journal of International Security;* Vol. 19, No. 2 (1994):2-5

[13] F. Kratochwil and J. G Ruggie, " International Organization: A State of the Art on the State", in *International Organizations Journal*; Vol. 40 (1986): 3-13

[14]Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) 1948

and abolition of visa requirement and grant right of residence.[15]

Additionally, the member states of AU are tasked under the charter to coordinate and harmonize the activities of their sub-regional economic organizations so as to achieve the integration process at the level of each region. The ECOWAS was tasked to supervise the integration process in the West African region. The African Continental Free Trade Agreement was signed in 2019 with an aim of opening the area for free trade relationship among African Countries. Nigeria and 54 other African countries were signatory to this agreement; however, three weeks after the agreement, the country closed her land borders.

The primary concern of this paper is the ECOWAS Free Movement of Persons Protocol enacted by ECOWAS Heads of Member States and which came into force in 1979, four years after the organization was established.[16] The protocol aimed at integrating the region and facilitating the economic development of the West Africa sub-region. The protocol provides a framework for the free movement of citizens of ECOWAS member states within the region, their rights to settle and establish businesses in any country within the West African region. Citizens of member states can stay for 90 days in any member country without visa. In order to strengthen the 1979 protocol, there have been supplementary protocols in 1985 which states the guidelines for implementing the 1979 protocol and protect community members from being deported; and the Supplementary Protocol 1986 mandating member countries to protect citizens of West African countries residing or doing business in their country.[17] The Supplementary Protocol of 1989 states that signatories to the 1979 Protocol must settle in a peaceful manner any dispute which may arise from interpretation of the treaty.[18] In 1992, there was a decision to introduce common trans-border regulations, particularly immigration laws so as to facilitate easy movements of persons. A year later, in 1993, article 50 of the Revision of ECOWAS Treaty mandated countries to remove all barriers against free movement of persons in West Africa. Several other decisions were made regarding the issue of free movement of persons in West Africa such as the migration dialogue of 2001. The Federal Republic of Nigeria has always been a major signatory to this Protocols and a major campaigner for integration of the region.[19] It is pertinent to note a major clause in the Free Movement Protocol of 1979. Member states of ECOWAS were given the right to refuse admission to any community citizens who were inadmissible under the domestic laws of the member country.[20] In other words, where the domestic law of destination countries doesn't permit the movement of community citizens, the domestic laws take primacy over the supranational laws. Member countries were also empowered to reject migrants on grounds of national security or violation of conditions of residence under the protocol. The impacts of these protocols which precipitated the decision of the Federal Government of Nigeria to close its border are discussed hereunder.

Closure of Nigeria Land Borders in 2019

Although The Federal Republic of Nigeria has always been a vocal champion of integrating West Africa through the free movement and free trade initiative of ECOWAS, the government of the Federal Republic of Nigeria in 2019 indefinitely closed all her land borders. The decision of the Federal Republic of Nigeria is primarily enforced by human security concerns. The closure is backed by the 1979 Free Movement of Persons Protocol framework which allows Nigeria to take such decisions when it concerns national security. Throughout the period of the closure, land borders would not be accessible albeit the country seaports and terrestrial borders remain open. This move is quite different from the partial closure of July 2015. The closure was comprehensive and indefinite. The Federal Republic of Nigeria appeals to ECOWAS member countries to

[15] The AU Free Movement of Persons Protocol, http//:www.ILO.Org.com. accessed 22 January, 2023

[16] J. O Bolarinwa, "The ECOWAS Free Movement Protocol: Obstacle or Driver of Regional Integration"; in *Insight on Africa Journal* ; Vol. 7, No.2 (2015): 154-168

[17] A. Opanike and A. A. ,"ECOWAS Protocol on Free Movement and Trans-border Security in West Africa", *in Journal of Civil and Legal Sciences*; Vol. 4, No. 154 (2015): 5-15

[18] *Ibid*

[19] *Ibid,* 7

[20] Luka Dinshak and Walnshak Danfulani," ECOWAS and Human Security in West Africa: A Review of the Literature", *in International Journal of Humanities and Social Sciences*; Vol. 23, No, 12 (2018): 75-82.

respect this decision as it is a matter of national survival.

Human Security as Justification for Land Border Closure

The concept of human security is adopted in this paper to analyze the impacts of a free border policy on Nigeria and Nigerians and why the decision to close the land borders has become essential for the security and economic prosperity Nigeria and her citizens. The concept of human security, one could say, is a modern paradigm which replaced the notion of military or national security in the 1950s. The origin of the concept could be traced to the aftermath of the Second World War where post war scholars pointed at the huge human lives lost (slaughter of Jews at Auschwitz) as the major consequence of the war, not the damages suffered by combatant forces. The concept of human security was popularized by the United Nations Development Programme Report of 1996.[21] The report argued that conditions of humans is very important in determining their vulnerabilities and development in an area or community. Gasper Des, in his work, *Security Humanity; Human Security as Security Discourse,*[22]elucidated on the concept of human security, arguing that the concept focuses on individuals as a primary measure of growth and not the state. Human security has seven key components namely: personal security, community security, state security, health security, economic security, food security, and environmental security. All these components as discussed hereunder influenced the decision of the Federal Republic of Nigeria to close her land borders.

First, the open border policy of the Federal Republic of Nigeria in the past had an indirect adverse impact on the security of the country. The continuous flow of arms into the country via porous land borders empowered criminals. Gun running became a lucrative venture for men of the underworld.[23] Some renowned personalities such as Dahiru Mangal was accused of utilizing the open borders in the past to import arms into the country. With open borders, there was also free movement of terrorist in and out of the territory of Nigeria. The trend is aides by the complicity of border security outfits such as Nigerian Immigration Service and Nigerian Customs. The massive migration of Fulani herders from the Senegambia region via the land borders into Nigeria exacerbated the farmer pastoralist conflict particularly in North Central Nigeria, with International Crisis Group reporting that about 60,000 people have been killed between 2011 and 2018 and a further 3,000 displaced as a result of the conflicts.[24] Boko Haram Insurgents, operating majorly in the North Eastern part of the country moved freely around the Chad Basin area during the open border era. The actions of these rogue groups as highlighted above affected human security in the Federal Republic of Nigeria. The massive lost of lives resulting from the activities of bandits and insurgents infringe on the personal security of citizens.

The damage of farms and the destruction of means of livelihood affects food security as food crops are damaged; the economic security of Nigeria citizens was also affected because many Nigerians depend on agriculture as their only income earning endeavor. Importing food items affects the income of local Nigerian farmers whose production capacity is limited by the unfavorable market forces. Importing foreign food products into the country affects the local farmers as they cannot compete with the imported products. The result is that of the over 4000 Square miles of cultivable farmland available, over 50% is underutilized.[25] This has affected the productive capacity of Nigeria in the long run. The displacement of people from their ancestral homes affects their communal security and the damage to the ecosystem affects the environmental security of citizens. In some cases, water bodies are poisoned or forest

[21] United Nations Development Programme, Human Development Report, 1996 (New York: Oxford University Press, 1997),2.

[22]Des Gasper, "Security Humanity: Human Security as Concepts and Discourse", in *Journal of Human Development*; Vol. 6, No.2 (2005): 12-17

[23] Luka Dinshak and Walnshak Danfulani," ECOWAS and Human Security in West Africa: A Review of the Literature", in *International Journal of Humanities and Social Sciences*; Vol. 23, No, 12 (2018): 75-82.

[24] International Crisis Group, "Herders Against Farmers: Nigeria's Expanding Deadly Conflict", in *Africa Report;* No. 252 (2017): 13-15

[25] Luka Dinshak and Walnshak Danfulani," ECOWAS and Human Security in West Africa: A Review of the Literature", in *International Journal of Humanities and Social Sciences*; Vol. 23, No, 12 (2018): 75-82.

destroyed.[26] It's worthy of note that in situations where conflicts were witnessed, the victims had no access to health facilities and the activities of Joint Task Force personnel in such communities a major threat to human security as they were accused of infringing on the human rights of civilians.

The Federal Republic of Nigeria believes that an open border policy hurts the Nigerian economy in various ways and affects aspects of the human security of citizens.[27] The smuggling of goods in the country robs the country of significant commission that could had been earned. Smuggling also kills the local industries in Nigeria as they cannot compete with the cheaply smuggled goods due to the high cost of producing the goods at home. This greatly affects the economic security of the citizens who are out of business and fall into poverty. The settlement of migrants into the Federal Republic of Nigeria also takes away the scarce jobs from Nigeria citizens hence the reason for closing land borders. There is a growing conflict between the citizens of Nigeria and the migrants into the country.

The closure of the land borders of the Federal Republic of Nigeria was necessitated by the high rate of human trafficking as reported by National Agency Against Trafficking in Persons (NATIP).[28] The Federal Republic of Nigeria is a source of trafficked individuals. Between the year 2011 and 2020, about 3,000 people were trafficked from the northern part of Nigeria and transported to North Africa through the Sahara en route southern Europe. Over 40 million children and women have been trafficked in West Africa.[29] Despite international efforts to tackle the malign of human trafficking, it has persisted. On 25th December, 2003, the Trafficking Protocol against human trafficking. In June 2006, over 117 countries and 137 parties were signatories. They also exist the AU Commit Campaign on Combating Human Trafficking, 2010 and several other protocols.[30] These efforts were not completely successful and the trend persisted. Human trafficking is an infringement on the human rights of the victims and affects the personal security of the citizens. Walnan described Human Trafficking as modern slavery because the victims, mostly women and children, are forced to engage in forced labor; and in some cases, are sexually exploited.[31] Victims of human trafficking are denied proper medical care (affecting their health security) and their human rights are totally violated. West Africa has been a human haven since the 90s. Trafficking in drugs across the across Nigeria border adversely affects the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

The Federal Republic of Nigeria strongly believes that closing her land borders is the best remedy to abuses on human security.

Conclusion

The Paper has broadly examine the rationales behind Nigeria federal government closure of land borders .It evaluates various challenges associated with security of the country from 2019 .The study observed that smuggling activities along Nigeria transnational borders with her Africa neighbouring states have not been stop due to the porous nature of the nation borders , corruption among some of the border officials ,ineffective or lack of strong objective surveillance mechanism for cross border security .From the foregoing therefore ,the paper concludes that despites closure of Nigeria land border in 2019 on the grounds of human security ,the challenges of human security still remains a major concerned

The paper recommends, that in term of cross border movements there should be concerted effort on modernization of Custom, Immigration cum other related border security agencies using more information technology and formal management/administration procedures that would enhance accountability and transparency.

[26] I. A Gambari, *Political and Comparative Dimensions of Regional Integration: The Case of ECOWAS,* (New Jersey: Humanities Press International INC.,(1991): 2-9.

[27] Gambari, *Political and Comparative*-----,7

[28] Luka Dinshak and Walnshak Danfulani," ECOWAS and Human Security in West Africa: A Review of the Literature", in *International Journal of Humanities and Social Sciences*; Vol. 23, No, 12 (2018): 75-82.

[29] Gambari, *Political and Comparative*-----,7

[30] *Ibid,8*

[31] Luka Dinshak and Walnshak Danfulani," ECOWAS and Human Security in West Africa: A Review of the Literature", in International Journal of Humanities and Social Sciences; Vol. 23, No, 12 (2018): 75-82.

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THE ROLE OF DEVELOPMENT COMMUNICATION IN NIGERIAN NATIONAL INTEGRATION

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Development Communication, Challenges, progress, National Integration, Development

ABSTRACT
This study attentively focuses on the domains of the roles of Development Communication in National Integration and Development in Nigeria. No nation of the world can attain national cohesion and holistic national development without a crave for Development Communication strategies. This study examines the challenges of Development Communication and stresses out the pertinence of Development Journalism in Nigeria as a democratic nation. It equally examines the development communication approaches to enhance national integration and development in the country. It looks at the social media in enhancing effective communication process for national integration and development which provides the way forward in Nigeria. The study adopts Development Media Theory as the philosophical background for the study. It uses qualitative research approach and focuses on secondary materials for data generation and analysis. The study concludes that the government does not recognize Development Communication role to actively deploy strategies for national integration and development in the country. It amongst others recommends that development communication experts be duly recognised and be made relevant in policies and programmes of the government regarding national integration and development of Nigeria.

Introduction

It is not hasty and shabbily impromptu to say that a nation or country with a unified solid political, cultural and religious structural system functioning as one indivisible entity. A nation is body of heterogeneous people who share sameness in feelings and see themselves as one. The spirit of "Adam is our father" bond them together in body and spirit. They see nation's interest as paramount to their individual and regional interests. They see national flag as a sign of unity with the anthem which bind their togetherness. A nation grows with activities of national sports festival, National Youth Service Corps Scheme, inter-state marriages and religious tolerance amongst many. The togetherness is built on common history, religious values and cultural uniqueness.

An embodiment of national cohesion without which development at various levels of a nation can attain and sustain national integration is the development communication through the media. In the Nigerian Constitutional provision in section 39 subsection (1) of 1999 as amended, empowers the citizens of Nigeria to seek and receive information while subsection (2)

empowers individuals or government to own a medium or media through which such information can be disseminated to the larger audience. Everyone in Nigeria clamours and yearns for development and such development cannot take place without integration at all the levels of the country. Development communication becomes a veritable tool to enhancing integration and development in Nigeria. The media are saddled with the responsibility to inform, educate and entertain the citizens of Nigeria. This responsibility includes right to know what the government is and should do for the development of people and infrastructural entities in the country.

To lay a solid emphasis on the role of communication in the development of people, Asemah (2011: 114) states that development communication is the art and science of human communication applied to the speedy transformation of a country and the mass of its people through what Rasario-Braid describes as the identification and utilisation of appropriate expertise in the development that will assist in increasing participation intended beneficiaries at the grassroot level. Serveas (2002:1) lends an underpinning to the statement above that "development communication is concerned with informing and educating all people to get to the point where they need to create change that will meet their deepest needs. It is a social process and media organizations are important tools for achieving this process". It implies therefore, that development communication requires a gradual process that adopts strategies for the development of a nation.

In the words of Wilson (1991: 133) cited Agada-Mba (2017) states that "the mass media of communication are so pervasive in their socio-cultural and political influence that there is hardly any field of human endeavor that they do not have a specific role to play. They act as eye and ear of society (i.e watch dogs) and as mobilisers, informers, educators, entertainers and channels for disseminating information, propagating culture, educating, entertaining, mobilizing, correlating the environment and promoting the general economic wellbeing of the society and owners". Lack of development and equitable distribution of amenities leads to uncontrollable clamours for disintegration from the component regions that make up Nigeria.

Akpoveta (2006) states that "that the mass media has capacity to reach large audiences at the same time at different locations. Hence, government depends on them for dissemination of policies and programs "cited in (Santas & Ogoshi, 2015). From the above submission, it is apparent that the role of the mass media is to anchor development agenda which will enhance integration of Nigeria since everyone in the country depends on the media for dissemination of policies and programs of the government. In situation where the government has no need to develop any section of the country, the populace depends on the development media to communicate to the government on the need to develop a region that has been abandoned. Development Communication plays the role that brings development and national integration to bear.

On the issue of the role of development communication in fostering national integration, Asemah (2011: 317) states that "development communication is the application of the processes of communication to development process. In other words, development communication is the use of principles and practices of exchange of ideas to fulfill development objectives". It not a disputation that development communication has a mandatory role of chanting embers of development in a nation. Every media organisation has its social responsibility to ensure gradual or rapid development of the nation. The masses entrust the media to investigate and report where the nation needs development to foster equality devoid of marginalisation that brings disintegration.

The practicality of development communication in the world can be traced to ceaseless efforts undertaken in various parts of the world during the 1940s, but at the widespread application of the concept came about because of the issues that shot in the aftermath of World War II. The wake of the communication sciences in the 1950s made cognition of the field as an academic discipline, with Daniel Lerner, Wilbur Schramm, and Everett Rogers being the earliest influential advocates. The term "Development Communication" was first coined in 1972 by Nora C. Quebral, who defines the field as "the art and science of human communication linked to a society's planned transformation from a state of poverty to one of dynamic socio-economic growth that makes for greater equity and the larger unfolding of individual potential." Wikipedia (2021).

Conceptual Clarification

The Role of Development Communication

Gaining access to assess historical narratives of the primitive stone age of existence, the need to communicate for mutual benefits that enhanced development in the society started as early as man's inhabitation in life. Traditional media form of communication or " oramedia " was the form of African communication system which was used to inform, educate, influence, and entertain people in the society. The need for development necessitated communication among people in the various ethnicities which encouraged trade-by-batter. In lieu of the above, Agada-Mba (2017) underscores that "the mainstream media (comprising Radio, Television and Print) used to inform, educate and entertain and the new media (consisting of social media, internet, mobile phones) used to inform, educate, entertain and network people, has been a powerful tool necessary for societal development". However, Akinfeleye (2008) underpins that

> *"at the initial stage of television development in Nigeria, the basic philosophical foundation was for education. He nevertheless, added that the it now includes entertainment, information and national development and mobilisation of the citizens for developmental efforts". The print media (newspapers) is said to be older than Nigeria. It is the means of communication for development through information, education and influencing decisions for development and national integration. Hajara (2005) states that "Iwe-Irohin was established in 1859 by (print media) by Reverend Townsend older than Nigerian nation which came into being with the amalgamation in 1914. It was established in Abeokuta thus, laying the foundation for the Southern West of Nigeria as the pioneer in the media". Akinfeleye (1980) cited Hajara (2005) states that "there is confusion as to the origin of the Nigerian press before or after British colonisation of the country, or even before the white men set their feet on the country's soil precisely 1551. But, by 1880s, secular newspapers began to appear and became substantial vehicles for nationalism".*

The media are the vehicles for national development and integration through communication for development strategies. Jeremiah (2011: 25) observed that "the Nigerian Press in 1922 became a megaphone of political agitation and Sir Herbert McCauley first established the 'Daily News' (print media) which he used to support his NDP but, Dr. Nnamdi Azikiwe delved into journalism from 1937-1960 to advocate for nationalism". The need for development and national integration gave birth to the media through which people can air their demands and aspirations for positive changes that integrate the nation.

Development communication engages stakeholders and policy makers, establishes conducive environments, assesses risks and opportunities and promotes information exchange to create positive social change via sustainable development (Mefalopulos, 2008). In his support, Alexander (2007) states that "development communication has not been labelled as the "fifth theory of the press" with "social transformation and development "and the fulfilment of basic needs as it's primary purposes". The philosophy of development communication which is anchored on three main ideas. The three main ideas are; purposive, value-laden, and pragmatic". *Wikipedia (2021)*

National Integration

The concept of national integration has been a relay technique over flogged by many development communication scholars who attempt to clamour to see the unity of the nation. Since the independence in 1960, the pluralistic, multicultural and ethno-religious diverse entity called Nigeria has incessantly suffered catastrophic integration both at the local and national levels. The immaculate call for humane national integration has been repeatedly fallen on deaf ears of Nigerians. This from events unfolding on daily basis can be attributed to lack of commitment to equitable development of all the nooks and crannies of the country by both the military and democratic leaders in the country. Many sections of the nation have expressed agonizing flabbergasting dismay that they have been marginalised and abandoned. Calls for equality in appointments into governments offices and adherence to Federal Character Principle deepen ceaselessly.

Odetomi (2013) believe that national integration is commonly used to refer to specific problem of creating a sense of territorial nationality, which eliminates parochial loyalties. In this sense, it is generally presumed that there exists an ethnically plural society in which each group is characterized by its own languages or other self-conscious cultural qualities. Onyeakazi & Okoroafor (2018) posits that "it involves the uniting of formerly separate groups into one with the obliteration of any previous social and cultural group differences as well as the obliteration of separate group identification". Abia (2006) adds that "national integration implies both the capacity of the government to control the territory under its jurisdiction as we as a popular set attitude towards the nation generally described as loyalty, allegiance and intelligence to place national above local and parochial concerns".

In national integration, the thrust is to amalgamate various ethnic, religious, political, cultural and social groups together and work out modalities for their development through effective communication strategies. With the aid of the media, development communication can easily harmonise different aggrieved groups of individuals in the society who do not see hope in living together as one nation.

Theoretical Framework

Theoretical Framework helps the researcher to sail smoothly on guideline of success as it helps the researcher to possess a direction. According to Daramola (2007, p. 62) " a theory is a statement of prediction" Poopola 2013, p. 63) state that "It is a guide to action as well as an aid in the quest to finding solutions to human problems".

This study is anchored on Development Media Theory as the philosophical background for the smooth sailing to its fullest. This theory was propounded by McQuail in 1987. The theory assumes that "certain freedom of the media and Journalist is subordinate to their responsibility for the development purpose, at the same time, collective ends rather than individual freedoms are emphasized (Lakew, 2013). Asemah, Nwamnuo & Nkwam-Uwaoma (2017: 55-56) say that "development media theory state that there can no be development without communication. Under the development communication theory or development support communication as it is otherwise called, the media undertook the role of carrying out positive developmental programmes, accepting restrictions and instructions from the state. Shah (2010) states that "the media subordinate themselves to political, economic, social and cultural needs; hence, the stress on development communication and development journalism"

> *UNESCO gave a tacit underpinning to the development media theory in the McBride Commission of 1979 which opposed to dependency and foreign domination and to arbitrary authoritarianism. The theory accepts Economic development and nation building as overriding objectives. Ndolo (2005) continues that "the press should be free and open to restrictions according to economic priorities and the development needs of the society. In the interest of development ends, the state has the ultimate control". Development media theory seeks to explain the normative role of the media toward the development of the society.*

McQuail (2000) sates the tenets of development media theory as:

i. Media must accept and carry out positive development tasks in line with naturally established policy.

ii. Media should give priority in the content to the national culture and language.

iii. Journalists and other media workers have responsibilities as well as freedom in their information gathering and dissemination take.

iv. Freedom of the media should be opened to economic priorities and development needs of the society.

Primarily, the role of development communication is to see that research is carried out and information on how to develop the society will be given to the government and the public is briefed. Solely it is, for development communication to facilitate the processes that enhance the development and national integration of Nigeria.

Review of Related Literature

Kombol ((2006) state the role of development in national integration as "a means of improvement on the country's economic and social conditions, more specifically improvement in ways of managing an area's natural and human resources in order to create wealth and improve people's lives". Moemaka (2000) states that "development is a rational process of organising and carrying out prudently conceived and staffed programmes or projects as one would carry out military or engineering operation. In order to develop, a society must remain true to itself, draw its strength from its own culture and ways of thought and action, and set its objectives constant with value and felt-need".

Sule (2006) notes that " development communication involves deliberate well-desire and articulate communication codes aimed at bringing development messages to the knowledge of the targets" Communication for development according to Akase, Zakari & Ibrahim (2017) refers to spectrum of communication process, strategies and principles within the field of international development aimed at improving the conditions and quality of life of people struggling with underdevelopment and marginalisation. Akase, et'al added that "development is central to man's survival on earth and communication is needed to bring about this meaningful development. It is a media philosophy adopted by the developing countries after adopting the declaration on the use of the mass media in developing activities"

Taking some notable nations like Poland, India, Ukraine and many more, development Journalism activated prospects for their development and national integration. Coyne & Lesson (2002) maintain that "the role of the media in economic development by analysing the role of the media as coordination-enhancing mechanism in policy development". Citing Sen (1984), Agada-Mba (2017) states that "India has not had famine since independence, and given the nature of Indian politics and society, it is not likely that India can have a famine even in years of great food problems. The government cannot afford to fail to take prompt action when large scale starvation threatens; newspapers play an important part in this, in making the facts known and forcing the challenges to be faced". In a conform reaction, Khurana (2020) in his study, explicates that "In Indian constitution, our founding fathers were aware that there were threats to our unity from various forces. Consequently, certain safeguards were placed in our constitution.

Islam (2002) states that "the ultimate survival of the media depends on state that regulates them, on the firms that pay to advertise through them and the consumers they serve… to advocate for unity and integration, the media must be independent, provide quality information and have a broad reach". In support, Waisboard (2005) states that development communication plays vital role in the development of a nation. He states the role of the development communication to include: communication for development, communication for social change, information, education and communication, behaviour change communication, social mobilisation, media literacy, strategic communication, participatory communication, strategic-participatory communication and so on".

Looking at national integration, jstor.com (2021) states that "national integration is seen as involving a process of holding tightly together the various nationalities or ethnic groups and institutions a dovetailed manner through the bounds of contrived structures, norms and values. It is construed as the process by which hitherto, distinctive and autonomous people and cultures incorporated into a multi-national state, can achieve higher level of mutual trust, cooperation and independence, shared values and national consciousness".

Efforts Towards Achieving National Integration in Nigeria

According to Raji (2017), many efforts have been geared towards achieving national Integration. "In the effort for Nigeria to be integrated, many measures have been put in place starting from the beginning of the colonial era to the present post-colonial independence era. In the colonial era, efforts and measures taken include: The amalgamation of 1914 by Lord Lugard, Adoption of English language as the common lingua-franca, Common currency the British pounds sterling, Common administrative system Judiciary, Executive and Legislature, Common network of road transportation system, Common educational system, Common constitution, etc. During the post-colonial era to date, the successive regimes had taken the following steps like Introduction of National

Youth Service Corps Scheme, Establishment of Federal Government institutions such as the Command Schools, Federal Government Colleges, Federal Polytechnics, Federal Colleges of Education and Federal Universities, Introduction of federal character principle and Quota system for even representation, Adoption of the language of the three major ethnic groups as national languages, Hausa, Ibo and Yoruba, Creation of national symbols like Coat of Arm, National flag, National Anthem, National Pledge etc. Encouragement of sports, Arts and Cultural festivals. However, despite the various steps that had been taken by successive government at promoting national integration in Nigeria since its existence. Many pitfall can still be identified. These include ethnic colouration and manipulation, culminating in ethnic violence across the country**".**

Challenges of Development Communication in Nigeria Towards National Integration

Many challenges face development communication especially in Nigeria. From the military to the inception of democratic government in Nigeria, the media are faced with multiplicity of constraints which inhibit them from carrying out development functions that will benefit the citizens. Military decrees and ordinances enveloped the development media in enclaves of muteness and tacit oppressions. Democratic bills seeking to gauge the media are challenges for development communication to thrive in Nigeria. The passage of hate-speech law and others poses threats to development communication.

> *"…all the anti-media decrees promulgated by generals Babangida and Abacha are on the statue books as at November 2001 in spite of several promises to expunge them, although, they are not being enforced. These include offensive publication (proscription) Decree No. 35 of 1993; State Security (detention of Persons) Decree No. 2 of 1984 under which journalists can be detained and held incommunicado for security reasons; The Treason and other offences (Special Military Tribunal) Decree No. 1 of 1996; as well as The Constitution (Suspension and Modification) Decree No. 107 of 1993 which annuls citizens' right to public apology or compensation if he is unjustly or unlawfully detained (Project.com, 2021).*

The second problem according to United Nations (2002) as cited in Waisboard (2005) is "preoccupation is the sustainability of development projects. 'Sustainable development' features prominently on the agenda of donors and agencies, referring to development actions that put communities at the center and have long-lasting impact. The concern for the duration of development work (and results) derives from a sense that projects show results as long as donors regularly inject funds and make a long-term commitment"

However, some development communication scholars have identified some of the challenges/barriers to development and its communication. Parsons, Scott & Landenberg (2011) cited in Ate & Akintayo (2017) identified the following challenges/barriers:

i. **Physical Barriers:** in development, geography is an overwhelming obstacle in the national media system of operation. The vast differences between media-centers and media-audiences make communication herculean or impossible to understand. A suitably sizeable example is in the mainstream print media where newspapers and magazines operating mainly in Abuja and Lagos. From the two areas, it makes it difficult to reach all parts of the country thereby making development communication difficult to the people of the rural areas in Nigeria as a result of bad roads and many factors.

ii. **Cultural Barriers:** Sometimes, inability of some persons to read and write limits their capacity to communicate. Some persons in the Nigeria prior to this 21st century was denied access to go to school as a cultural and belief system. This practice hinder communication and in turn, hinders development communication to attract impactful development.

iii. **Government Barriers:** Censorship of the media by the government poses serious challenges to the effectiveness of communication for development in Nigeria. "Where government does not own the means of communication, it setup barriers to control the private or

independent press. Censorship, licensing and the use of "insult laws" to protect the honour of public officials are common practices used by the government around the world who fear that free expression as open media system could galvanize public opinion to change the status-quo. Parsons et'al (2011).

iv. **Technological Barriers:** Technology is both a barrier to media development and a potential destroyer of barriers. Technology is a barrier in the world of established media where nations who can operate electronically in terms of receiving satellite information can easily have access to information on development while poorer nations who cannot afford electronic version of information, lack the means to access such information for development.

Challenges of National Integration in Nigeria

Plethora of studies have shown that there are many issues facing Nigerian national integration. Though, Nigeria as a country was not in existence as a nation before 1914. It was in 1914 that different regions that make up Nigeria got amalgamated and subsequently brought together as a nation that became one indivisible entity. After the exit of the colonial rule, the founding fathers of Nigeria; Dr. Nnamdi Azikiwe, Chief Obafemi Awolowo, Sir Ahmadu Bello, Professor Ayo Ita and others stood for the integration of Nigeria as one indivisible entity despite their diversity in ethnicity, religion, cultural and politics. The founding fathers came from diverse ethnic groups but chanted the course for one Nigeria. The Development of different parts of the nation was their focal course of struggles.

The colonial masters did not want the integration of Nigeria. Shively (2003) states that "Nigeria like other colonies was not constructed for internal cohesion, but administrative convenience of the British. The state assumed the status of a supreme institution capable of intervening in three regions of North, East and West. The ruling class met a structure without modification; they use state paraphernalia to accumulate surplus without going through the process of producing surplus. The contradiction institutionalized ethnic leadership with political outlook".

Popoola (2002) argued that the chronic bane of federal character principle in Nigeria invade the integrity and standards of public bureaucracy such that other government institutions require safeguards from the ravage of politics. The result has not promoted national loyalty but inertia, and alienation from states and communities that suffered federal character discrimination become resentful from the body politics. Chukwura, Nwachukwu, Nnamani & Ifeanyi (2020) assert that competent people are disqualified on the altar of statism and other spurious criteria cannot erect unity of the nation. The federal character principle has exacerbated division among Nigerians rather than uniting them, President Obasanjo administration lack institutional arrangement to improve the position of marginalized ethnic groups despite calls for decentralization, Yar'adua and Jonathan government did not deviate from the approach of nepotism and favoritism, all this has failed to resolve ethnic diversity for national integration. The concept of federal character principle has done more harm than good to the fragile unity of Nigeria; it has robbed Peter to pay Paul but automatically this settling payment cannot unite peter and Paul".

According to Pearl (2018), there are many problems posing threats to Nigeria's national integration. Over the years, Nigerian national integration started suffering some threats leading to divisions along the lines of social status, ethnicity and religion; ethnicity and religion being the most prominent".

Pearl briefly outlines the problems as thus:

i. **Ethnic Diversity**: Many ethnic groups in Nigeria, and members of a particular ethnic groups tend to be loyal to their people in the government. Favoritism from people of a particular ethnic group in government in terms job opportunities without considering the provision for federal character principle. This is a threat to national integration and unity.

ii. **Language Multiplicity:** There are over 400 languages in Nigeria that form diverse ethnicities in the country. People of same language tend to love its members and extend loyalty to it. People who speak same language tend to show love to themselves than others who do not

speak theirs. This is a responsible problem of national integration.

iii. **Structural Imbalance:** There is an apparent structural Imbalance between Northern and Southern Nigeria. The Northern part of Nigeria has more political power than any other part and this seen as a problem for national integration.

iv. **Revenue Allocation:** The diverse parts of the nation are not equally accorded sameness of treatment as it regards to revenue allocation. Money given to the Northern part of the country proportionately more than that given to the other parts and this is a threat to national integration and development as ill-feelings arise among the citizens of Nigeria.

v. **Religious Fanatism:** It is on record that togetherness of Nigeria is acutely threatened by religious intolerance amongst the adherents of religious bodies. Most people in power like to share government positions to the members of their religious beliefs. Members of other religions feel cheated thereby creating animosity between members of different religions. This is a threat to the national unity of Nigeria.

vi. **Youth Restiveness:** Many youths in Nigeria get angry as a result of hunger for no employment or empowerment in the country. They are used by greedy politicians and selfish individuals in the society to create tension among citizens of the nation for their egocentric interest which leads to national disintegration.

vii. **Corruption:** The giving an receiving bribes for services makes it impossible for those who are in need of that service to have a level playing ground, thus, robbing them of their rights to equal treatment. The effects of corruption in Nigeria economic development cannot be overemphasized and this has lead to terrorism, banditry, kidnapping and calls for national disintegration.

Other studies on the challenges of National Integration

According to (nios.ac.in/media, 2020) " the factors responsible for national disintegration are: religion, language and region. The feeling of oneness towards one's religion, region and language as against the interest of the national integration poses greatest challenges to the unity of a nation".

In a study by Onyeakazi (2018) states that "the problems of national integration in Nigeria includes;

i. **Absence of Rule of Law:** one of the major challenges confronting Nigeria's national integration is lack of respect for rule of law which is evident in government's lack of respect for the constitution. Some wealthy and powerful Nigerians undermine the constitution and carryout whatever they like just because they feel above the law. In support of the assertion above, Onosede (2013) states that " the rampant incidence of flouting of the constitution and the instrument of rule of law portends danger to building the Nigerian nation in the 21st century". The oppressed feel betrayed and marginalised thereby, clamour for national disintegration.

ii. **Poverty/Deprivation:** This is a social problem that is devastating the majority of Nigerian population as people become poorer every day. Johnson (2016) states that "poverty is the grandmaster of all sorts of the problems and destabilizes individuals and organisations to the level that only its reduction or elimination can bring relief and hope" Excessive poverty and deprivation of less-privileged Nigerians of having access to good life can cause national integration problem.

iii. **Insecurities:** The issues of terrorism occasioned by the Boko Haram bombings, banditries, kidnappings, farmers-herders clashes, armed robberies, rising rate of religious intolerance, political violence amongst other things lead ways for national disintegration in Nigeria. According to Udeh, Okoroafor & Ihezie (2013) "the panic state of the nation is a reflection of

the state of minds of its citizens their fear for the fear of the future. Insecurity stands as one obstacle confronting the building of strong national integration that can help to forge ahead with significant development strides ".

Conclusion

The study examined the role of development communication in Nigeria National Integration focusing on the challenges of development communication and the barriers to national integration. National Integration is a focal course for development communication to anchor development in Nigeria. The watchdog function of the media is paramount when chanting the embers of national integration. Nwokeafor (2015) states that for national development and integration "the media can educate citizens through stories that adequately explain the national situation (political, social economic) so that the citizenry will not only benefit from improved service delivery but will also take part in the development process of the nation".

National Integration has been bedeviled by certain factors indicated to be indices responsible for subterraneous inhibitor, dilapidating national cohesion and holistic approach to development. The founding fathers and proponents of nationalism when they clamoured for the decolonisation of the country from the colonial masters before 1960. As part of the problems of national integration in Nigeria, corruption, multiplicity of languages, regional, religious intolerance, political violence structural Imbalance, youth restiveness and many more are responsible for national disintegration in Nigeria.

Recommendations:

Based on the findings above, the study recommends that:

i. Government should provide an enabling ground for development communication journalism to effectively carry out the watch dog of the society unhindered.

ii. Media organizations (both private and public) should ensure mouth-watering salaries for the development communication journalists to carry out their ethical balance duties of researching, reporting, entertaining and influencing decisions that will bring national integration in Nigeria.

iii. Corruption should be killed before it kills the nation which leads to agitations to disintegrate

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EVALUATING DEBT BURDEN AND REVENUE LEAKAGES ON HUMAN DEVELOMENT IN NIGERIA

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Moratorium, amortization, revenue, debt servicing, negotiation

ABSTRACT

This study focused on external debt and human capital development in Nigeria. It sought to assess the significance of external debt, and to suggest measures that could enhance its effectiveness and human capital development in Nigeria. To achieve the objective of the research, some external debt and human development capital indicators, using the ex-post facto research design was applied. The data were collated, analyzed and tested using the descriptive statistics and the autoregressive distribution lag (ARDL) data analysis techniques. From the analysis, external debt service payment and external debt burden both non-significantly, but adversely affect human development index in the Nigerian economy. Based on the findings, the study recommended that external debt finance should be channeled to only projects with the highest priority. In doing so, defining the purpose, duration, moratorium requirements and commitments, negotiation fees, etc, including the conditions under which the government can approve and guarantee external loans. Also, one superior method of negotiation should be maintained by the government for varying amortization and fixed interest payment. Also, multi-year rescheduling should be adopted, rather than the year-by-year approach.

Introduction

Since gaining their independence, several West African nations have adopted diverse policies and strategies at different stages of their development in response to the need for sustainable development and robust growth. However, using external debt to push nations toward sustainable growth became commonplace starting in the 1970s due to inefficiencies in the region's economic, financial, and institutional arrangements in the 1960s (Claessenet, 2016). Economic research has focused extensively on the advantages of external credit and the negative consequences of excessive external debt accumulation on the development of human capital and economic growth. The necessity of funding vital social and economic infrastructure in the face of insufficient or deficit national budgets is one of the main justifications for borrowing from outside sources. Notably, West African nations' foreign debt stocks have grown dramatically

over the last few decades, making the discussion of its role in funding these nations' development processes especially crucial (World Bank, 2017). It has been established that by the 1980s, when the global debt crisis engulfed several countries, the external debt of African economies had grown to unmanageable proportions, and that these economies were also battling the associated adverse macroeconomic consequences. These economies are more vulnerable to a number of distortionary problems, including exchange rate fluctuations, abrupt halts in capital flows, and sharp capital outflows, which could potentially escalate into a full-blown macroeconomic crisis, because external debt is rarely denominated in the currency of the borrower country (Arikawe, 2003).

However, there was reason for concern on a global scale as the economic and social conditions in sub-Saharan Africa and other developing economies deteriorated, especially in the first half of the 1990s. High population growth rates, falling per capita output levels, and poor or declining output growth rates were some of the internal causative variables. Policy errors and failures in domestic macroeconomic policy were further connected variables. expanding inflation, high unemployment, expanding fiscal deficits, and capital flight were the outcomes of these consequences (Ezenwa, 2012). According to the empirical data that is now available, for example, from 1980 and 1989, the average yearly fall in per capita income (as determined by gross national product per person) in sub-Saharan Africa was 2.2%. Between 1985 and 1990, the terms of trade decreased by 9.1%; exports were unchanged, but imports fell at an average annual rate of 4.3%. According to the frequency distribution of inflation rates in sub-Saharan Africa, the proportion of nations with inflation rates of 10% or less increased from 46% in 1990–1994 to 54% in 1985–1989 and 28% in 1981–1984, reaching almost 61% in 1995–1997 (Emmanuel, 2012).

The severity of imports, the decline in international capital flows, the high global interest rates, the rise in protectionism in the developed nations, and the low and declining prices of primary commodities all demonstrated the generally unfriendly international economic climate. From an average of US$20 billion per year in the early 1980s to roughly US$12 billion after the mid-1980s, capital flows in sub-Saharan African nations decreased. Current account and balance-of-payments deficits grew as capital flows into African nations decreased, leading to an increase in the stock of external debt.

Creditors (Paris Club, London Club, and others) created and put into effect a number of solutions to address the debt issue, including debt restructuring, debt swaps, and debt rescheduling, in order to guarantee complete debt payment. These financial rescue efforts by the creditor nations and institutions are necessary because, in spite of these interventions, the governments of developing nations—particularly those in Sub-Saharan Africa—continued to default on their debts. Additionally, the first comprehensive campaign to end unsustainable debt and support the world's poor economies' permanent departure from debt dependence was the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPCs) initiative, which was launched in 1996 by the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF). Western leaders agreed to pay off significant amounts of the external debt of various African countries under this effort. Private and public creditors, as well as the World Bank and International Monetary Fund (IMF), were included in the debt relief framework after the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) Initiative was introduced in 1996. Additionally, thirty African nations received US$76 billion in debt-service relief from the Multilateral Debt Relief Initiative (MDRI) in 2005. For nations finishing the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Initiative procedure, the Multilateral Debt Relief Initiative provided 100% relief on qualified debts owed to the World Bank, the African Development Fund (AfDF), and the International Monetary Fund (International Monetary Fund, 2019). However, due to recent unrestrained borrowing, the devaluation of local currencies, and the decline in commodity prices, the majority of these nations have seen an increase in their foreign debt holdings.

Economic growth and development remain elusive in West African countries even after the first Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Initiative and Multilateral Debt Relief Initiative debt reduction packages were implemented more than 20 years ago. This is because the majority of African nations are still heavily indebted and are quickly reverting to their massive debt burden and debt overhang. Mozambique, whose external debt was reduced from 116% of GNI in 2000 to 60% in 2005, was a notably disproportionate recipient of Africa's debt forgiveness programs. In 2011, the percentage of gross national income fell even further to 36%. According to the World Bank (2017), it has risen

to 69.5% of GDP by 2015. Other African nations like Angola, Cameroon, Gabon, Senegal, and Zambia exhibit comparable patterns. They have also been hit with a number of debt reschedulings while dealing with this dilemma, which has made the financial situation worse.

The structure and trend performance of West African economies are comparable to those of sub-Saharan Africa. The weight of accrued foreign debt repayment and servicing is prevalent among the patterns. While it is true that West African economies lack sufficient resources, a significant amount of those resources are allocated to servicing and repaying external debt (Idris, 2014). It is true that servicing and repaying foreign debts entails significant socioeconomic costs. Weak public financial management, which leads to a variety of negative changes in macroeconomic fundamentals, including exchange rate mismanagement, may necessitate the use of external borrowing. Speculative capital flight is caused by the expectation of currency devaluation (Imimole et al., 2014). The research also suggests that severe import strangling may result from insufficient capital inflows brought on by debt overhang. Import shortages are exacerbated by import strangling, which impedes export growth. Real output declines as a result of shrinking investment and shortages of necessary imports, which are caused by the debt overhang and other concerns. The intensity of debt is also quite concerning when considering the exceptionally limited and fragile production base, as well as the low ability of many African nations to fulfill their debt servicing commitments. These consequences, which undoubtedly spur additional research, are an empirical issue (John et al., 2022).

However, it is important to note that there is a wealth of empirical evidence showing that foreign loans can be a useful supplementary to the development of human capital and economic growth if they are obtained responsibly and used effectively (Cassimon & Vaessen, 2007; Claessens & Diwan, 1990; Easterly, 2002; Ferrarini, 2008). Countries like South Korea, Chile, Brazil, and Ghana are examples of those who have effectively used debt in their processes of growth and development (Muhanji & Ojah, 2011). This study aims to investigate the impact of foreign debt burden and revenue leaks on Nigeria's human development index in light of these and other factors.

1.1 Statement of the Problem

Three main categories can be used to group the literature on the relationship between debt and human capital development. According to the first strand (Ali & Mustafa, 2012; Ciftcioglu & Sokhanvar, 2018; Dey & Tareque, 2019; Edo et al., 2020; Karagol, 2002; Soydan & Bedir, 2015; Were, 2001), external debt has a detrimental impact on the development of human capital. This line of thought supports the neoclassical economists' view that debt is equivalent to future taxes and emphasizes the detrimental consequences of excessive debt. According to the second strand (Amin & Audu, 2006; Baker & Hassan, 2008; Joshua et al., 2020; Ogunlana, 2016; Pattillo et al., 2011), external debt has a favorable effect on the development of human capital. Their viewpoint backs up the Keynesians' contention that rising public debt has a beneficial effect on growth and development and is essential for economic recovery. Investigating a non-linear relationship between the two macroeconomic variables is the focus of the third strand, which integrates the prior two strands. Asafo et al. (2019), Blavy (2006), Schclarek (2004), Schclarek & Ramon-Ballester (2005), Senadzar et al. (2018), and Soydan and Bedir (2015) are among the studies that do not find evidence of a non-linear relationship between external debt and human capital development in this strand. However, other studies, including Adam & Bevan (2005), Cordella et al. (2005), Deshpande (1997), Dogan & Bilgili (2014), Ouedraogo (2015), Pattillo et al. (2002), and Qureshi and Liaqat (2020), assert that the relationship is non-linear. As a result, research on the presence or absence of nonlinearity in the relationship between foreign debt and human capital growth has yielded conflicting results. Daud & Podivinsky (2014) support this claim by arguing that research on the two variables' relationship is far from comprehensive or definitive, particularly for developing economies.

Although there is proof that foreign credit has an impact on economic and human development, no study has determined and contrasted the ways in which debt load and revenue leaks affect the development of human capital in Nigeria. In light of this, the purpose of this study is to investigate and contrast the impact of debt load and revenue leaks on Nigeria's human development index.

Specifically, this study is designed to:

i. Examine the effect of external debt burden on human development in Nigeria;

ii. Assess the effect of external debt service payment on human development index in Nigeria.

2.1 Theoretical Framework

Debt overhang theory

The debt overhang theory is predicated on the idea that the predicted cost of debt servicing will probably increase as a function of the nation's output level if debt will eventually surpass the country's ability to repay it. According to Claessenset (2016), some of the profits from domestic investments are thus "taxed away by existing foreign creditors and investment by domestic and new foreign investors is discouraged." Because a portion of the growth in output and exports will be utilized to pay off the external debt, the debtors' country only sees a partial increase in these factors.

According to this theory, lowering debt would boost one's ability to invest and repay debt, increasing the likelihood that the remaining amount will be paid back. The debtor is considered to be on the "wrong side" of the debt laffer curve when this effect is significant. The relationship between the size of the debt and the amount owed is known as the debt laffer curve. Nonetheless, the concept of the debt laffer curve also suggests that there is a threshold at which taking on debt spurs economic expansion (Elbadawi, 2014).

Lensink & White (1999) contend that there is a threshold at which additional aid is harmful to growth, using an aid laffer curve. According to Greene and Khan (1990), future prospects are bleak and foreign direct investment is currently insignificant in highly indebted nations. Widespread inflation brought on by fiscal deficits has undermined the motivation to save and increased dependency on foreign funding. The extent of the debt overhang is far greater, affecting not only investments in tangible assets but also any activity that entails paying expenses up front in order to produce more later. These initiatives include spending on technology and human capital (health and education), which may have an even greater impact on growth over time. How the government is anticipated to raise the funds required to cover external debt servicing and whether private and public investment complement each other will determine how a debt overhang deters private investment. For instance, private investment is likely to be deterred if a government imposes a capital charge or an inflation tax (John et al, 2022). The debt overhang theory serves as the foundation for this investigation.

Dependency Theory

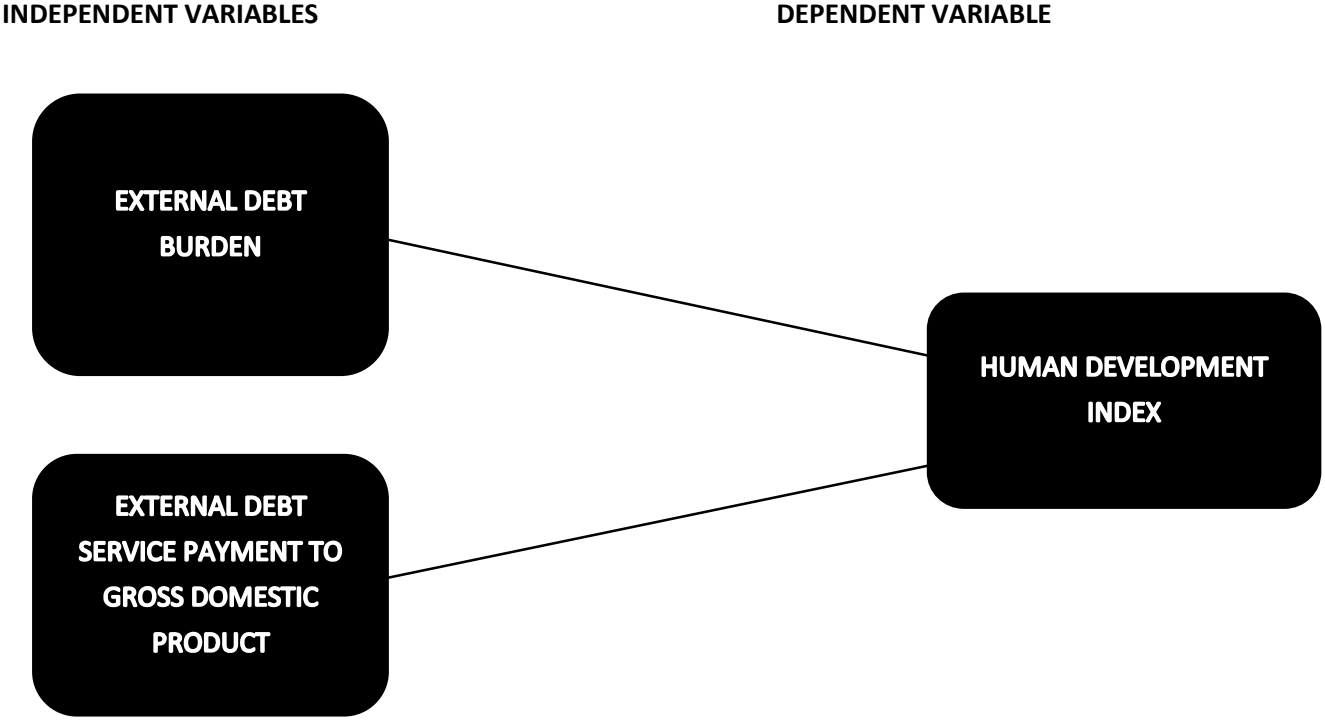
According to dependency theory, the poverty of peripheral nations is caused by their integration into the global system, not just by their lack of integration or complete integration, as free market economists sometimes contend. From this perspective, a popular school of thought is held by Bourgeoisie scholars, who believe that domestic disasters are the cause of underdevelopment and the ongoing reliance of less developed nations on developed nations. They think that their lack of close integration, capital diffusion, low technological level, inadequate institutional framework, weak leadership, corruption, mismanagement, etc., may all be used to explain this problem (Momoh & Hundeyin, 2009).

According to the proponents of this school of thinking, third world countries' underdevelopment and dependence are caused within rather than externally. According to this school of thinking, third-world nations should go to other countries for aid, loans, investments, and other forms of support in order to solve their problems. They should also permit multinational corporations (MNCs) to continue operating as usual.

2.2 Conceptual framework

This study seeks to examine the effect of external debt burden on human capital development among West Africa Monetary Zone member countries. The independent variables are external debt burden and external debt service payment to gross domestic product, while the dependent variable is human development index. The control variables for this study include climate change, gender inequality, gross domestic product and exchange rate.

Figure 2.1 Conceptual framework



Source: Author's compilation

2.3 Empirical Review

Bolanle, Fapetu, and Olufemi (2015) used an error correction model to examine the effects of foreign direct investment and external debt on Nigeria's economic growth using data from 1990 to 2013. The Johansen cointegration test shows that there is at least one cointegrating equation among the variables, but the augmented Dickey Fuller test shows that all the variables are first differenced stationary. According to short-term estimation, foreign direct investment has a negative but significant effect on Nigeria's economic growth, whereas external debt has a short-term, statistically insignificant negative impact.

Amassoma (2011) used the same approach from 1970 to 2009 and found that although there is a two-way relationship between internal debt and economic growth, there is a one-way causal relationship between the nation's external debt and economic growth.

Aluko and Arowolo (2010) used the Johansen cointegration test to establish a long-term cointegrating relationship between Nigeria's external debt, economic growth, and capital accumulation. From 1980 to 2012, Nigeria's external debt and economic growth were positively correlated, according to the ordinary least square model. Even if the variables are non-stationary and exhibit long-term convergence, the study is unable to estimate the short-term relationships between them. These studies' incapacity to evaluate the short-term association between the variables is one of its weaknesses.

Ajayi and Oke (2012) also used the ordinary least square model to empirically evaluate the impact of external debt on Nigeria's economic growth and development. The results demonstrated a positive correlation between external debt and national income, despite the study's inability to test for the presence of a unit root in its variables. The authors claimed that this did not follow the a priori prediction of a bad association. This has nothing to do with not checking the variables for the presence of a unit root, which can result in erroneous regression and results.

Imimole, Imoughele and Okhuese (2014) analyzed the determinants of external debt in Nigeria using time series data covering 1986 to

2010. Terms of trade, openness of the economy, budget deficit, gross domestic product, foreign direct investment, and exchange rate are some determinants of external debt evaluated in the study. The Johansen cointegration test shows the existence of at least two co integrating relationship among the variables in the long run and the error correction model shows that exchange rate, gross domestic product, and external debt services are significant determinant of external debt in Nigeria.

Imimole, Imoughele, and Okhuese (2014) used time series data from 1986 to 2010 to examine the factors that influence Nigeria's external debt. The study examines a number of factors that influence external debt, including terms of trade, economic openness, budget deficit, gross domestic product, foreign direct investment, and exchange rates. The error correction model indicates that exchange rates, GDP, and external debt services are important factors influencing Nigeria's external debt, and the Johansen cointegration test indicates that there are at least two cointegrating relationships between the variables over the long term.

However, Obademi's (2012) analysis of the long-term effects of public debt on economic growth in Nigeria using time series data from 1975 to 2005 demonstrates that, while external debt has a short-term positive impact on economic growth, it has a long-term negative impact.

Ezenwa (2012) estimated the short-term dynamics of real gross domestic product, foreign debt service, government spending, and average interest rate from 1981 to 2010 using the Engle Granger cointegration test and an ordinary classical regression model. The analysis found a positive correlation between economic growth and external debt service, but a negative correlation between external debt stock and economic growth.

Idris (2014) used a vector error correction model to estimate the short run relationship between external debt and economic growth in Nigeria between 1980 and 2013, and he found a unidirectional causality runs from economic growth to external debt, meaning that the level of growth in the country necessitates more debt. The short-term effects of external debt on economic growth are particularly unfavorable, whilst the long-term effects are good.

3.0 Model Specification

We created a model of debt indices and human development indices to evaluate the impact of revenue leaks and debt burden on human development in Nigeria. Consequently, this model's functional and econometric forms are provided as follows:

$$HDI = \partial_0 + \partial_1 LOGDSPGDP + \partial_1 LOGEXDB + \varepsilon$$

HDI = Human development index

EXDB = External debt burden

DSPGDP = Debt service payment to gross domestic product

Regression constant = ∂_0

Regression coefficient = ∂_1

Stochastic error term = ε

4.0 Data analysis

Table 4:1 - Basic descriptive statistics

Averages	EDSP			EXDB			HDI		
	$\bar{x}$	σ	CV	$\bar{x}$	σ	CV	$\bar{x}$	σ	CV
Nigeria	3.08	2.41	0.78	4.15	2.00	0.48	0.50	0.02	0.04

$\bar{x}$ = Mean; σ = Standard Deviation, CV=Coefficient of Variation.

Source: Authors Computation

The datasets' metrics of dispersion and central tendency, along with the corresponding coefficients of variation, are presented. The behavior of economic time series is consistent with the descriptive statistics' complete details, particularly the normalcy profile. The datasets are found to be significantly peaked (leptokurtic) and primarily fat-tailed (positively skewed).

Table 4.2 Correlation results

Correlation				
t-Statistic				
Probability	HDI	CCH	EDSP	EXDB
HDI	1.000000			

EDSP	0.446812	0.678372	1.000000	
	4.842240	8.951803	-----	
	0.0000	0.0000	-----	
EXDB	0.554260	0.841948	0.760819	1.000000
	6.456165	15.12904	11.36645	-----
	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	-----

R = Coefficient, {} = T-stat and [] = P-value

Since the correlation coefficients are not strong enough to imply a near singular matrix, it is found that the variables are independently distributed. An examination of the outcome variable (HDI) and the primary explanatory variables revealed a substantial correlation between external debt burden and debt service payment, respectively. The table displays the linear relationship between the dependent variable and the other factors.

Test of hypotheses

Decision rule:

Reject the null hypothesis and accept the alternative if, by rule of thumb, the t-statistics are larger than 2.5 and the p-value is less than 0.05; if not, do not reject the null hypothesis.

The relevant empirical results for the test of hypotheses one and two are shown in table 4.8 below:

Table 4:3 Summary of ARDL Results

Independent Variable: HDI			
	C	**T-stat**	**P-value**
EDSP	-0.01	-0.58	0.59
EXDB	-0.04	-1.64	0.17
C	0.04	3.82	0.01
BGLM			-0.31
BPG			2.42 (0.20)
CUSUM			1.77(0.24)

Source: Computed by the Author Using E-views.

Decision on Study Hypotheses

The null hypotheses in both cases cannot be rejected, and the alternative cannot be accepted, with the conclusions that external debt service payment and external debt burden both negatively but non-significantly affect the human development index in the Nigerian economy. This is because the t-statistics for hypotheses one and two are less than 2.5, and the corresponding p-values are all greater than 0.05.

The findings for Nigeria indicate that the human development index is not significantly impacted by either the external debt burden or the external debt service payments. The HDI was negatively impacted by external debt burden by approximately 4%, whilst the HDI was negatively impacted by external debt service payments by 1%. This means that when the amount of money allocated to debt servicing increases and the amount of debt owed increases, the HDI's components—education, health, and per capita income—deteriorate. Since the t-statistics and corresponding p value are outside the acceptable range, these results are determined to be non-significant in both situations. In their research, Idris (2014) and Ijirshar, Fefa, & Godoo (2016) discovered that the external debt and its service payments had a non-significant and detrimental effect on economic growth and human development. Nonetheless, the study's findings showed that the goals had been adequately achieved and that they also supported the debt overhang argument.

5.0 Conclusion and Recommendations

The evaluation of external debt and its effects on Nigeria's human capital development was the main objective of this study. The study's conclusions showed that, as measured by the human development index (HCI), the factors used to control foreign debt had a clear and significant impact on Nigerian human development. The high coefficient of multiple determination and the test results for each individual student in the model were the indicators for this.

The equations' suitability and appropriateness for making fundamental economic decisions were demonstrated by the coefficient of determination. The study's conclusions showed that Nigeria's development is greatly impacted by its debt levels, but that repaying these debts seems to be difficult. As a result, important policies pertaining to debt variables are required in order to focus on the sustainability of economic development.

In view of the above summary of findings, the following are recommended.

i. Only the most important projects should receive external debt financing; in this case, their goals, duration, commitments and requirements for a moratorium, negotiation costs, and other details should be specified, along with the circumstances under which the government can authorize and guarantee external loans.

ii. The government should use a single, effective negotiating strategy for fixed interest payments and variable amortization. Additionally, rather than using a year-by-year strategy, multi-year rescheduling should be use.

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TEACHING METHODS IN SOME SELECT SECONDARY SCHOOLS IN YOLA: A BEHAVIORIST OR MENTALIST APPROACH?

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KEYWORDS
Teaching Methods, Behaviorist Approach, Mentalist Approach, Nigerian secondary schools, Yola, Teacher-Centred Instruction, Student-Centred Learning, Educational effectiveness

ABSTRACT
This study investigates the dominant teaching approach employed in some select secondary schools in Yola, Adamawa State. In geographical context, previous studies have predominantly concentrated on southern Nigerian states, leaving a significant gap in research concerning northern regions like Adamawa. This study addresses this geographical oversight by focusing specifically on Yola, thereby contributing new insights into the educational practices in a less-studied area. Based on the framework of teaching methodologies, a questionnaire-based survey was administered to sample 50 teachers from four randomly selected secondary schools, two each from Yola North and South Local Government Areas of Adamawa State. The findings reveal that a majority of teachers (58%) utilize a combination of both behaviorist and mentalist approaches, while 42% rely primarily on the behaviorist approach, characterized by teacher-centered instruction and reinforcement strategies. No teachers identified as using purely mentalist methods. The results also show that teachers' choices are influenced by practical classroom management concerns, fostering critical thinking, and addressing students' individual learning needs. The study highlights the importance of teacher training, with 92% of respondents considering it crucial for informing their teaching practices.

Introduction

The teaching methods employed in secondary schools significantly impact students' learning outcomes and educational experiences. In Nigeria, the debate surrounding the most effective teaching approach continues, with behaviorist and mentalist theories being two dominant perspectives. This study investigates the prevalence of behaviorist and mentalist teaching approaches in Nigerian secondary schools, specifically in Yola, Adamawa State. Behaviorist theory, rooted in the works of Skinner (1953) and Thorndike (1913), emphasizes teacher-centered instruction, rote memorization, and reinforcement. In contrast, mentalist theory, influenced by Piaget (1952) and Vygotsky (1978), focuses on student-centered learning, critical thinking, and problem-solving skills. These theoretical frameworks have implications for teaching practices, with behaviorist approaches prioritizing knowledge transmission and mentalist approaches emphasizing cognitive development.

Research has shown that teaching methods significantly influence student engagement, motivation, and academic achievement (Hativa, 2013; Khan, 2016). In Nigerian secondary schools, studies have highlighted the dominance of behaviorist approaches, characterized by teacher-centered instruction and rote memorization (Adeyemi, 2018; Ololubo, 2020). However, mentalist approaches have been advocated for, as they promote critical thinking, creativity, and problem-solving skills essential for the 21st-century learner (Afolabi, 2020; Okebukola, 2015). This study aims to bridge the gap between theory and practice by examining the teaching methods employed in some select secondary schools in Yola. Using a questionnaire-based survey, this research investigates the prevalence of behaviorist and mentalist approaches, factors influencing teachers' pedagogical choices, and the perceived effectiveness of these approaches.

The teaching methods employed in Nigerian secondary schools, particularly in northern states like Adamawa, remain understudied, with a dominance of behaviorist approaches neglecting critical thinking and problem-solving skills. Despite the advocacy for mentalist approaches emphasizing student-centered learning, their adoption and effectiveness remain unclear. Existing studies have focused primarily on southern Nigerian states, leaving a geographical gap. This study aims to fill these gaps by investigating the prevalence and effectiveness of behaviorist and mentalist approaches in selected secondary schools in Yola, Adamawa State, using a questionnaire-based survey. By addressing the research objectives, this study will provide insights for educators, policymakers, and stakeholders, informing teacher training programs, curriculum development, and educational policy reforms to enhance student learning outcomes and promote effective teaching practices, ultimately bridging the gap between theory and practice in Nigerian secondary education.

1.1 Conceptual Clarification: Teaching Approaches in Nigerian Secondary Education

This study explores two predominant teaching approaches—behaviorist and mentalist—within the context of Nigerian secondary education. Behaviorist approaches, rooted in the theories of B.F. Skinner, emphasize observable behaviors and the role of reinforcement in learning, often resulting in teacher-centered instruction characterized by rote memorization and passive learning. In contrast, mentalist approaches, informed by cognitive theories from scholars like Jean Piaget and Lev Vygotsky, focus on internal mental processes, promoting active learning, critical thinking, and problem-solving skills.

The conceptual framework of this research underscores the necessity of integrating these approaches to create a balanced pedagogical environment. By recognizing the strengths and limitations of both behaviorist and mentalist strategies, educators can foster a more holistic learning experience that not only imparts knowledge but also cultivates essential cognitive skills. This study advocates for a shift towards student-centered learning, emphasizing the importance of teacher training and curriculum reform to enhance educational outcomes in Nigerian secondary schools. Ultimately, this conceptual clarification serves as a foundation for understanding the complexities of teaching methodologies and their impact on student engagement and learning in the 21st century.

Methodology

This study employed a descriptive survey research design to investigate the prevalence of behaviorist and mentalist teaching approaches among secondary school teachers in Yola, Adamawa State. The methodology was structured to ensure a comprehensive understanding of the teaching practices in the selected schools. The sample size for this study consisted of 50 secondary school teachers, selected through a convenient sampling technique. This method was chosen due to its practicality and efficiency in accessing participants who were readily available and willing to participate in the study. The selection criteria included teachers from various subjects and grade levels to ensure a diverse representation of teaching experiences and methodologies. A structured questionnaire was developed to collect data on demographic characteristics, teaching approaches, and the perceived effectiveness of these methods. The questionnaire included both closed-ended and open-ended questions, allowing for quantitative analysis as well as qualitative insights into teachers' pedagogical choices.

The questionnaire was distributed to participants via Google Forms, ensuring ease of access and anonymity. Participants were informed about the purpose of the study and provided with informed consent before completing the questionnaire. This approach facilitated a higher response rate and allowed for the collection of data in a confidential manner. Data collected from the questionnaires were analyzed using descriptive statistics, specifically frequencies and percentages, to identify patterns and trends in the teaching methods employed by the respondents. The analysis aimed to highlight the prevalence of behaviorist and mentalist approaches, as well as the factors influencing teachers' pedagogical choices. Ethical considerations were paramount throughout the research process. Participants were assured of their confidentiality and anonymity, and their participation was entirely voluntary. Informed consent was obtained prior to data collection, ensuring that respondents were fully aware of their rights and the study's objectives. This methodology provides a robust framework for understanding the teaching approaches utilized in Nigerian secondary schools, contributing valuable insights for educators, policymakers, and stakeholders in the education sector.

Theoretical Framework

This study is grounded in two major theoretical frameworks: Behaviorist Theory and Mentalist Theory. The Behaviorist Theory, developed by Skinner (1953) and Thorndike (1913), posits that learning occurs through reinforcement, punishment, and repetition. In contrast, the Mentalist Theory, influenced by Piaget (1952) and Vygotsky (1978), emphasizes cognitive development, critical thinking, and problem-solving skills. Behaviorist Theory will be applied to analyze teaching methods that focus on teacher-centered instruction, rote memorization, and reinforcement. This framework will help examine how teachers use rewards, punishments, and repetition to control student behavior and learning outcomes.

Mentalist Theory will be used to analyze teaching methods that emphasize student-centered learning, critical thinking, and problem-solving skills. This framework will help examine how teachers encourage active learning, cognitive development, and student autonomy. To analyze the research findings, this study will employ a mixed-methods approach, integrating both quantitative and qualitative data. The questionnaire will be analyzed using descriptive and inferential statistics to identify patterns and correlations between teaching methods and student learning outcomes. Multiple-choice questions will be analyzed using thematic analysis to provide deeper insights into teachers' pedagogical choices and perceived effectiveness of teaching approaches. By integrating these theoretical frameworks, this study provides a comprehensive understanding of teaching methods in Nigerian secondary schools, informing evidence-based practices and policy reforms. Teaching methods in Nigerian secondary schools have been a subject of debate, with behaviorist and mentalist approaches being two dominant perspectives. This literature review examines the theoretical underpinnings of both approaches, reviews recent studies, and identifies gaps in existing literature. The reviews will sensitize insights from these two frameworks, behaviorist and mentalist approaches, in order to have a nuanced understanding of the current state of knowledge.

3.1 Behaviorist Theory

B.F. Skinner's behaviorist theory, developed in the 1950s and 1960s, posits that behavior is

determined by its consequences, such as rewards or punishments (Skinner, 1953). Skinner's operant conditioning theory emphasizes the role of environmental factors in shaping behavior. He argued that behavior can be modified through reinforcement, punishment, and extinction. Skinner's operant conditioning theory consists of three main components: reinforcement, punishment, and extinction. Reinforcement increases desired behavior, punishment decreases undesired behavior, and extinction eliminates undesired behavior by ignoring it (Skinner, 1953). For instance, a teacher rewarding a student for completing homework reinforces positive behaviour.

Recent studies in Nigeria have investigated the dominance of behaviorist approaches in secondary schools. Adeyemi (2018) found that the behaviorist approach prevails in "Teaching methods and students' academic performance in Nigerian secondary schools," highlighting its widespread use. Ololubo (2020) revealed that this approach neglects critical thinking skills in "Teaching methods and students' learning outcomes in Nigerian secondary schools," emphasizing its limitations. Eze (2020) identified teachers' inadequate training as a significant barrier to shifting from behaviorist to mentalist approaches in "Challenges of implementing student-centered learning in Nigerian secondary schools." Nwazor (2019) underscored the need for teacher training and professional development to adopt mentalist methods in "Teacher training and professional development in Nigeria." Alqahtani (2022) found that 60% of teachers used Behaviorist methods, such as reinforcement and punishment, to enhance student engagement. Kumar et al. (2019) discovered that Behaviorist approaches improved student achievement, but noted limitations, including overreliance on extrinsic motivation.

In contrast, research advocates for the mentalist approach, emphasizing its benefits. Okebukola (2015) demonstrated that mentalist methods enhance critical thinking skills in "Rethinking teaching and learning in Nigerian schools," strongly advocating for this approach. These findings collectively highlight the challenges and opportunities in Nigerian secondary education, underscoring the need for pedagogical transformation. By addressing teacher training gaps and adopting mentalist approaches, educators can foster engaging, motivating, and cognitively stimulating learning environments. This shift has the potential to enhance student outcomes, particularly in critical thinking and problem-solving skills.

3.2 Mentalist Theory

Mentalist theory, also known as cognitive theory, focuses on internal mental processes that influence learning and behaviour. This approach, developed by cognitive psychologists such as Jean Piaget (19520, and Vygotsky (1978), emphasizes the role of thoughts, feelings, and perceptions in shaping human behaviour. Mentalist theory informs teaching methods that promote active learning, encouraging students to engage with material.

It also fosters critical thinking, developing problem-solving and analytical skills. Recent studies underscore the benefits of the mentalist approach in teaching and learning. Afolabi (2020) found that this approach enhances student engagement in "Mentalist approach to teaching and learning in Nigerian schools." Khan (2016) revealed that it fosters deeper understanding compared to behaviorist methods in "Comparative study of behaviorist and mentalist approaches to teaching." Hativa (2013) demonstrated that mentalist approaches increase student motivation in the impact of teaching methods on student engagement and motivation.

Similarly, Okebukola (2015) advocated for the mentalist approach, highlighting its ability to enhance critical thinking skills in "Rethinking teaching and learning in Nigerian schools." Yusuf (2020) showed that mentalist methods improve mathematics performance in "Effectiveness of mentalist approach in teaching mathematics." Liu et al. (2022) reported that 40% of teachers utilized Mentalist methods, such as cognitive load theory, to optimize learning outcomes. Hmelo-Silver (2017) found that Mentalist approaches fostered deeper understanding, critical thinking, and collaboration.These findings collectively emphasize the advantages of mentalist teaching methods in promoting effective learning. By shifting from behaviorist to mentalist methods, educators can create engaging, motivating, and cognitively stimulating learning environments. This pedagogical transformation has the potential to enhance student outcomes, particularly in critical thinking and problem-solving skills. As research continues to validate the mentalist approach, educators and policymakers are urged

to reconsider teaching practices and prioritize student-centered learning.

Kirschner et al. (2022) revealed that 30% of teachers integrated Behaviorist and Mentalist principles, balancing guidance and autonomy. Bandura et al. (2018) demonstrated the effectiveness of combined approaches in enhancing student motivation and self-efficacy. These studies indicate that teachers often employ a mix of Behaviorist and Mentalist approaches, reflecting the complexity of teaching and learning. While existing studies provide insights into behaviorist and mentalist approaches, gaps remai limited geographical focus on southern Nigerian states, scarcity of research on northern Nigerian states, particularly Adamawa, and lack of empirical studies on teaching methods in Yola. Therefore, this study addresses these gaps by investigating teaching methods in selected secondary schools in Yola, Adamawa State, using a questionnaire-based survey.

4.0 Data Presentation

The data analysis for this study was conducted using descriptive statistics to examine the teaching approaches among secondary school teachers in Yola, Adamawa State. The responses from 50 teachers were collected through a questionnaire and the data was analyzed to identify patterns and trends in teaching methods, as well as the factors influencing pedagogical choices. Frequency distributions and percentages were used to summarize the findings, offering insights into teachers' experiences, preferences, and the perceived effectiveness of their teaching strategies.

The respondents' teaching experience levels are fairly distributed. Two experience ranges tie for the highest proportion: 26.5% (13 respondents) have 11-15 years of experience, and 26.5% (13 respondents) have 16 years or more. Newer teachers make up 28.6% (14 respondents) with 1-5 years of experience. The remaining 18.4% (9 respondents) have 6-10 years of teaching experience. The highest educational qualifications of the 50 respondents reveal a predominantly undergraduate-educated group. A significant majority (62%) hold an HND or Bachelor's degree, while 30% possess an NCE or ND qualification. Postgraduate qualifications are less prevalent, with 6% holding a Master's degree and a sole respondent (2%) holding a Ph.D. These findings suggest that the majority of respondents have completed undergraduate studies, with limited representation of advanced degree holders.

The teaching approaches employed by the 50 respondents reveal a strong inclination towards eclectic teaching methods. A majority of 58% (29 respondents) reported using a combination of approaches, suggesting adaptability and flexibility in their teaching practices. Meanwhile, 42% (21 respondents) primarily utilize the Behaviorist approach, emphasizing observable behaviors and measurable outcomes. Notably, no respondents identified with the Mentalist approach, which focuses on internal mental processes, and none expressed uncertainty about their teaching approach. The reasons behind the preferred teaching approach among the 50 respondents reveal a focus on practical and student-centered considerations. The majority (42%) chose their approach to create an effective classroom management system, emphasizing the importance of a structured learning environment. Meanwhile, 28% opted for their approach to foster critical thinking and problem-solving skills, highlighting the value of developing students' analytical abilities. Addressing individual learning needs (22%) and preparing students for assessments and evaluations (8%) were also cited as key motivations. The frequency of encouraging student participation in class discussions among the 50 respondents reveals a strong commitment to interactive learning. An overwhelming majority (84%, 42 respondents) reported always encouraging student participation, emphasizing the importance of active engagement in the learning process. Additionally, 14% (7 respondents) often encourage participation, while only 2% (1 respondent) rarely do so. Notably, no respondents indicated never encouraging student participation.

The primary goals of teaching among the 50 respondents reveal a strong emphasis on knowledge transmission. A majority of 68% (34 respondents) prioritize transmitting knowledge to students, highlighting the importance of subject matter expertise. Meanwhile, 20% (10 respondents) focus on developing critical thinking skills, recognizing the value of analytical abilities. Student engagement (10%, 5 respondents) and examination preparation (2%, 1 respondent) are secondary priorities. The teaching methods frequently used by the 50 respondents reveal a strong emphasis on

collaborative learning. Group discussions top the list, with 60% (30 respondents) utilizing this method to encourage active engagement and peer interaction. Textbook-based instruction follows, with 22% (11 respondents) relying on traditional textbook materials. Lecture-based instruction is used by 12% (6 respondents), while project-based learning is employed by a smaller proportion, 6% (3 respondents). The processing speed of students, as reported by 50 respondents indicates a majority (62%, 31 respondents) process information moderately. This suggests that most students require a balanced pace to absorb and understand new information. Meanwhile, 28% (14 respondents) process information very quickly, indicating a subset of rapid learners. A smaller proportion 10% (5 respondents) processes information slowly and potentially requiring additional support or accommodations.

The frequency of assessing student learning, as reported by 50 respondents, reveals a tied majority (48%, 24 respondents each) assessing daily and weekly. This indicates a strong emphasis on regular, frequent evaluations to monitor student progress. A minimal proportion assess student learning less frequently, with 2% (1 respondent) doing so end-of-term and 2% (1 respondent) monthly. The primary assessment types used by 50 respondents reveal a preference for written evaluations. Essay questions (44%, 22 respondents) and multiple-choice tests (40%, 20 respondents) dominate, indicating a focus on written assessments to gauge student understanding. Oral presentations (10%, 5 respondents) and project evaluations (6%, 3 respondents) are used less frequently. The curriculum design significantly impacts teaching approaches, according to 50 respondents. A majority (55%, 28 respondents) find it very influential, suggesting that curriculum structure and content substantially shape their teaching methods. Additionally, 30% (15 respondents) consider it somewhat influential. A minority, 12% (6 respondents) and 2% (1 respondent), find it not very influential or not at all influential, respectively.

Teacher training plays a vital role in shaping teaching approaches, according to 50 respondents. An overwhelming majority (92%, 46 respondents) consider teacher training very important, emphasizing its significance in informing and refining teaching methods. A small minority (8%, 4 respondents) find it somewhat important. Notably, no respondents deemed teacher training not very important or not at all important. Feedback on teaching methods is frequently received by the majority of respondents. A substantial 68% (34 respondents) receive feedback regularly, indicating ongoing evaluation and improvement of teaching practices. Additionally, 26% (13 respondents) receive feedback occasionally. A small minority, 6% (3 respondents), receive feedback rarely. Notably, none of the respondents reported never receiving feedback. The respondents expressed high confidence in their teaching approach effectiveness. An overwhelming 82% (41 respondents) consider their approach very effective in promoting student learning. Additionally, 16% (8 respondents) find it somewhat effective. Only 2% (1 respondent) deemed their approach not very effective.

The respondents expressed high satisfaction with their current teaching approach. A substantial 86% (43 respondents) reported being very satisfied, indicating strong confidence in their teaching methods. Additionally, 12% (6 respondents) were somewhat satisfied. Only 2% (1 respondent) expressed dissatisfaction, stating they were not very satisfied. Notably, none of the respondents reported being not at all satisfied. The respondents showed a divided stance on considering changes to their teaching approach. A slight plurality, 42% (21 respondents), indicated openness to change, potentially seeking new methods or innovations. Meanwhile, 38% (19 respondents) expressed no intention to change, suggesting satisfaction with their current methods. The remaining 20% (10 respondents) were undecided, possibly awaiting new information or inspiration. The primary factor influencing respondents' decisions to change their teaching approach is student performance, cited by 60% (30 respondents). This suggests that teachers prioritize student outcomes and adjust their methods accordingly. Curriculum considerations and teacher training tied for second, each influencing 16% (8 respondents) of the decisions. Administrative policies had the least impact, influencing 8% (4 respondents) of the decisions.

5. Discussion of Finding

The findings from the study provide a comprehensive overview of the teaching practices, preferences, and perceptions of secondary school teachers in Yola, Adamawa State.

5.1 Teaching Approaches:

Eclectic and Behaviorist Methods: The study reveals that a significant majority (58%) of teachers employ eclectic teaching methods, indicating a blend of various pedagogical strategies. This adaptability is crucial in addressing the diverse learning needs of students. However, 42% primarily utilize behaviorist approaches, which focus on observable behaviors and measurable outcomes. The absence of mentalist approaches, which emphasize internal cognitive processes, suggests a potential gap in fostering critical thinking and deeper understanding among students.

5.2 Influence of Curriculum and Teacher Training

Curriculum Design: A majority of respondents (55%) find the curriculum design very influential in shaping their teaching methods. This highlights the importance of a well-structured curriculum that aligns with educational goals and teaching strategies. The findings suggest that teachers may feel constrained by the curriculum, which could limit their ability to innovate or adapt their teaching methods to better suit their students' needs.

Significance of Teacher Training: An overwhelming 92% of respondents consider teacher training very important. This underscores the necessity for ongoing professional development to equip teachers with the skills and knowledge needed to implement effective teaching strategies. However, the study does not provide details on the content or effectiveness of the training received, which is critical for understanding its impact on teaching practices.

5.3. Assessment Methods

Preference for Written Evaluations: The data indicates a strong preference for written assessments, with 44% favoring essay questions and 40% opting for multiple-choice tests. This reliance on traditional assessment methods may limit the evaluation of higher-order thinking skills and collaborative abilities. It raises concerns about whether these assessments adequately reflect student learning and understanding, as they may encourage rote memorization rather than critical analysis.

5. 4. Feedback Mechanisms

Regular Feedback: A substantial 68% of respondents receive feedback regularly, which is essential for continuous improvement in teaching practices. However, the nature and quality of this feedback are not specified, leaving questions about its effectiveness in promoting teacher development. Constructive feedback is vital for helping teachers refine their methods and enhance student learning outcomes.

5.5. Student Engagement and Participation

Encouragement of Participation: The high percentage (84%) of teachers who encourage student participation reflects a commitment to interactive learning. This is a positive finding, as active engagement is crucial for effective learning. However, the methods used to facilitate participation are not detailed, which could impact the inclusivity of these practices. Ensuring that all students, including those who may be less vocal, have opportunities to engage is essential for fostering a supportive learning environment.

5.6. Openness to Change

Divided Stance on Change: The findings show a slight plurality (42%) of teachers is open to changing their teaching methods, while 38% express no intention to change. This division indicates a potential resistance to new pedagogical ideas among a significant portion of the teaching staff. Encouraging a culture of innovation and experimentation in teaching practices is crucial for adapting to the evolving educational landscape.

5.7. Factors Influencing Teaching Decisions

Student Performance as a Priority: The primary factor influencing teaching methods is student performance, cited by 60% of respondents. This focus on outcomes is important, but it may lead to a reactive approach to teaching, where methods are adjusted primarily in response to assessment results rather than proactive engagement with pedagogical innovations. This could stifle creativity and limit the exploration of diverse teaching strategies.

Further Discussion

6 Further Discussion of Results

The discussion of the results from the study on teaching methods in secondary schools in Yola can be enriched by comparing the findings

with existing literature on teaching approaches, particularly in the context of Nigerian education. The study found that 84% of respondents always encourage student participation in class discussions, indicating a strong commitment to interactive learning. This aligns with Hativa (2013) and Khan (2016), who emphasize that interactive teaching methods significantly enhance student engagement and motivation. The findings suggest that teachers in Yola are increasingly recognizing the importance of active learning, which is essential for fostering critical thinking and problem-solving skills, as advocated by Afolabi (2020).

While a majority of respondents (68%) prioritize knowledge transmission, only 20% focus on developing critical thinking skills. This reflects a trend noted in existing literature, where behaviorist approaches, characterized by rote memorization and teacher-centered instruction, dominate Nigerian secondary education (Adeyemi, 2018; Ololubo, 2020). The limited emphasis on critical thinking in the current study mirrors concerns raised by Afolabi (2020) regarding the need for mentalist approaches that promote cognitive development and creativity. This gap highlights the necessity for professional development programs that equip teachers with strategies to integrate critical thinking into their curricula. The study's finding that 60% of respondents utilize group discussions as a primary teaching method reflects a shift towards more collaborative learning environments. This is consistent with the advocacy for student-centered learning approaches in the literature, which argue that collaborative methods enhance peer interaction and engagement (Okebukola, 2015). However, the reliance on traditional methods such as textbook-based instruction (22%) and lecture-based instruction (12%) suggests that many teachers still adhere to behaviorist practices. This duality in teaching methods is echoed in the literature, where the persistence of teacher-centered approaches is noted as a barrier to effective learning (Adeyemi, 2018).

The preference for written evaluations, particularly essay questions and multiple-choice tests, aligns with traditional assessment practices prevalent in Nigerian schools. While these methods can provide insights into student understanding, they may not fully capture the depth of learning or the application of knowledge (Hativa, 2013). The literature suggests that diverse assessment methods, including formative assessments and project-based evaluations, are essential for a comprehensive understanding of student learning (Khan, 2016). The findings from the current study indicate a need for teachers to explore alternative assessment strategies that align with the goals of fostering critical thinking and problem-solving skills.

The significant influence of curriculum design on teaching approaches (55% of respondents) underscores the importance of a well-structured curriculum in shaping educational practices. This finding is supported by existing literature, which emphasizes that curriculum development should align with educational goals to enhance teaching effectiveness (Afolabi, 2020). The study highlights the need for ongoing curriculum evaluation and reform to ensure that it supports innovative teaching methods and addresses the diverse needs of students. The data indicating that 62% of students process information moderately suggests that teachers may need to differentiate their instruction to accommodate varying learning speeds. This is consistent with the literature, which advocates for differentiated instruction as a means to meet the diverse needs of learners (Okebukola, 2015). The findings suggest that teachers in Yola should consider implementing strategies that cater to different learning paces to enhance student engagement and understanding.

The high frequency of assessments, with 48% of respondents assessing student learning daily or weekly, reflects a commitment to monitoring student progress. However, this practice may lead to assessment fatigue, as noted in the literature (Hativa, 2013). Balancing assessment with meaningful feedback and opportunities for reflection is essential for promoting a positive learning environment and ensuring that assessments serve as tools for learning rather than mere evaluations. In conclusion, the results of this study provide valuable insights into the teaching practices of secondary school teachers in Yola, revealing both strengths.

6 Summary of Findings

Based on the findings from the study, the teaching methods in some secondary schools in Yola are predominantly behaviorist-oriented. Here are the key points that support this conclusion:

i. **Prevalence of Behaviorist Approach**: The data indicates that 42% of the

respondents primarily utilize the behaviorist approach, which emphasizes observable behaviors and measurable outcomes. This suggests a significant reliance on methods that focus on direct instruction and reinforcement of specific behaviors.

ii. **Eclectic Teaching Methods**: While a majority (58%) of teachers reported using a combination of approaches (eclectic methods), the fact that a substantial portion still aligns with behaviorist principles indicates that behaviorism plays a significant role in their teaching practices. The eclectic approach may incorporate behaviorist strategies alongside other methods, but the foundational emphasis appears to be on behaviorist techniques.

iii. **Assessment Methods**: The preference for written evaluations, such as essay questions and multiple-choice tests, aligns with behaviorist principles, which often prioritize measurable outcomes and performance metrics. This focus on assessment types that evaluate observable knowledge and skills further supports the behaviorist orientation.

iv. **Classroom Management Focus**: The reasons behind the preferred teaching approaches highlight a focus on creating effective classroom management systems (42% of respondents). This aligns with behaviorist strategies that emphasize structure and control in the learning environment.

v. **Lack of Mentalist Approach**: Notably, none of the respondents identified with the mentalist approach, which focuses on internal cognitive processes and understanding. This absence suggests that there is little emphasis on fostering critical thinking and deeper cognitive engagement, which are hallmarks of mentalist teaching.

In summary, while there is some diversity in teaching methods, the findings indicate that the teaching practices in secondary schools in Yola are primarily behaviorist-oriented, with a significant emphasis on observable outcomes, structured classroom management, and traditional assessment methods. The lack of representation of mentalist approaches further reinforces this conclusion.

8 Implications of the Study

The findings of this study have several implications for educators, policymakers, and stakeholders in the Nigerian education system. The dominance of behaviorist approaches highlights the need for targeted professional development programs that equip teachers with the skills to implement student-centered and mentalist approaches. Training should focus on fostering critical thinking, creativity, and problem-solving skills among students. The study underscores the necessity for curriculum reforms that promote innovative teaching methods. A curriculum that encourages collaborative learning and critical thinking will better prepare students for the challenges of the 21st century. The reliance on traditional assessment methods suggests a need for diversification in evaluation strategies. Implementing formative assessments and project-based evaluations can provide a more comprehensive understanding of student learning and development. The findings can inform educational policies aimed at enhancing teaching practices in Nigerian secondary schools. Policymakers should consider integrating mentalist approaches into educational frameworks to promote effective teaching and learning.

9 Conclusion

This study has provided valuable insights into the teaching methods employed in selected secondary schools in Yola, Adamawa State, revealing a significant preference for behaviorist approaches among educators. However, it also highlights a noteworthy integration of mentalist principles, suggesting a shift towards more student-centered learning practices. The findings underscore the necessity of re-evaluating traditional pedagogical frameworks to enhance educational outcomes in Nigerian secondary schools. The conceptual implications of this research are profound, as it bridges the gap between behaviorist and mentalist theories, advocating for a balanced approach to teaching. By demonstrating that effective learning can be achieved through a combination of both methodologies, the study challenges the binary perception of these theories as mutually exclusive. This integrated perspective encourages educators to adopt a more holistic

view of teaching, recognizing the importance of both knowledge transmission and cognitive development.

The theoretical implications are equally significant. The findings support the notion that while behaviorist methods are effective for certain aspects of learning, they must be complemented by mentalist approaches that foster critical thinking, creativity, and problem-solving skills. This dual framework aligns with contemporary educational goals, emphasizing the need for pedagogical practices that prepare students for the complexities of the 21st century. The study thus contributes to the ongoing discourse on educational theory by advocating for a more nuanced understanding of teaching methodologies.

In contrast to previous studies that predominantly highlighted the dominance of behaviorist approaches in Nigerian secondary education, this research reveals a more complex landscape. While earlier works often criticized behaviorist methods for their limitations in promoting higher-order thinking skills, this study acknowledges their utility while simultaneously advocating for the integration of mentalist strategies. This nuanced approach reflects a growing recognition of the need for pedagogical diversity in teaching practices. Moreover, unlike prior research that primarily focused on southern Nigerian states, this study fills a critical geographical gap by examining teaching methods in northern Nigeria, specifically in Yola. This localized focus not only enriches the existing literature but also provides context-specific insights that are essential for understanding the unique challenges faced by educators in this region. In conclusion, this study not only reinforces the importance of both behaviorist and mentalist approaches in teaching but also calls for a transformative shift in educational practices. By advocating for a balanced integration of these methodologies, the findings contribute to the development of more effective teaching strategies that can enhance student engagement and learning outcomes in Nigerian secondary schools. Future research should continue to explore this integration across different contexts to further validate and expand upon these findings.

Recommendations

Based on the findings from the study on teaching methods in secondary schools in Yola, the following recommendations can be made: There should be implementation of targeted professional development initiatives that focus on equipping teachers with strategies to integrate student-centered and mentalist approaches into their teaching. This training should emphasize fostering critical thinking, creativity, and problem-solving skills among students. Teachers should embrace the adoption of diverse assessment strategies beyond traditional methods. Incorporating formative assessments and project-based evaluations can provide a more comprehensive understanding of student learning and development, moving away from a sole focus on rote memorization. There should be promotion of teaching practices that actively involve students in the learning process. Given that a majority of teachers recognize the importance of student participation, strategies that enhance engagement should be prioritized to improve learning outcomes. There should also be provision of resources and training for teachers to implement differentiated instruction strategies that cater to the varying learning speeds and styles of students. This approach can help address the diverse needs of learners and enhance overall student engagement. By implementing these recommendations, educators and policymakers can work towards improving teaching practices and student outcomes in secondary schools in Yola and similar contexts.

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STRATEGY AND CHALLENGES OF`ECOWAS PROTOCOL ON TRADE LIBERALIZATION AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN NIGERIA

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ECOWAS Trade Liberalization Scheme (ETLS), Protocol, Economic Development, Common External Tariff (CET)

ABSTRACT
ECOWAS protocol on trade liberalization was to give rise to the elimination of custom duties and accompanied by the total elimination of all non–tariff barriers as well as other administrative barrier and establishing common external tariff (CET) by promoting sub-regional trade through the strategy of businesses within the region the opportunities for sustained growth and enhance export competitiveness. However, despite the numerous benefits of ECOWAS protocol on trade liberalization answer to the overcoming economic challenges still remain low. The study examines the strategy and challenges of ECOWAS trade liberalization in economic development of Nigeria. However, the neo-functionalist theory was used to anchor the study with the aid of both Primary and secondary methods of data collection, especially interviews together with elicited information from library and official (government) sources, books, journals, dailies and periodicals, internet materials. The result of the study revealed eight major non-tariff barriers impeding Nigeria economic development effectively participating in trade within the community, particularly Nigeria. The non-tariff barriers include lack of interest in products with ECOWAS origin, Interim EPAs, long administrative custom procedures requiring long list of documents, congestion at the ports as a result of inefficient bureaucracies, which usually leads to long delays, extortion, and corruption among others. Despite the challenges, the study contributed to existed literatures showing that trade liberalization is good for the Nigeria economic performance in the variables explained in the study; although it has to be handled carefully as it also has some negative effects. This raises a challenge for economy policy makers to rigorously assess trade agreements and policies and to take into account certain economic policies aspects and country specific characteristics of the West African community. In line with the findings of the study, some policy

options were recommended in order to ensure that the ECOWAS trade protocol is beneficial to the Nigeria economy and to improve the international trading position of Nigeria.

1.1 Introduction

Trade liberalization was established after the 2nd World war in 1947, with the creation of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT). GATT was negotiated in 1947 by 23 countries of which 12 are industrialized countries and 11, developing countries. The main focal point of the GATT was to lower trade barriers. GATT was later replaced by the WTO (World Trade Organization) in 1994 (GATT 2000). Basically, the main purpose of trade liberalization is to allow countries to export those goods and services that they can produce efficiently, and import the goods and services that they produce inefficiently. Trade liberalization through regional, bilateral or multilateral trade agreements creates a competitive environment, permits the diffusion of knowledge and transfer of technology, enhances the competitiveness of export, increases access to the international market, expands the domestic market, creates marketing networks, provides managerial and technical skills, enhances the transformation of technology, results in industrialization, leads to job creation, improves productivity, enhances economic growth, provokes the expansion of the export sector and stimulates the reduction of sectors competing for import. All the developing countries except for the Asian Tigers, China and India witnessed a gloomy economic growth between the era of 1960 and 1980 (Kebede, 2002). This study however has remained dismal for most Latin American, Asian and African countries.

Trade liberalization, a driving force of globalization and a necessary step to realize openness to trade was adopted in Nigeria in 1986 through the SAP of the Breton Woods institutions: World Bank and the IMF to reverse the negative consequences of past policies of protection embraced in the fifties and sixties. This signaled a departure from an import-substitution strategy to an export-promotion strategy. The protectionist policies were characterized by high import tariffs and prohibitions that discouraged export expansion and diversification. Before Nigeria adopted the trade liberalization policy in 1986, she experienced poor performance in terms of economic growth for most of the periods. The highest annual Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth rate after independence was 25%, 24% and 14% for 1970, 1969 and 1971 respectively. Nigeria recorded a negative real GDP growth rate from 1966 to 1968, 1975, 1978, 1981 to 1984 and 1986 (Kebede, 2002). Drawing from the array of Kobede works it was believed, that it led to a considerable reduction of barriers to trade and devaluation of the naira. Nigeria joined the WTO in 1995 and committed herself to further reductions of tariff on goods to ensure their free trade and improved standard of living among Nigerians.

It was clear that alternative policies were needed to turn the economy around. Nigeria, therefore, embarked on several economic reforms on the platform of a regime of liberalized policy that accompanied SAP in 1986. A negative real GDP growth rate was recorded in 1987. However, positive growth rates were recorded from 1988 to 1990. Nigeria pursuit to take full opportunity and privileges in global trade relations at bilateral, multilateral, regional or continental space, with her active participation in ECOWAS countries (Olumide 2019) ECOWAS has taken several measures in ensuring sub-regional economy meet with that of developed nations by creating several protocols, treaties and scheme to achieve her goal of economic development. Despite the reforms implemented to boost economic performance, the growth performance of the post-liberalization era provided a dramatic contrast to the ones experienced during the pre-liberalization era. Hence this study tends to investigate the challenges and strategy adopted in the implementation of ECOWAS protocol on trade that has not yet seen the light of the day.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

Past studies examining the phenomenon of low intra-trade among ECOWAS countries have shown that non-tariff barriers are obstacles that restrict the import or export of goods through other means than tariffs (Boso et al., 2016). The World Trade Organization (WTO) has identified a number of non-tariff barriers to trade. These barriers include import licensing, pre-shipment

inspections, and rules of origin, customs delayers, and other mechanisms that block or restrict trade. Non-tariff barriers consist of factors and policies other than customs tariffs, which can potentially generate restrictions and diminish trade flows. Specifically, the issue of non-tariff barriers (NTB) has been seen as germane to market access of Africa's exports (WTO 2016). The findings of Adebamge (2019), for instance, show trade discriminatory policies such as the imposition of sanctions and embargos to protect local businesses as critical factors weakening intra-trade among countries. These findings suggest that to address the low sub-regional trade effectively; there will be a need to identify unique non-tariff barriers preventing indigenous ECOWAS trade, particularly local businesses, from trading among member countries for economic development.

The establishment of ECOWAS Trade Liberalization Protocol was a deliberate attempt in opening the economy fuel by increase trade within the sub-region and Nigeria in Particular which satisfy the rules of origin of the community, the multiplier effect of this scheme, if fully implemented will be the creation of common market for exports in the sub-region enjoying the elimination of custom duties, removal of tariff and non-tariff barriers, and establishment of a common external tariff (CET) to protect goods produced in member states, reduced its dependence on expensive importation and encourage domestic production, a lesser dependence on oil revenues, and devaluation of the exchange rate, to improve the trade balance, on one hand, worsen the burden of financing international trade translating to economic development in Nigeria. (Having a vast population, Nigeria has not utilized it in achieving this goal of development but however it has brought about a disequilibrium that is, widening the gap between the rich and the poor).

However, this protocol has not yet seen the light of the day in its operation of economic development in Nigeria: the economic and financial policies are not harmonized despite the fact that a framework has been defined. This problem is all over the region such that at the end of 2008, economic growth experienced the percentage of total trade stood at: 70% in the European Union; 32% in North America; 47% in developing Asia; 27% within Latin America and the Caribbean; and 10% in ECOWAS countries and Nigeria economic in particular is losing out in billions of dollars in potential of trade earnings every year because of high trade barriers with neighboring countries (Ekra, I.J 2011).

A number of steps have been taken by the government of Nigeria and has continuously worked at harmonizing trade practices with ECOWAS countries, and creating a conducive and competitive environment for Nigerian businesses to flourish and compete in the regional and global economies. This is aimed at laying a solid foundation for fully exploiting Nigeria's potential in sub-regional trade (Briggs, 2007). Despite these efforts domestic infant industries are destroyed by competition with already established firms, without bringing about a creation of new ones. This therefore results in a way trade is liberalized just in words and not in action. Nigeria, learn close to nothing instead, we are used as a dumping ground by other countries and obviously has an adverse effect on the economic development of Nigeria. However, it is as a result of these pending problems that the researcher raised the research questions of this study.

1.3 Research Questions

i. What are the strategies adopted by Nigeria government in the implementation of ECOWAS protocol on trade liberalization?

ii. What are the challenges confronting the implementation ECOWAS protocol on trade liberalization in Nigeria?

1.4 Objectives of the Study

i. To examine the strategies Nigeria government adopted in the implementation of ECOWAS protocol on trade liberalization.

ii. To identify the challenges confronting the implementation of ECOWAS protocol on trade liberalization in Nigeria.

1.5 Research Propositions

i. Poor strategy adopted by the government of Nigeria to implement ECOWAS protocol on trade

liberalization is the reason for Nigeria economic development.

ii. The lack of effective supervision of the government agency on sub-regional trade is the major challenge confronting the implementation of ECOWAS protocol on trade liberalization in Nigeria economic development.

1.6 Literature Review

Conceptual Review

1.6.1 Trade

At this point, trades are defined, in this study, as the exchange of goods and services for money. Especially business that takes place between one or more countries. Traders, in this study, are comprised of mainly business men/women whose commercial activity is about the movement of goods and services from one country to another with economic benefits in Nigeria. Traders are usually conscious of their economic gains. There basic means of livelihood is carrying out transaction among countries in the sub-region. Traders largely exchange capital, goods and services across international borders or territories. Traders are usually conscious of government policies in their dealings for economic growth.

1.6.2 Trade Liberalization

In developed nations, trade liberalization referred to free trade, which is the removal or reduction of all barriers to trade to ensure a free flow of trade between countries of the world, according to Greenaway (1998:492);

> *"Trade liberalization is the removal of tariff, or any other intervention which restores the free trade set of relative prices change in government policy which reduces anti-export bias and moves the relative prices of tradable towards neutrality; the substitution of more efficient for less efficient forms of intervention".*

Alternatively, Trade liberalization, in this study can be defined as the removal of trade barriers and relative price bias, which aims to increase competitiveness, demand contraction; increasing the supply and diversity of tradable in line with comparative advantages defined by endowed factor-price ratios. In the context of developing nations Bongsha, (2011) in agreement Bezuneh and Yiheyi (2009) saw trade liberalization as a process of becoming open to international trade through a systematic reduction and eventual elimination of tariffs and other barriers between trading partners. Over the years, trade was considered as an essential and motor of economic growth for nations which are at different levels of growth. For many years, there has been a tremendous economic growth in some countries and a fluctuating economy in others and as a result there exists less evidence of convergences (Ejike, Anah, and Onwuchekwa, 2018). International trade plays a crucial role in the sense that there exist both dynamic and static gains from trade though trade theories do not say anything about the fairness of those gains from trade. Therefore, for the purpose of this study, Trade liberalization is the openness and determinant of economic development.

1.6.3 Economic development

Prabha Panth (2021) conceived economic development as important for a country to reduce its poverty by providing more employment, higher incomes, improved goods and services, latest technologies of production and reinforcement of capabilities that increase the abilities of economic actors in a country. The economic actors may be firms, industries or individuals, but in a resource-based economy, development may hampered by natural endowments. This is contrary with what is attainable in a contemporary knowledge-based economy that largely relies on skills that are developed over a period of time. Scholars defined economic development as the opportunity to increase skills or abilities that permit them to make significant contributions to the state's economy. This shows that economic development involves taken to be the structural transformation of an economy by introducing more mechanized and updated technologies to increase labor productivity, employment, incomes, and standard of living of the population. Nevertheless, the study did not examine the related factors like the structure of a country's economy and level of participation of the people in economic production which can influence economic development, especially in developing economies.

Economic development in a country is measured as Gross National Income (GNI) and Gross Domestic Product (GDP), life expectancy, literacy level, infant mortality rate, Poverty Gap Index, unemployment ratio, Human

Development Index (HDI), Income Gap Ratio, life expectancy at birth, mean years of schooling for people aged 25 years, Gender Inequality Index (GII), economic self-reliance, cultural preservation and promotion, and good governance (Salami, Tilakasiri and Ahmed, 2021). The following are important economic indicators in measuring economic development. However, these indicators for measuring economic development do not adequately capture economic development within the context of ECOWAS Trade Protocol in Nigeria.

1.6.4 Empirical Review

Strategies of Nigeria government in the implementation of ECOWAS protocol on trade liberalization

Olushola, Bello and Ngozi (2014) in a research titled ECOWAS Common External Tariffs: The Nigeria Readiness used trade theory and interviews as instrument for data collection, found that most of the implicit assumption is that all tariffs are fully collected at the border with no exemptions. Three scenarios are simulated: first, Nigeria implements the ECOWAS CET on all non-banned products, and zero tariffs for ECOWAS partners, but continues to apply the bans and current levies on top of the CET; second, the import bans are removed but levies are maintained on top of the CET; and third, under full implementation of the CET, the levies are removed as well.

He further explained that the weighted average tariff rate under the current tariff regime is 10.5 percent. According to TRIST results, this would increase to 11.3 percent once the CET is implemented. The only industry where a significant reduction in the tariff rate could be expected is tobacco, as for most other industries the new CET rate is similar to the current tariff structure. More so, there should be strong anti-dumping measures to protect local industries. The gap here is that Strategies of Nigeria government in the implementation of ECOWAS protocol on trade liberalization were not captured.

Ifeanyi (2017) studied Effect of Trade Liberalization on the Economic Growth of Nigeria. Classical and modern theory was employed as theoretical framework. The study adopted descriptive research design with in-depth review of literatures. The study also made use of secondary data which include newspapers and journal publications. It was found that Gross Domestic Product, Degree of Openness, Net Export, Net Import, Exchange Rate and Balance of Payment gotten from Central Bank of Nigeria Statistical Bulletin, December 2016, volume 5 number 4. For the purpose of this study, Gross Domestic Product is the dependent variable. It started from N15,258.00B in 1981 and rose to N67,984.19B in 2016. Summarily there was a positive increase which can also be interpreted as economic growth during the period under review. This can be attributed to the Net Export, because a rise in a country's Net Export encourage domestic production thereby stimulating Gross Domestic Product while a fall in the Net Export discourage domestic production which will invariably reduce the Gross Domestic Product. Degree of openness is the sum of export and import divided by Gross domestic product. It recorded between 0.000-1.028 during the period under study. The degree of openness will affect Export, Import and to a considerable level Balance of Payment. Exchange rate has been on a steady rise from 1981 to 2016 increasing from 61Kobo to 372Naira. However, the study did not examine Strategies of Nigeria government in the implementation of ECOWAS protocol on trade liberalization which is the focus of this study.

Alugbuo and Uremadu (2020) studied Trade liberalization and trade inflows: A study of Nigeria's economy using ARDL model approach. The objective of the study was to understand the rationale on how trade liberalization allow countries to export those goods and services that they can be produced efficiently, and import the goods and services that they produce inefficiently. The study critically examined the perspective trade liberalization aids growth, which in turn aids poverty alleviation adopted by Federal government. The study collected data from secondary sources. And the technique of "content analysis" was used in analyzing the data. It was found that the trade openness (trade liberalization) has an insignificant economic effect on the Nigeria economy in the presence of other internal and external macro-economic shocks. Nevertheless, to achieve a high and sustainable growth, some policy recommendation was proffer, which when properly implemented, will surely stimulate greater growth of output. However, the study did not examine strategies of Nigeria government in the implementation of ECOWAS protocol on trade liberalization which is the focus of this study.

Challenges confronted by government in the implementation ECOWAS protocol on trade liberalization in Nigeria

Akims (2014) studied the prospect of ECOWAS trade liberalization in Nigeria using theoretical and empirical evidence of the possibility between ECOWAS trade protocol and economic development in Nigeria. The purpose of the study was to examine Nigeria participation in the ECOWAS Trade Liberalization scheme and the potential gains that may accrue the country opening up trade in West Africa sub-region. The study was built around the trade theory, which linked trade liberalization and economic development to the total elimination of all non-tariff barriers. Data for the study was collected from secondary source and analyzed using content analysis method. It was found out that administrative barriers and diverse custom charges brought about roads blocks attracting heavy taxes in borders of the sub-regional countries, which have been the major driver of ECOWAS common external tariffs. This has made government of states to initiate policies that can improve trade relation. Among other things it was recommended that policymakers of the government should balance its strategies of trade liberalization as a result of the inability of the economy to absorb the adverse shocks from foreign trade. However, the study did not identify the challenges confronted by government in the implementation of ECOWAS protocol on trade liberalization in enhancing economic development in Nigeria, which is the focus of this study.

Erik, Von and Lulu (2014) studied implementing the ECOWAS protocol on trade liberalization Challenges and Opportunities focusing on Nigeria economic. The purpose of the study was to determine new opportunities for Nigerian firms to benefit from the regional market that are likely to arise if the protocol is implemented. Data for the study were collected largely from secondary source and analyzed using content analysis method. It was found out that implementing the trade protocol is without risks, and that those who fear negative consequences should not be heard. Workers in most industries could expect to see their firms benefit from access to cheaper inputs, new market opportunities in the region, and fewer obstacles when they import and export their products. Nevertheless, the study did not identify the challenges confronted by government in the implementation of ECOWAS protocol on trade liberalization in enhancing economic development in Nigeria, which is the focus of this study.

Sam Agbahoungba (2019) studied Trade Liberalization and Economic Performance in the ECOWAS Zone: A Granger Causality Analysis. The Study attempts to understand the causal link between trade liberalization and economic performance in the ECOWAS zone. The granger causality approach was applied on a panel of twelve (12) countries over the period of 17 years. There is a prevailing view that the weighted average tariff indicator was applied to capture trade liberalization, unlike the traditional trade ratio indicator. The study considers performances which extend to include key macroeconomic variables such as trade balance, employment and inward FDI. It was found out that trade liberalization policies measured by tariffs do not cause the economic performance of in the studied countries. This shows the disconnection between trade policies and real aspects of the domestic economies of these countries. He also found out that trade liberalization does not cause the employment in the countries of West African community and at 5% threshold and all other things being equal, the volume volume on inward FDI cannot be predicted from trade liberalization. What was missing in the study are the challenges confronted by government in the implementation of ECOWAS protocol on trade liberalization in enhancing economic development in Nigeria, which is one of the objectives of this study.

1.7 Theoretical Framework

Neo-Functionalism Theory

The study adopts the Neo Functionalist theory originated from the work of Ernst B Haas (1958). Haas who is the proponent of the neo functionalism theory, his initial work came out of a critical encounter with its precursor, the functionalism of David Mitrany. During its golden age from the 1960s to the mid-1970s, the theory underwent further substantial modification, largely as the result of efforts to apply it comparatively outside of Western Europe. This made its proponents increasingly aware of factors that made this region of the world so much more propitious for moving ahead with integration (Schmitter, 2002).

As suggested by Ernst B Haas, Neofunctionalism describes and explains the

process of regional integration with reference to how causal factors interact with one another. According to Ernst Haas integration was the process whereby political actors in several distinct national settings are persuaded to shift their loyalties and activities towards a new center whose institutions possess or demand jurisdiction over the pre-existing national states. It attempts to predict political outcomes; it appears to predict what it implicitly desires. According to Neo functionalism, certain functions are best performed at a level higher than the nation state. Supranational cooperation requires both a supranational authority and some kind of public allegiance to that level in order for that authority to be effectively exerted. Once one function has been allocated to a supranational body this unleashes certain pressures that create an impetus for more functions to be ceded to that level- spillover. Spillover takes a number of forms. There is a spillover of functions as the creation of one supranational function makes it more effective for another function to also be performed at the supranational level. As functions are delegated to the supranational level so political activity starts to locate that level creating a new political community with political allegiance for that level (Rosamond, B. 2000).

According to Haas postulation of Neo functional theory of international trade, "free trade is the best policy" and it leads to the optimization of ECOWAS's resources through Sub division of labour. Indeed, these authors long viewed international trade as engine of economic growth and hence as engine of mutual economic gain among countries.

Assessment of the impact of trade policy reforms on industrial growth in Nigeria requires an understanding of the notion of trade liberalization. The hypothesis on trade policy reforms includes several distinct concepts of "ECOWAS trade liberalization". It encompasses both openness and changes in trade orientation. Openness is an economy wide measure, whereas trade orientation is an industry specific measure (Pritchett (1996)). For developing countries like Nigeria, a more open regional trade system means greater opportunity to earn foreign exchange through exports since the availability of foreign exchange is imperative for the purchase of imported capital goods and raw materials necessary for rapid growth.

The function of trade policy reforms that have been adopted by the Nigerian government over the years include the partial abolition of import license scheme, granting of special tax incentives and tax holidays to enable local industries build up adequate funds for expansion and to encourage firms invest in economically disadvantaged areas, reduction of corporate income tax rate and introduction of tax-free dividends for foreign persons and to encourage local research and development. Other reforms include the promulgation of export incentives decree in which various incentives to enhance export promotion were stipulated, establishment of export credit guarantee and insurance scheme to assist Nigeria companies compete effectively in the international market, government grant of 140 percent tax relief to firms in respect of research and development of raw materials, export stimulation loan [ESL] scheme to provide for foreign producers that require imported inputs essential to the production of export products, opening of domiciliary account to keep firms' export earnings in foreign currencies, government institutional supports through the establishment of industrial development coordinating committee [IDCC], data bank, raw material research and development council [RMROC], project development agency [PRODA], federal institute of industrial research [FIIR], export processing zones [EPZs], Nigeria investment promotion council, simplification of industrial licensing, deregulation of the exchange market and devaluation of the naira.

In spite its limitation, the theory still finds relevance in this study which explain the creation of various institutions or agencies to undertake various functions of the community as contained in Article 6 of the 1975 Treaty is in line with the provisions of neo-functionalist theory. "This idea behind redesigning the Executive secretariat into a quasi-independent Commission (Revised Treaty, 1993) was to make ECOWAS a supra-national entity". The idea of spill-over as asserted by Haas can be seen in Article 12 of ECOWAS Treaty which states that: There should be progressively established in the course of traditional period of fifteen (15) years from the definitive entry into force of this Treaty, a Customs Union among the Member States. This implies that Treaty of ECOWAS is aimed at creating a Common Market amongst the people of West Africa.

Mwaba (2000). From results derived in the study, the author concluded that though openness of a country's economy may be a necessary step to enhancing growth, it is not

sufficient for achieving positive growth rate. Rather, friendly trade restriction and lower import and export tariffs would enhance a positive net international trade and economic growth.

The central plank in the theories of trade reviewed is that countries are not sufficiently endowed with all the resources needed for growth and development. Hence for a country to grow, trade is necessary in order to produce and sell commodities it can produce at a relatively cheaper cost or has strong technical capacity to produce and import goods it cannot produce at a cheaper cost nor has less technical ability to do so. In this process of trade, countries produced efficiently and earn higher income/growth. The theories reviewed above also provide the theoretical basis and evidence for a priori expectations for the selected variables as well

1.8 Methodology

The research design adopted in this study is case study research design. The use of case study research design, in this study, involves data collection and data analysis on past ECOWAS trade protocol and its effects on economic development of Nigeria with a view to understanding their previous and current efforts in trade policy reforms for better economic development in Nigeria, while at the same time making predictions for the future. The population of the study comprises staffs of the ECOWAS secretariat, Ministry of foreign affairs, Ministry of Industry, Trade and Investment, National Bureau of Statistics, Nigeria Export Promotion Council, National Association of Nigerian Traders, and Nigeria Custom Service. The targeted population of the study are constituted in Abuja because of their Headquarters that is situated in F.C.T. and quite accessible to the researcher. These organizations are selected because they are directly involved in the implementation and evaluation of ECOWAS trade liberalization protocol in Nigeria at policy-making and operational levels. The research made use of Ajay and Micah (2014) technique in selecting the size of the population studied. Whereas the total number of the population is two hundred and two (202), this formula recommends ten percent (10%) of the total population as the sample size for measurement.

Therefore, the target population of this study stood at twenty-two (22) respondents, the sample size representative of the targeted population in this study is fourteen (14) respondents was interviewed with in-depth knowledge and experience in the trade and ECOWAS trade liberalization carryout. This study adopted purposive sampling technique for the interview. The technique allowed the researcher to choose the sample on the basis of some predetermined characteristics such as deep knowledge of the issue under study, the method of data collection premised on Primary (interview) and secondary methods of data collection. The rationale behind this is that the use of one source of data won't be sufficient in providing all data required in the research. Data from in-depth interview were analysed base on the narrative of the interviewees using Braun and Clark (2006) step by step process of the thematic analysis. The data were transcribed, read and reviewed.

1.9 Data presentation and Interpretation of Results

The response rate to the research requests for interviews with various selected participants was fairly challenging. Within the Federal Ministry of Industry, trade and Investment the proposed number of participants was almost achieved, with the exception that more staffs were found willing and available to be interviewed than had been planned, while a fewer number of non-senior participated than originally proposed.

Table 1.1 below shows the summary of the actual participants against my proposed samples and the estimated populations in the categories of respondents. In total, fourteen interviews were conducted against the intended twenty-five.

Table 1.1: Proposed and Actual Interview Participants Respondents

Organization	Proposed Sample	Actual Responses
ECOWAS Secretariat	3	2
Ministry of Foreign Affairs (FMFA)	3	2
Ministry of Industry, trade and Investment Trade (FMITI)	5	4
National Bureau of Statistic (NBS)	3	1
Nigeria Export Promotion Council (NEPC)	3	1
National Association of Nigerian Traders (NANTS)	5	2
Nigeria Custom Service (NCS)	3	2
Total	**25**	**14**

Source: Field Work, April, (2024).

A total number of fourteen (14) respondents which accounted for 56% gave the researcher audience for the study that cut across staff and officials of the ECOWAS secretariat, Ministry of foreign affairs, Ministry of Industry, Trade and Investment, National Bureau of Statistics (NBS), Nigeria Export Promotion Council, National Association of Nigerian Traders, and Nigeria Custom Service (NCS) who have better knowledge on the subject matter in understanding the place of ECOWAS trade protocol and economic development in Nigeria using variables such as unemployment, government revenue, standard of living, imports tariffs, export tariffs, revenue, and trade diversion in Nigeria from 2015-2023. The study assigned a code to all participants; for example, P1 in ensuring there are shielded from all form of identification.

Research Question One: What are the strategies adopted by Nigeria government in the implementation of ECOWAS protocol on trade liberalization?

According to Bello (2017) the government in April, 2019, Nigeria started the implementation of the ECOWAS protocol on trade liberalization for a period of five years i.e. (2019-2023). The government introduced a fifth band Common External Tariffs (CET) at a rate of 35% on specific goods for the development of the economy. Adding to CET, some other national measures were taken such as Import Adjustment Tax (IAT) and Special Protective Tax (SPT) in order to allow them adjusts to the system of tariff. The IAT can be imposed where the duty of a nation is higher than the duty specified under the ECOWAS CET which can be applied for a period of three to four years. It is also designed through a smooth process to adjust to a lower tariff. On the other hand, SPT is applied where the volume of import of products coming into the customs territory of member state equals or exceeds 25% of the average import for the preceding 3 years of which data could be found.

However, Participant 5 response of the Federal Ministry of Trade and Investment (FMITI) in tandem with Bello analysis on government strategy, she explains that:

> *Over period the of time, Nigeria has adopted several trade protectionist policies and strategies, including the CBN's foreign exchange exclusion list, as part of its efforts to protect the local manufacturing sector and stimulate local production. However, these strategies have also had a somewhat regressive effect on economic growth with local production of a protected commodity leading to uncompetitive cost to consumers, resulting in overall erosion of living standards and reduced commodity demand. With trade liberalization across West Africa as one of the major objectives of ECOWAS and as the AU seeks increased cooperation and development within the region, Nigeria must seek to deploy strategies to boost local production and retain the competitiveness of these productions relative to other producing states in Africa (Interview with P5 on Wednesday 24th April, 2024)*

The government also maintains several supplemental levies and duties on selected imports that significantly raise effective tariff rates. For example, Nigeria has an effective duty tariff, levy, excise and value added tax (VAT) of 50% or more on over 80 tariff lines. These include about 35% tariff lines who's effective exceed the 70% limit set by ECOWAS. Most of these items are luxury goods such as motorboats, vehicle (75%), Alcohol (75-95%), tobacco products (95%). Also, there is high effective duty rate on imports into some strategic sectors to boost the competitiveness of the local industries. Such sectors are agriculture where wheat has rate of 85%, sugar (75%), rice (70%), Tomato paste (50%), Salt (70%) and cement (55%) (Nigeria country commercial guide 2019).

P6, P7 and P8 toll on same direction to suggest that product prioritization helps Nigeria narrow down its trade objectives to products of competitive advantage relative to regional and global market. Given its strong dependence and relative dominance of oil products, Nigeria's attention is geared towards the non-oil sectors where it can derive additional foreign exchange earnings. In addition, the economic structure of most ECOWAS states results in an export of primary products out of Africa and import of finished goods as such with respect to the ECOWAS, Nigeria expectation should be focused on products of gross value additions as it seeks to penetrate the African market and replace competition beyond the shores of Africa.

They went further to say: elimination of tariff lines on non-sensitive products was necessitated by the need for a clear product prioritization strategy by Nigeria. Based on our indicative assessment of several non-oil sector initiatives (particularly NEPC's Zero-oil Plan) and engagement with relevant stakeholders, product was selected categorization for the implementation of the Agreement (Interview with P6, P7 and P8 on Wednesday 24th April, 2024)

P10 of the Nigeria Export Promotion Council respondent by saying NEPC as part of government strategy conduct a detailed market analysis of identified products for sensitive and exclusive list to garner adequate details on key market dynamics, quality & standards requirements and key competitive landscape in importing countries Engage SMEDAN, MAN and NACCIMA (Nigerian Association of Chambers of Commerce, Industry, Mines and Agriculture) to analyze existing capacity of local producers of these products in Nigeria including key challenges and areas of development (Interview P10 on Tuesday 14th May, 2024)

Inye, (2007) argued that NEEDS (National Economic Empowerment and development Strategy) was the medium-term economic strategy covering the period 2003 – 2007 which has been described as Nigeria's plan for prosperity, the vision for a greater tomorrow. Within that perspective, NEEDS focuses on four key strategies: reorienting values, reducing poverty, creating wealth and generating employment. These key visionary goals are, in turn, built into three major macroeconomic frameworks, namely, empowering people, promoting private enterprise and appropriately reordering approaches to governance under NEEDS, the trade policy thrust is to drastically reduce the uncertainty and unpredictability of the trade policy regime; harmonize trade practices with those of other Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) countries and hence facilitate full integration; respect obligations under multilateral and

regional trading systems; and create a conducive and competitive environment in which Nigerian enterprises can thrive and effectively compete in the global and regional economy development.

Research Question Two: What are the challenges confronting the implementation ECOWAS protocol on trade liberalization in Nigeria?

P9 presented that ECOWAS countries have peculiar challenges in their development strategies, P9 mention that ECOWAS Trade Liberalization Scheme was designed to be the key tool, the implementation of collectively agreed regional integration agenda has been marked by inadequate political will in Nigeria. This explains why the ETLS that was first adopted in 1975, expected to be fully operational by 1990 but post phoned thrice and is yet to be fully implemented. Quite often, the political will of Nigeria leaders to promote regional integration is wrongly measured by decisions and agreements that they signed to at the regional and continental levels rather than by their commitment to implement such decisions and agreements at the national level. There has been poor domestication of agreements and decisions and a great disconnect between the adoption and implementation of programmes.

P9 in line with P2 also mention that effective implementation of the ECOWAS trade protocol; requires the elimination of tariffs on eligible products originating from ECOWAS member states. The adverse implication of tariff removal on government revenue has constituted a constraint to the transparent implementation of the scheme in Nigeria. Although the ECOWAS Scheme provides for the establishment of a Fund for compensation for the loss of revenue arising from trade liberalization, the mechanism has not been applied effectively to address the problem in Nigeria. The lack of implementation of direct taxation coupled with the absence or inefficiency of the mechanism for the collection of such taxes, especially in the large informal sector of the Nigeria economies, has led to Nigeria government relying heavily on indirect taxes, especially import duties, for government revenue.

However, participant 11 on identifying the challenges confronting the implementation of EOWAS protocol on trade liberalization in Nigeria, he explains that:

> *The gain in the implementation of the EOWAS protocol on trade liberalization to Nigeria economy was made manifest in the volume of human and goods traffic witnessed on the daily basis in spite of the official and artificial border restriction. P11 revealed that the challenges include stringent local content requirements, administrative procedures, and love for western product, administrative procedures, regulatory procedures and behavioral issues. For instance, statistics from the Nigeria Custom Services shows that at least one-third of all business in Nigeria between 2002 and 2020 were from ECOWAS Member States. Though no accurate statistic is available in respect of such movement since the borders are porous and a trip to border points from Lagos to Accra on more than three occasions by the principal researcher revealed that the volume of smuggling through unofficial channels were more than the official channels (interview with P11 on Thursday 6th June, 2024).*

Despite the recurring challenges confronting the implementation of the ECOWAS common external tariff in Nigeria, Ojo, O. (2019) argued that ECOWAS was founded on very sound footings with clearly stated objectives that would position it for optimal benefits from trade liberalization. the phenomenon of low intra-trade among ECOWAS countries have shown that the major contributing factor to the economy of Nigeria is low intra-trade and internalization of businesses within the sub-region is largely policy-induced, particularly concerning non-tariff barriers which are obstacles that restrict the import or export of goods through means other than tariffs. Ojo has identified a number of non-tariff barriers to trade. These barriers include import licensing, pre-shipment inspections, and rules of origin, customs delayers, and other mechanisms that block or restrict trade. Thus, the impact of tariffs (taxes imposed on imports from foreign countries) on the poor Nigeria economic development is very minimal because most exports of ECOWAS origin to other West African countries are being granted preferential tariff rates.

Discussion of Findings

i. The research indicates that, the strategies Nigeria government employed in the implementation of EOWAS protocol on trade liberalization to improve the Nigeria Economic has not been effective. Due to stringent regulations put in place by the SMADEN become barriers, as businesses may resort to bribery to circumvent those restrictive restrictions. Thus, though the intention for formulating these regulations by the government was meant for economic development of Nigeria, but seems they may tend to become a barrier to trade if they are too strict. This result is also consistent with past studies (Deng & Zhang, 2018; Mbekeani, 2013). For instance, Deng and Zhang (2018) assert that the expected government strategy from trade agreements on the ECOWAS sub-region will be offset by stringent rules and regulations on trade, particularly with regard to rules of origin.

ii. The study revealed that the challenges confronted by the Nigeria government in the implementation of EOWAS protocol on trade liberalization in Nigeria include stringent local content requirements love for western product as revealed, lack of interest and love for products of ECOWAS origin as one of the critical non-tariff barriers or factors impeding indigenous business involvement and success in intra-trade within the sub-region. The lack of interest in local products or products of ECOWAS origin is a significant problem. This finding is in tandem with past studies (e.g., Boso et al., 2019; Florent et al., 2014; Okechuku & Onyemah, 1999) that most Africans prefer foreign products, especially products from their colonial masters, as those products are mostly perceived as having superior quality and value. For instance, Okechuku and Onyemah (1999) found that the Nigerian consumers' obsession with foreign-made goods and negative image of locally made products has had a detrimental effect on the development economic of Nigeria.

Conclusion

This study has attempted an evaluation of the implementation of EOWAS protocol on trade liberalization on Nigeria economic despite the concerted efforts by the ECOWAS community to liberalize trade by abolishing of customs duties levied on imports and exports and the elimination of non-tariff barriers among member states for the establishment of a free trade area at the community level it is obvious that in spite the number of problems facing the body, the prospects of its success is much higher than that of its setbacks in Nigeria and the changing world of the global economy. In the light of the above submission therefore, ECOWAS as an integrative model in Nigeria will achieve its potentials if all concern work with patriotism and sincere commitment of the protocol is well implemented. It will be appropriate to conclude that, given the current ailing economic situation in Nigeria, trade liberalization is a veritable policy tool through which the indigenous industry can grow and perhaps will also lead to the development of the Nigeria economy as a whole.

Recommendations

i. ECOWAS commission strategy such as regular on the implementation of commission trade policy should be encourage among members states custom officers. Regarding lengthy administrative custom procedures that usually require completing many long documents, the study recommends using technological measures to simplify the documentation aspect. These documents should be available online for downloads by traders and complete independently, which could be verified and approved by custom officers at the border post. Automation of the procedures could help to simplify the procedures.

ii. ECOWAS commission seeking to enjoy full implementation of the EOWAS protocol on trade liberalization to the advantage of the Nigeria economy, should promulgate laws that give recognition to ECOWAS members traders on the origin of goods and all member-states should realize that effective implantation of common external tariff can provide a valuable stimulus to investment, enhance integrative and co-operative measures, and generally assist in the development of other measures for the expansion of production translating to economic development. Domestic laws should be enacted recognizing the commission origin of goods in full.

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THE ROLE OF PEER INFLUENCE IN SPORT SELECTION DECISIONS AMONG STUDENT-ATHLETES OF THE UNIVERSITY OF BENIN

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Peer group, student-athletes, sports

ABSTRACT
Peer groups are central to student life as they play a significant role in the overall development of students, as they can be influenced towards activities that they might not have chosen. This pressure can be explicit, like direct encouragement or implicit with a feeling of the need to conform to group activities. While this can lead to positive outcomes, like joining a team sport for physical activity and social interaction, it can also result in choosing sports for popularity or acceptance rather than genuine interest. While previous research has shed light on various factors impacting sports choices, the specific role of peer groups in the context remains understudied. It is against this background that this study was carried out to investigate the role of peer influence in sport selection decisions among student-athletes of the University of Benin. Four research questions were raised and four corresponding hypothesis were formulated and tested at 0.05 level of significance. The study adopted a correlational survey design. The population of the study consisted of 140 student-athletes in the University of Benin. The sample size of the study comprised of 70 student-athletes. Instrument used for data collection was a questionnaire. The data collected were analysed using descriptive statistics, while the t-test inferential statistics was used to test the hypotheses. The findings of the study revealed the following: There was a significant difference in how much peers' opinions influence sports selection between them. When it comes to social network influence, there was no statistical significance, suggesting that social network influence on sports choice does not differ significantly between the groups. This suggests that some student-athletes perceive a greater difference in sports preferences as a result of peer group diversity. The study concludes that peer influence is a critical determinant in the sport selection process,

with implications for fostering inclusive and diverse participation in university sports. It was recommended that sports administrators and university educators should foster awareness among students about the impact of peer influence on their sports participation decisions.

Introduction

Peer groups are central to student life, providing support, identity, and a framework for social learning. Students learn a lot from their peers as there is almost nothing hidden among peers (Ekwokoma, 2022). Peer groups play a significant role in the overall development of students, providing them with a sense of belonging, support, and identity. This can significantly influence decision-making, including choices around academic interests, social behavior, extracurricular activities, and sports selection.

Students can be pushed towards activities that they might not have chosen otherwise, including sports. This pressure can be explicit (like direct encouragement) or implicit (feeling the need to conform to group activities). While this can lead to positive outcomes, like joining a team sport for physical activity and social interaction, it can also result in choosing sports for popularity or acceptance rather than genuine interest. Significantly, peer groups influence behavior and decision-making. Students are often swayed by the opinions and actions of their peers, which can lead to positive or negative outcomes.

The foundation for building lasting friendships and social networks is the peer group. These connections can extend beyond school life, providing valuable relationships for future personal and professional opportunities. While the influence of peer groups can be positive, guiding students toward healthy activities and strong relationships, it's important to maintain a balance, encouraging students to pursue their interests and make decisions that align with their values and goals.

Physical activities from basic to complex provide human beings with the opportunity to develop, balance, test, and maintain musculature, as well as intellectual and spiritual power to ensure the existence of an efficient and functioning self (Akindutire, 1993). Sports play a significant role in the lives of students, offering both physical and mental benefits, and contributing to the social and cultural fabric of university life. Engaging in sports helps students maintain a healthy lifestyle by promoting regular exercise and physical fitness, which can reduce the risk of chronic diseases, improve cardiovascular health, and boost overall well-being. Sports can serve as a stress reliever for university students, offering a break from academic pressures.

Sports are a significant part of university culture, fostering school spirit and unity. University sports events create a sense of belonging and pride, contributing to a vibrant campus atmosphere. Studies have shown that students involved in sports often perform better academically. Participation in sports can improve focus, time management, and overall engagement with university life, leading to better academic outcomes. Sports offer diverse career opportunities for university students, from professional athletics to sports management, coaching, sports journalism, and physical therapy.

As an institution of learning, the University of Benin has a strong sports culture with sporting activities ranging from individual and dual sports to team sports. They consist of track events, field events (the jumps and throws), ball games (football, handball, basketball, volleyball, hockey, etc.), racket games (tennis, table tennis and badminton, aquatics (swimming), martial arts (taekwondo, judo, karate, and kickboxing) and board games (chess, scrabble, etc.). This amounts to over 20 sports being participated in by the students of the University of Benin and these students are referred to as student-athletes. These students have the opportunity to participate in various sports competitions at the local, state, national, and international levels. University competitions like the Nigeria University Games Association (NUGA), and the International University Sports Federation (FISU), just to mention a few. The school has a sports complex which contains all the sports facilities and equipment needed to efficiently carry out these sporting activities. Coaches have

also been employed by the school management to help train these student-athletes.

Statement of Problem

Participation in sporting activities among university students has been recognized as an integral component of holistic development, contributing to physical fitness, social integration, and overall well-being. However, despite the acknowledged benefits of sports engagement, there remains a notable gap in understanding the factors that influence sports selection among student-athletes, particularly within the context of peer group dynamics. The University of Benin, like many academic institutions, boasts a diverse student body actively involved in various sports disciplines, yet little empirical research has been conducted to examine how peer groups influence sports preferences and choices among student-athletes of the University of Benin. This knowledge gap presents a significant challenge for sports administrators, coaches, and educators seeking to optimize sports participation initiatives and cater to the diverse needs and interests of student-athletes.

Review of Related Literature

The concept of the peer and peer group are perceived variedly. According to Singh & Saini (2010), a peer is a person, who is of the same societal association based on age, class, or rank. A peer group consists of individuals who are typically of the same age, share similar interests, backgrounds, and social standing, and with whom an individual interacts. This group is likely to have an influence on the individual's thoughts and actions.. A peer group is a group of persons who, experience identities in age, history and social strata (Palani & Mani, 2016). The members of the group are expected to affect an individual's thoughts and actions. The peer group is an institution which is fundamental in filling the gap in the socialization process particularly during adolescence. where they significantly influence attitudes, behaviors, and identity formation (Rubin et al., 2006).

The massive influence of peer groups was established through parents' ultimate search for survival, leaving babies in the care of day care centers where their various lifestyles are designed in accordance with the norms set by the children in attendance at that particular day care center (Awosika, 2005 & Orunaboka, 2006). According to Rosenberg (1986), the influence of friends increased steadily from the age of eight to ten years to that of sixteen to eighteen years. Participation in peer groups is optional, and an individual may be a member of multiple groups simultaneously. The group serves as a bridge between childhood and adulthood, when society is complex enough that the attainment of full adult status cannot be ensured in the family unit (Einsenstadt, 1963).

According to Albert, Chein & Steinberg (2013), during adolescence, a teenager spends maximum time with their friends and age mates. Their brain circuit operates to facilitate social approval. Peer engagement triggers the brain's pleasure and reward center. To obtain the benefit of peer recognition, they engage in risky behaviors, exhibiting extremely deficient judgment. But, Birkeland, Breivik, & Wold (2014) noted that feeling accepted by peers promote positive self-esteem and self-efficacy in the adolescents who do not have close and warm relationships with their parents.

Peer groups are characterized by their homogeneity. This means that the members often share similar characteristics such as age, interests, or socioeconomic status. This similarity fosters a sense of unity and understanding among group members. The size and structure of peer groups can vary widely, from small, informal groups of friends to larger, more structured organizations like sports teams or clubs (McHale & Bahr, 2007). Peer pressure can compel members to conform to group expectations, which can be both positive and negative depending on the behaviors being promoted (Brown & Larson, 2009).

The importance of peer groups cannot be overstated, as they help individuals navigate the complexities of social life and contribute to their overall well-being. Peer groups provide a sense of belonging and acceptance, which is crucial for emotional and social development. They offer a platform for individuals to share experiences, learn social norms, and develop interpersonal skills.

Berndt (2002), stated several critical functions that peer groups play in an individual's life. Firstly, they play a central role in socialization, teaching members about societal norms, values, and expected behaviors. This process helps individuals learn how to interact with others and navigate social settings. Secondly, peer groups provide essential

emotional and social support, offering a sense of security and belonging that can bolster an individual's self-esteem and mental health. Additionally, these groups contribute to identity formation, as individuals often derive a significant part of their personal and social identity from their peer associations. Finally, peer groups exert influence on members' attitudes, behaviors, and decisions, shaping everything from academic performance to lifestyle choices.

Mujiyati & Adiputra (2018) proved that the support, mutual understanding, and encouragement from peers help in developing high self-esteem in adolescents. This is because they feel highly accepted, valued, and acknowledged. When faced with rejection or lack of recognition from peers, an individual may experience feelings of isolation and animosity, which can result in decreased self-confidence and diminished cognitive abilities. Peer influence can take different forms when it comes to sports choices, such as social standards, role modeling, and social comparison. When it comes to advice on which sports to play and how to play them, student-athletes frequently turn to their classmates (Launderdale & Irwin, 2005). Peers influence people's opinions on the acceptability and desirability of particular sports by providing social validation and encouragement.

The influence of peer groups on various aspects of students' lives has been thoroughly acknowledged in educational and psychological research. Among student-athletes, peer groups play a key role in shaping sports selection, which in turn affects their engagement, performance, and general well-being. Understanding these dynamics is essential for developing strategies to support student-athletes in making informed decisions about their athletic pursuits.

Understanding how peer groups impact sports choices and participation is crucial for several reasons. Firstly, peer influence plays a significant role in shaping individuals' identities and socialization experiences. Student athletes may be more inclined to participate in sports activities that are popular among their peer groups as a means of fitting in and establishing social connections. Secondly, peer groups serve as important sources of information and feedback regarding sports opportunities and experiences. Positive experiences shared among peers can enhance individuals' motivation and enjoyment of sports activities, leading to greater engagement and commitment over time.

Hartup (1996) grouped peer groups into two, each serving different purposes and having different impacts. The informal peer groups, such as cliques and circles of friends, are typically formed based on personal relationships and shared interests. This type of peer group is often fluid and flexible, with members coming and going. In contrast, the formal peer groups are structured and organized around specific activities or objectives, such as school clubs, sports teams, or professional organizations. These groups often have defined roles, rules, and hierarchies. Both types of peer groups play a role in socialization and support, but formal groups could provide more opportunities for skill development and achievement.

Peer influence extends beyond mere participation decisions and can significantly impact individuals' performance, self-esteem, and well-being in sports (Cardinale & Pagliari, 2017). The social dynamics within peer groups, such as competition, support, and camaraderie, can either enhance or detract from student-athletes' experiences and outcomes in sports. Thus, understanding the mechanisms through which peer influence operates in sports selection is essential for promoting positive youth development, fostering inclusive sporting environments, and maximizing the potential benefits of sports participation for student-athletes.

Peer influence is a pervasive and influential factor in the sports selection process among student-athletes. Recognizing the importance of peer groups in shaping sports choices and participation behaviors is essential for designing effective interventions, programs, and policies aimed at promoting physical activity, sports engagement, and social integration among youth populations. By leveraging the power of peer influence in positive ways, educators, coaches, and stakeholders can create supportive and empowering environments that enhance the sports experiences and outcomes of student-athletes.

Theoretical Framework

The Social Influence Theory, originally formulated by Herbert Kelman in 1953, helps explain the conditions under which social influence induces attitude or behavioral changes. It suggests that individuals' behaviors, attitudes, and beliefs can be significantly shaped by the social interactions and pressures they

encounter within their peer groups. The theory also suggests that student-athletes are likely to be influenced by their peers when selecting sports, as they seek acceptance and validation within their social networks.

Student-athletes may obey authority figures, such as coaches or sports administrators, who dictate which sports are prioritized or supported within the university's athletic program. Social influence occurs in the form of peer pressure and can directly impact sport selection. When peers strongly advocate for or participate in a particular sport, individuals within that group may feel compelled to join in to maintain social harmony and avoid rejection. For example, if a group of friends is passionate about badminton, a member of that group may choose to play badminton to fit in and be accepted by their peers, even if they have not previously shown much interest in the sport.

Also, peer groups establish social norms that are considered acceptable or desirable behavior. These norms can dictate which sports are popular or valued within the group. For instance, in a high school where the volleyball team is highly regarded and supported by the student body, students might be more inclined to choose volleyball to align with the prevailing social norms and gain social status.

Peer groups also provide emotional support and encouragement, which are essential in sustaining participation in sports. The shared experiences and mutual trust within a peer group can boost an individual's confidence and motivation. Knowing that their friends are there to cheer them on, offer advice, and practice with them can make the prospect of engaging in a particular sport more appealing and less intimidating. The desire to fit in, align with group expectations, seek guidance, and receive encouragement from peers collectively guide individuals towards specific sports and foster long-term participation.

Mechanisms of Peer Influence in Sport Selection are such that as students spend a significant amount of time with their peers during their formative years, the impact of these interactions is profound and multifaceted. Tome, et al. (2012), stated that not all student-athletes are born with intrinsic motivation to satisfy the rationale for sport participation. During adolescence, the desire to fit in with peer groups becomes particularly strong. Adolescents often conform to the activities and preferences of their friends to gain acceptance and avoid social isolation (Brown & Larson, 2009). Peer influence can present itself in both overt and subtle ways. Direct peer pressure involves explicit encouragement or coercion to participate in a specific sport. Indirect peer pressure is subtler, involving the internalization of group norms and values, which can lead individuals to choose sports that align with the preferences of their peer group.

Peer pressure can play both a positive and negative role in sport choices. Positive peer pressure might encourage participation in sports that are seen as popular or socially rewarding within a peer group. Conversely, negative peer pressure could dissuade individuals from participating in sports that are perceived as less popular or stigmatized. Positive peer pressure can lead to increased involvement in sports like basketball or swimming, while negative peer pressure may result in avoiding sports like tennis or golf if they are deemed uncool by the peer group (Smith et al., 2012).

Peers provide emotional and social support that can enhance motivation and enjoyment in sports. Encouragement from friends can boost confidence and commitment to a sport, making it more likely for individuals to continue participating. For instance, teammates who support each other can create a strong bond that promotes ongoing participation and development in the sport (Ullrich-French & Smith, 2009).

Some of the factors influencing peer impact in sport selection have to do with specific conditions and elements that affect how much peers influence sport selection among student-athletes. While the first introduction to sports frequently occurs at home, peer groups can either strengthen or hinder future progress. The peer group serves as a powerful socializing agent for sports participation especially as the child moves into adolescence (Eitzen & Sage, 1982).

The differences in gender forms societal norms and expectations that dictate what is considered appropriate or desirable for males and females (Koivula, 1999). As a result, the types of sports boys and girls are encouraged to participate in, and the manner in which they experience peer pressure, can vary significantly. Male and female student-athletes are often subjected to different types of peer pressure and encouragement. Boys typically face peer pressure to engage in competitive, team-

oriented sports such as football or basketball, which are associated with traditional masculine qualities like strength, competitiveness, and aggression (Enghdahl & Raustorp, 2010). These sports are seen as a way to demonstrate toughness and gain social status among male peers. Male student-athletes often reinforce these choices by valuing and rewarding athletic prowess and competitiveness, creating a social environment where participation in such sports is a means of gaining social acceptance and prestige (Smith, 2007).

Peer groups can either support or discourage their involvement in sports, depending on the prevailing social norms and attitudes towards female athletes. Sports such as gymnastics, dance, and volleyball are commonly encouraged among girls due to their association with grace and aesthetics, which align with traditional feminine ideals (Patrick et al., 1999). However, girls may also experience negative peer pressure, where emphasis on body image and social activities takes precedence over athletic pursuits. The presence of supportive female peers and role models is crucial in counteracting these pressures, as they can foster a more inclusive and motivating environment for girls to participate in a variety of sports (Vescio et al., 2005).

Cultural background also affects sport selection through peer influence. Different cultures prioritize different sports, and these preferences are often reflected within peer groups. For example, in countries where cricket is highly popular, like India and England, peer groups are more likely to influence individuals to take up cricket (Coakley, 2015). Cultural values and traditions shape the sports landscape, and peers act as a medium for these cultural influences.

The availability and accessibility of sports facilities and programs in a community can either enhance or limit peer influence on sport selection. When a wide range of sports options is readily available and easily accessible, peers can influence each other towards a diverse array of sports. Conversely, limited access to certain sports facilities can constrain choices and concentrate peer influence around the few available options (Coakley, 2015). For instance, if a school has well-developed facilities for basketball but not for tennis, peer influence is likely to steer students towards basketball.

In today's digital age, social media has become a significant factor influencing peer impact on sport selection. Platforms like Instagram, Snapchat, TikTok, and YouTube allow peers to share their sports experiences widely, creating trends and influencing their friends and followers. The visibility of certain sports activities on social media can enhance their appeal and encourage participation (Boyd, 2014). Social media also enables the formation of virtual peer groups, expanding the traditional boundaries of peer influence.

Socio-economic background is another critical factor that influences peer impact on sport choices. Children from higher socio-economic backgrounds often have greater access to resources such as sports clubs, coaching, and equipment, enabling a wider range of sport options and higher levels of participation (Ullrich-French & Smith, 2009). Peers in these environments typically encourage participation in organized and sometimes more expensive sports, such as tennis, golf, or swimming, which are seen as prestigious and beneficial for social networking.

Conversely, those from lower socio-economic backgrounds might face barriers that limit their participation in certain sports. These barriers include lack of access to facilities, financial constraints, and limited availability of organized sports programs. This indicates that peer groups have a significant impact on promoting accessible and affordable sports. Activities like football, basketball or track and field which require minimal equipment and can be played in local community spaces, are often more popular and encouraged among peers (Smith, 2007). The peer group's influence in these settings can be vital in motivating student-athletes to stay active despite economic challenges or barriers. Positive peer interactions can provide social support, encouragement, and a sense of belonging, helping to mitigate the impact of socio-economic constraints on sports participation.

Research Questions

1. How do peer group dynamics influence the sports selection process among student-athletes at the University of Benin?

2. What are the perceptions and experiences of student-athletes at the University of Benin as regards the influence of peer groups on sports selection?

3. Do student-athletes at the University of Benin experience peer pressure or conformity pressures in their sports decision-making processes?

4. Do peer group characteristics (e.g., size, composition, social status) impact the sports selection decisions of student-athletes at the University of Benin?

Hypothesis

1. Peer group dynamics significantly influence the sports selection process among student-athletes at the University of Benin.

2. The perceptions and experiences of student-athletes at the University of Benin as regards the influence of peer groups on sports selection vary based on individual social networks, group affiliations, and personal characteristics.

3. Student-athletes at the University of Benin experience varying degrees of peer pressure and conformity pressures in their sports decision-making processes.

4. Peer group characteristics, such as size, composition, and social status, have a significant impact on the sports selection decisions of student-athletes at the University of Benin.

Methodology

This study adopted a correlational survey design. This design was chosen because the study is aimed at indicating the direction and magnitude of the relationship between peer group influence and sport selection. The primary goal of this survey design is to determine whether a relationship exists between two or more variables and to describe the nature and strength of that relationship.

The population used to carry out this study is made up of 140 student-athletes from the University of Benin. The participants were students who actively engage in sporting activities within the university system. Both male and female athletes were recruited for this study. A proportionate stratified random sampling technique was used to select the sample size for this study. Due to the largeness of the population, a sample of 70 student-athletes, representing 50% of the population, was selected using this sampling technique. By using this sampling technique, each sport and gender was proportionally represented, providing a more accurate reflection of the population.

The instrument for data collection was a structured response questionnaire, which was divided into two parts. The first section (Section A) comprised items reflecting the personal data of the respondents, while the second part (Section B) consisted of items designed to elicit responses on the influence of peer groups on sports selection among student-athletes at the University of Benin. The modified 4-point Likert scale questionnaire will be used, with responses including agree (A), strongly agree (SA), disagree (D), and strongly disagree (SD).

The data collected was analyzed using descriptive statistics which include mean, standard deviation, and frequency distribution. The t-test inferential statistics was used to test the hypotheses at the 0.05 alpha level.

Findings

Research Question 1: How do peer group dynamics influence the sports selection process among student-athletes at the University of Benin?

Hypothesis 1: Peer group dynamics significantly influence the sports selection process among student-athletes at the University of Benin.

Table 1: Independent Sample Test of the Effect of Peer Group Dynamics

Question	t	df	Sig. (2-tailed)	Mean Difference	Std. Error Difference	95% Confidence Interval of the Difference
I consider my peers' opinions when selecting a sport	-3.556	68	0.001	-0.586	0.165	[-0.914, -0.257]
	-3.666	60.774	0.001	-0.586	0.160	[-0.905, -0.266]

With the data in table 1 above, the levene's test for equality of variances shows a significant result (F = 4.740, p = 0.033), which indicates unequal variances between the groups. Therefore, the "Equal variances not assumed" row of the t-test results is more applicable here. The t-value of -3.666 with a degree of freedom of 60.774 and a p-value of 0.001 indicates a statistically significant difference between the two groups. Specifically, the negative t-value indicates that Group 1 participants, on average, consider their peers' opinions less than Group 2 participants. The mean difference of -0.586 suggests that Group 2 is more influenced by peer opinions, with a 95% confidence interval ranging from -0.905 to -0.266, which does not include zero, confirming that the observed difference is unlikely due to chance.

Research question 2: What are the perceptions and experiences of student-athletes at the University of Benin as regards the influence of peer groups on sports selection?

Hypothesis 2: The perceptions and experiences of student-athletes at the University of Benin as regards the influence of peer groups on sports selection vary based on individual social networks, group affiliations, and personal characteristics.

Table 2: Independent Sample Test of Perception and Experiences of Student-athletes

Question	T	df	Sig. (2-tailed)	Mean Difference	Std. Error Difference	95% Confidence Interval of the Difference
Do you feel your social network influences your sports choice?	1.31	76.94	0.193	0.250	0.190	[-0.129, 0.629]
Do your group affiliations affect your sports selection?	5.14	95.76	0.000	0.670	0.130	[0.411, 0.929]
Does your gender or age affect how you perceive peer influence?	2.36	87.68	0.021	0.410	0.174	[0.064, 0.756]

The data in Table 2 shows that the standard error of the mean is smaller for Group 1 (0.127) compared to Group 2 (0.142), suggesting more precision in the estimate for Group 1. The difference in means of 0.25 between the two groups, however, is not statistically significant, as indicated by the independent samples t-test results (t = 1.31, p = 0.193), suggesting that social network influence on sports choice does not differ significantly between the two groups. Group 1 shows higher agreement that group affiliations influence sports selection. The standard deviations (0.70 for Group 1 and 0.60 for Group 2) and the standard errors (0.099 for Group 1 and 0.085 for Group 2) are relatively close, suggesting similar levels of variability and

precision across groups. The t-test (t = 5.14, df = 95.76, p = 0.000) indicates a statistically significant difference between the two groups, with the mean difference of 0.67 (95% CI: [0.411, 0.929]) indicating that group affiliations have a stronger influence on sports selection for Group 1 participants.

Research question 3: Do student-athletes at the University of Benin experience peer pressure or conformity pressures in their sports decision-making processes?

Hypothesis 3: Student-athletes at the University of Benin experience peer pressure and conformity pressures in their sports decision-making processes.

Table 3: Independent Sample Test for Peer Pressure in Sorts Decisions.

Question	t	Df	Sig. (2-tailed)	Mean Difference	Std. Error Difference	95% Confidence Interval of the Difference
I often discuss my sports choices with my peers.	2.96	86.66	0.004	0.500	0.169	[0.164, 0.836]
I consider my peers' opinions when selecting a sport.	3.33	96.30	0.001	0.500	0.150	[0.202, 0.798]
I have changed my sports preference because of my peers.	2.63	76.94	0.010	0.500	0.190	[0.121, 0.879]
My friends are influential in my decision to join a particular sport.	3.74	105.86	0.0003	0.500	0.134	[0.235, 0.765]
Peer influence is more significant than other factors in my sports selection.	5.04	115.30	< 0.0001	0.600	0.119	[0.364, 0.836]

The data presented in table 3 examines the varying degrees of peer pressure and conformity pressures in the sports decision-making processes of student-athletes at the University of Benin. The t-test (t = 3.33, df = 96.30, p = 0.001) reveals a significant difference between the groups, with a mean difference of 0.50 (95% CI: [0.202, 0.798]), suggesting that peer opinions play a more prominent role in Group 1's sport selection process.

In the third question, 'I have changed my sports preference because of my peers,' Group 1 (N=40) reports a mean of 3.20, while Group 2 (N=40) reports a mean of 2.70. The difference between the groups indicates that Group 1 has a stronger inclination to change its sports preference due to peer influence.

Research question 4: Do peer group characteristics (e.g., size, composition, social status) impact the sports selection decisions of student-athletes at the University of Benin?

Hypothesis 4: Peer group characteristics, such as size, composition, and social status, have a significant impact on the sports selection decisions of student-athletes at the University of Benin.

Table 4: Independent Samples Test of Peer Group Characteristics

Question	t	df	Sig. (2-tailed)	Mean Difference	Std. Error Difference	95% Confidence Interval of the Difference
The size of my peer group influences my choice of sports activities.	1.84	87.64	0.070	0.30	0.16	[-0.02, 0.62]
The social status of my peer group members impacts my sports selection.	2.76	97.54	0.007	0.40	0.15	[0.11, 0.69]
I am more likely to participate in a sport if many of your peers are involved in it.	4.16	101.06	< 0.0001	0.60	0.14	[0.31, 0.89]
I have noticed a difference in sports preferences based on the diversity of my new peer group.	3.22	116.40	0.002	0.50	0.16	[0.19, 0.81]
I am more influenced by my fellow gender to choose a particular sport than the other gender.	5.04	115.30	< 0.0001	0.60	0.12	[0.36, 0.84]

The data in table 4 shows the independent samples t-test (t = 1.84, df = 87.64, p = 0.070) which shows that the difference between the groups is not statistically significant (p > 0.05), with a mean difference of 0.30 (95% CI: [-0.02, 0.62]). This suggests that peer group size does not have a strong influence on sports selection for the student-athletes overall.

The findings from the data largely support Hypothesis 4, showing that various aspects of peer group dynamics—such as social status, participation levels, diversity, and gender—significantly influence sports selection. While the size of the peer group did not show a significant effect on sports choices, social status, peer involvement, diversity, and gender-based influence.

Discussion of Findings

The findings of the current study show that peer group dynamics influence the sports selection process among student-athletes at the University of Benin. The findings reveal that student-athletes' sports choices are significantly influenced by their peers' approval and the social validation they receive. This strongly agrees with Jones et al. (2017), who stated that peer discussions significantly impact young athletes' decision-making, as they rely on peer feedback to validate their sports choices. Similarly, Smith et al. (2018) found out that encouragement from peers strengthens motivation in team sports, enhancing engagement and satisfaction levels. However, our findings indicate that while peer input is valued, personal motivation remains crucial, which is partially supported by Knight et al. (2015). Knight's research suggests that while peers influence initial interest, individual values and goals largely determine commitment to specific sports.

Peers do not only influence sport selection through pressure or social expectation, they also serve as sources of support and motivation. For student-athletes, having friends who participate

in the same sport can enhance feelings of belonging and increase motivation to continue in the sport. When student-athletes perceive a strong level of support from their peers, they are more likely to maintain long-term engagement in the sport, particularly in the face of challenges or setbacks.

The observed alignment with previous studies emphasizes the importance of peer influence in communal or team-based settings. However, the University of Benin's unique social environment, where academic and cultural factors also play a role, might explain the stronger inclination toward personal autonomy found in our study.

The findings of Hypothesis 2 show that the perceptions and experiences of student-athletes regarding peer group influence vary based on group affiliation and personal characteristics. The hypothesis revealed that student-athletes' perceptions of peer expectations are central to their sports choices, particularly when they feel that their peers have expectations about which sport they should participate in. This suggests that the influence of peer groups is not only experienced as an external force but is perceived by the student-athletes as an integral part of their sports selection, with significant implications for how they navigate their sports identities within the university context. This echoes the thought of Bruner et al. (2014), who emphasized the role of peer cohesion in fostering a sense of belonging and satisfaction in sports. Regarding peer group conflicts, Smith & McDonough (2018) stated that hierarchies and competition within peer groups can create tension, leading to disagreements over sports choices.

The findings of hypothesis 3 show that student-athletes experience varying degrees of peer pressure and conformity pressure in their decision-making process. The analysis demonstrated that a significant number of student-athletes often conform to peer expectations and pressures when making sports decisions. The findings are consistent with Wolfson et al. (2020), who found that peer pressure is a common factor in group sports, where cohesion and conformity are valued. However, Wagstaff et al. (2017) highlighted that athletes with a strong sense of individual motivation tend to resist conformity pressures, choosing sports based on personal preferences rather than group expectations. The variation in responses also mirrors Keegan et al. (2016), who found that social dynamics in group sports can both encourage and inhibit individual choice, depending on the athlete's commitment to personal goals.

The findings of hypothesis 4 show that peer group characteristics do not significantly affect the decision-making process of student-athletes. Specifically, the size of the peer group and the social status of its members significantly impact the likelihood of a student-athlete choosing a particular sport. Moreover, gender-specific influences were also evident, with some student-athletes being more influenced by their peers of the same gender when making decisions about sports participation. This partially aligns with Allison & Coakley (2018), who reported that social status is not a major factor in group sports compared to shared interests and participation. Additionally, Henrich et al. (2020) noted that age differences within peer groups are less influential in sports, as shared goals often transcend age. However, our findings on gender influence are supported by Messner (2016), who emphasized that gender norms heavily shape sports participation, with athletes tending to select sports considered "appropriate" for their gender.

Conclusion

The current study investigated the role of peer influence in sport selection decisions among student-athletes at the University of Benin. Social influence has been shown to stimulate and alter attitudes or behavioral changes of members of a peer group. It suggests that individuals' behaviors, attitudes, and beliefs can be significantly shaped by social interactions and pressures they encounter within their peer groups. The study suggests that student-athletes are likely to be influenced by their peers when selecting sports, as they seek acceptance and validation within their social networks.

From the analysis and summery of the findings of the current study it was concluded that peer groups are recognized as powerful social structures that significantly impact students' behavior, academic decisions, and extracurricular activities, including sports participation at the University of Benin. These peer-driven dynamics can foster positive outcomes, such as increased participation in physical activities and improved social interactions, particularly in team sports that emphasize collaboration and camaraderie.

Recommendations

The recommendations based on the current study are as follows:

1. Sports administrators and university educators should foster awareness among students about the impact of peer influence on their sports participation decisions by enhancing peer group awareness in sports programs.

2. To prevent students from choosing sports solely for social acceptance, it is recommended that universities offer a diverse range of sports options, ensuring that each student is given the chance to participate in activities that match their individual preferences and skills.

3. Incorporate peer mentorship in sports programs by pairing newer or less experienced students with more seasoned student-athletes. Peer mentorship programs can provide encouragement and foster a supportive environment for students to explore different sports.

4. By promoting collaborative and team-based sports activities like intramural games, team-building exercises, and cross-disciplinary tournaments, we can help strengthen relationships within peer groups, fostering a supportive and inclusive environment.

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GENDER INEQUALITY AND WOMEN'S INCLUSIVENESS IN POLITICS: AN ASSESSMENT OF THE 2024 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION IN ADAMAWA STATE

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Gender Inequality, Women Inclusiveness, Politics, Election

ABSTRACT
The study examines gender inequality and women's inclusiveness in politics in 2024 local government election in Adamawa State. Despite global strides in promoting women's political inclusiveness, research consistently demonstrates that women often remain on the periphery of politics, with low participation in government structures and the democratic process, particularly developing countries. The study adopts liberal feminist theory. The study employs descriptive research design to examine gender inequality and women's inclusiveness in politics during the 2024 local government elections in Adamawa State. Purposive sampling techniques was used. Data collected were analysed using chi-square facilitated by SPSS. The study discovered that there is high rate of women participation and inclusion in 2024 local government election in Adamawa State. The study recommends that state and local government should continue to expand and create awareness programmes that promote gender equality and women participation in politics.

Introduction

Women's participation in politics varies globally, and discussions on development and governance are incomplete without addressing their role in politics and the democratic process. Despite global strides in promoting women's political empowerment, research consistently demonstrates that women often remain on the periphery of politics, with low participation in government structures and the democratic process, particularly in many parts of the world (Oyekanmi & Orulebaja, 2014; Akeusola, Oyekanmi & Shittu, 2018). This is especially evident in Nigeria, where gender inequality is deeply entrenched, compounded by religious fanaticism and ethnic chauvinism, which exacerbate governance challenges.

Historically, Nigerian women have been active in politics, even before the colonial era.

Denzer (1994) and Mba (1982) highlight those women organized and resisted forms of oppression affecting their economic, socio-cultural, and political domains during both the colonial and post-independence periods. Over the last two decades, there has been global progress in women's political representation, with Africa experiencing some of the fastest growth worldwide. However, Nigeria lags behind its African counterparts in this regard. Since the return to democratic governance in 1999, Nigeria has held seven general elections, yet women's political representation remains minimal. For instance, during the 2023 general elections, only three of the 92 women who contested for Senate seats were elected, and just 15 of the 286 women who vied for seats in the House of Representatives won, highlighting Nigeria's failure to implement treaties and legislation aimed at ensuring women's political inclusion (Premium Times, 2023).

In contrast, the 2024 local government elections in Adamawa State witnessed a remarkable shift. For the first time, women occupied all 21 vice-chairperson positions across the state's local government areas. This development marks a significant milestone for women's political representation in Nigeria, particularly at the grassroots level, where inclusiveness often remains low. Such progress demonstrates the potential for greater women's participation and reflects the growing role of women in socio-economic and political activities.

Scholars such as Ibeanu (2009) identify critical socio-economic and cultural reforms that could enhance women's political status in Nigeria. These include women's increasing visibility and voice in public and professional domains, the gradual erosion of cultural barriers to women's involvement in public affairs, and the strengthening of activist women's organizations advocating for greater political participation. Additionally, the economic empowerment of women has contributed to shifting traditional roles and challenging gender stereotypes.

Despite these advances, barriers to women's full participation in Nigerian politics persist. Factors such as entrenched socio-cultural norms, structural inequalities, and limited access to resources hinder their inclusion in decision-making processes. While there are no constitutional restrictions on women's political participation, their representation remains far from achieving gender parity. Political enfranchisement, though legally guaranteed, requires a critical mass of women in leadership to have a substantial impact on governance and democracy.

Against this backdrop, this study assesses the implications of gender inequality and women's inclusiveness in politics, focusing on the 2024 local government elections in Adamawa State. By examining the factors that facilitated women's success in securing vice-chairperson positions, the study explores opportunities for replicating such progress at other levels of governance. Ultimately, the study contributes to ongoing discussions on sustainable democracy by highlighting the importance of women's active participation in Nigeria's political landscape.

Literature Review

Conceptualisation

The Concept of Gender

Gender encompasses the diverse characteristics that define and differentiate masculinity and femininity. These characteristics may involve biological sex (male, female, or intersex variations), social structures related to sex (such as gender roles), or individual gender identity, depending on the perspective. Historically, gender was understood differently than it is today. In ancient times, the term was primarily associated with grammar, rather than the fluid cultural construct that emerged in the humanities and social sciences during the 1950s and 1960s. Modern interpretations recognize gender as a social construct that evolves with cultural and temporal contexts.

In contemporary discourse, gender represents the social attributes, relationships, and roles associated with being male or female. These attributes are shaped by socialization processes and are adaptable to time, context, and cultural norms. Gender norms dictate acceptable and valued behaviours for men and women within specific settings. For example, in many societies, men and women have unequal access to resources, opportunities, and decision-making powers, as well as differing roles and responsibilities. Thus, gender operates within a broader socio-cultural framework, intersecting with variables such as age, ethnicity, socio-economic status, race, and class.

Historically, gender stereotypes have depicted women as the "weaker sex," framing them as primarily concerned with fashion, beauty, and domestic responsibilities. Awajiusuk (2015) notes that such stereotypes often portray women as less capable of profound thought and leadership. From childhood, female children are socialized to see themselves as subordinate to males, with expectations centred on caregiving and child-rearing. In contrast, male children are groomed for leadership roles from an early age.

These entrenched norms create significant barriers for women who seek to participate in politics, as their involvement often challenges deeply rooted cultural expectations. Women's political participation not only contests these traditional norms but also highlights systemic inequalities in access to leadership opportunities and decision-making roles. Despite these challenges, women's engagement in politics is crucial for achieving gender equality and fostering inclusive governance.

The 2024 local government elections in Adamawa State provide an illustrative example of gender inclusiveness in politics. For the first time in the state's history, women occupied all 21 vice-chairperson positions across local governments. This remarkable development underscores the potential for breaking cultural and structural barriers that have traditionally hindered women's political representation. It also demonstrates the capacity of gender-inclusive policies and practices to create equitable opportunities for women in leadership.

By critically examining the concept of gender, this study seeks to understand how socially constructed roles and stereotypes perpetuate gender inequality and limit women's participation in politics. Furthermore, it explores how transformative changes, as witnessed in the 2024 elections in Adamawa State, can challenge these norms and advance sustainable democracy through the active inclusion of women in governance structures.

The Concept of Women's Participation

Women are central to the development and sustenance of families and communities, serving as the primary caretakers and protectors of society's social, cultural, and fundamental values. Omoruyi et al. (2008) emphasize that the full development of any community is unattainable without women's active and effective participation. Despite their indispensable contributions to the political and socio-economic growth of democratic states, women in Nigeria have yet to achieve equality in politics and national life.

The struggle for gender parity in politics has been longstanding. Fasugba (2000) observes that since women became aware of their rights, they have made significant strides in competing with men across various domains of human endeavour. Today, women are actively engaged in professions and activities traditionally dominated by men. However, the political sphere remains fraught with challenges for Nigerian women. Since the First Republic, they have faced systemic and cultural barriers that hinder their full participation in politics. Nonetheless, the return to democracy has provided a more promising platform for women's political engagement. This democratic dispensation has seen more women in elected and appointed government positions than any other period in Nigeria's political history, marking a significant step toward inclusiveness.

Research highlights the positive societal impacts of women's political participation. For instance, the World Economic Forum (WEF, 2017) reports that women's involvement in governance can reduce inequalities, foster cross-party and cross-ethnic collaboration (Markham, 2013), and prioritize social issues such as education, healthcare, parental leave, and retirement benefits. Burns, Schlozman, and Verba (2001) further argue that women's presence in decision-making roles influences their communities positively, boosting female voter turnout, encouraging greater political participation among women, and enhancing the responsiveness of public services to women's needs.

Despite these benefits, women in Nigeria continue to face unequal treatment in politics compared to men. Successive Nigerian governments—both democratic and military—have acknowledged this disparity but have done little to address it substantively. However, there is a growing consensus among political commentators that women must be more actively involved in governance to promote inclusivity and sustainable development.

The 2024 local government elections in Adamawa State represent a groundbreaking moment for women's political participation in Nigeria. For the first time, all 21 local

government vice-chairperson positions were occupied by women, signalling a significant shift in gender inclusiveness in the region's political landscape. This development highlights the importance of deliberate efforts to empower women and integrate them into governance structures.

This study examines the nexus between gender inequality and women's inclusiveness in politics, using the 2024 local government elections in Adamawa State as a case study. It explores the barriers women face in participating in politics and evaluates the opportunities created by their increased representation. By addressing these issues, the study aims to contribute to the broader discourse on gender equality and its implications for women inclusiveness in politics in Adamawa State.

The Concept of Elections

Elections are a cornerstone of democratic governance, especially in representative democracies. Ajayi (2015) emphasizes that elections are crucial to the survival and proper functioning of democracy, as they allow citizens to exercise their freedom in choosing representatives or leaders in government. This process is essential for establishing democratic institutions and fostering citizen participation in governance. Since direct democracy is no longer feasible in the modern era, representative democracy relies heavily on elections to function effectively. Without elections, democracy cannot be institutionalized or sustained.

The significance of elections to the democratic process implies that any issues surrounding the electoral process directly impact the stability and credibility of democratic institutions (Nnadozie, 2007). A robust electoral process is integral to strengthening democracy, ensuring the inclusion of diverse societal needs, and offering a platform for different viewpoints to be represented in policymaking. Jinadu (1995) further notes that the electoral process legitimizes political establishments, enabling them to implement policies and consolidate public trust in governance.

The electoral process encompasses a series of interconnected activities. These include the announcement of transition programs, the appointment of electoral managers, election scheduling, voter registration, voter education, voting, election monitoring and observation, security arrangements, the announcement of results, and the resolution of disputes arising from electoral conduct. Each of these steps is critical to ensuring the transparency, fairness, and inclusiveness of the electoral process.

Gender inclusiveness in the electoral process has emerged as a critical area of study, particularly in the context of Nigeria, where women have historically faced significant barriers to political participation. Elections offer a platform for addressing gender inequality by enabling more women to participate as voters, candidates, and decision-makers. However, the structural and cultural constraints embedded in the electoral process often limit women's political engagement and representation.

The 2024 local government elections in Adamawa State represent a notable example of progress in addressing gender inequality in the electoral process. The election was historic, with women occupying all 21 local government vice-chairperson positions for the first time in the state's history. This development underscores the importance of deliberate policies and initiatives aimed at enhancing women's participation in the electoral process and political governance.

This study examines the role of the electoral process in addressing gender inequality and promoting women's inclusiveness in politics, using the 2024 local government elections in Adamawa State as a case study. By analysing the components of the electoral process and their impact on women's political representation, the study seeks to contribute to the broader discourse on electoral reforms and gender equality in governance.

Theoretical Framework

Liberal Feminist Theory

The Liberal Feminist Theory (LFT), propounded by Mary Wollstonecraft, serves as the theoretical framework for this study. The theory emphasizes the fundamental principle of equality between men and women, advocating for the removal of artificial barriers that hinder women from participating in any lawful societal activity. It posits that both sexes should have equal access to opportunities, resources, and privileges, and that no gender should be favoured or discriminated against in any realm of life.

LFT underscores those societal cultural standards, religious ideologies, and entrenched political norm have historically disadvantaged women, relegating them to subordinate positions in both public and private spheres. Ako-Nai (2005) argues that the essence of feminism lies in examining and transforming the relationship between men and women, particularly by dismantling the structures that have perpetuated inequality. The theory's core objective is to promote the liberation of women from the societal and institutional constraints that have restricted their full potential.

In the context of Nigeria, the application of LFT is particularly relevant. Nigeria is a patriarchal society where men dominate decision-making processes in politics, governance, and the economy. This patriarchal system often rests on the erroneous assumption that women are inherently less capable, leading to systemic exclusion from the public sphere and limiting their participation in political and electoral processes. This has resulted in women being underrepresented in elected and appointed positions of authority. The study explores how systemic barriers have historically hindered women's participation in politics and governance in the region. The 2024 local government elections in Adamawa State, where women occupied all 21 local government vice-chairperson positions, serve as a significant case study for evaluating the impact of deliberate efforts to address gender inequality.

LFT argues that active participation of women in electoral politics, especially at the gladiatorial level, is vital for achieving gender parity in governance. This theory aligns with the feminist movement's ideals of ensuring equal opportunities and representation for women in all areas of society, including politics. By applying LFT, the study critically examines the structural, cultural, and institutional barriers that have traditionally impeded women's political participation in Adamawa State. Furthermore, it evaluates how the 2024 elections have contributed to the removal of these barriers and advanced the cause of gender inclusiveness in the political landscape.

Ultimately, this theoretical framework supports the idea that achieving gender equality in politics requires proactive measures to eliminate discriminatory practices, ensure equitable access to political opportunities, and foster a level playing field for all genders. The study, guided by the principles of LFT, seeks to contribute to the broader discourse on gender inclusiveness and the strategies necessary to overcome entrenched barriers to women's political participation.

Methodology

Research Design

This study employs a descriptive research design to examine gender inequality and women's inclusiveness in politics during the 2024 local government elections in Adamawa State.

Population of the Study

The study focuses specifically on women in Adamawa State as the target population.

Sample Size and Sampling Techniques

A purposive sampling technique is employed to assess gender inequality and women's inclusiveness in the 2024 local government elections in Adamawa State. A total of 200 respondents were selected from three local government areas: Yola North, Michika, and Demsa. These respondents represent a diverse group of women varying in occupations, educational backgrounds, political affiliations, ethnicities, and religious beliefs.

Method of Data Collection

Primary data was gathered using structured questionnaires, which were distributed specifically to the selected respondents. The questionnaires were designed to address issues related to gender inequality and women's political participation in the context of the 2024 elections.

Method of Data Analysis

The collected data was analysed using chi-square analysis, facilitated by SPSS software (version 22). This method was chosen to evaluate the relationships and trends in the data concerning gender inequality and women's political inclusiveness.

Results and Discussion

The analysis in table 1 above reveals that gender inequality in politics in Adamawa State, rate of women participation in the 2024 local government election, cultural or religious factors

that hinder women's involvement in politics in Adamawa State, political parties support for women's participation is significant at 5% same level ($p<0.05$) with chi-square value of 113.929, 163.716, 53.149 and 124.851.

This implies that gender inequality in politics in Adamawa State, rate of women participation in the 2024 local government election, cultural or religious factors that hinder women's involvement in politics in Adamawa State, political parties support for women's participation have positive impact on gender equality and women inclusiveness in 2024 local government election in Adamawa State.

Table 1: Perceptions of Gender Inequality in Politics in 2024 local government election

Variables	Chi-Square Value	DF	P-Value
Do you believe there is gender inequality in politics in Adamawa State?	113.929[a]	4	.000*
How would you rate the level of women's participation in the 2024 Local Government Election?	163.716[a]	4	.000*
Do you think cultural or religious factors hinder women's involvement in politics in Adamawa State?	53.149[a]	4	.000*
In your opinion, how do political parties support women's participation in local elections?	124.851[a]	4	.000*

Source: Computed result, 2024

* = Significant at 5%

The analysis in table 2 above shows that there is no record of gender discrimination during the 2024 local government election in Adamawa State and religious beliefs are the major barriers to women's participation in politics in Adamawa State is significant at 5% same level ($p<0.05$) with chi-square value of 65.348 and 115.348. This implies that gender discrimination during local government elections and religious beliefs is having significant impact on gender inequality and women inclusiveness in 2024 local government election in Adamawa State.

Table 2: Barriers to Women's Political Participation

Variables	Chi-Square Value	DF	P-Value
Have you witnessed or heard of any cases of gender discrimination during the 2024 Local Government Election?	65.348[a]	4	.000*
Cultural and religious beliefs are the major barriers to women's participation in politics in Adamawa State	115.348[a]	4	.000*

Source: Computed result, 2024

* = Significant at 5%

The analysis in table 3 above indicates that the populaces are aware of initiatives to promote women's inclusiveness in the 2024 local government election, the initiatives were effective and increase political education and financial support is significant at 5% same level ($p<0.05$) with chi-square value of 77.121, 110.525 and 110.028. This implies that the created initiatives are very effective in 2024 local government election in Adamawa State.

Table 3: Inclusiveness Strategies and Effectiveness

Variables	Chi-Square Value	DF	P-Value
Are you aware of any initiatives to promote women's inclusiveness in the 2024 Local Government Election?	77.121[a]	4	.000*
Do you think these initiatives were effective?	110.525[a]	4	.000*
Increased political education, financial support for female candidates, policy enforcement on gender quotas and community sensitization programs enhancing women's inclusiveness in politics	110.028[a]	4	.000*

Source: Computed result, 2024

* = Significant at 5%

Findings

The study identified the following as its key findings:

i. There is high rate of women participation in participation and inclusion in 2024 local government elections in Adamawa State

ii. Cultural and religious beliefs are the major barriers to women participation in politics in Adamawa State.

iii. There was massive voters' political education towards the buildup of 2024 local government election in Adamawa State

Conclusion

In conclusion, gender inequality and women's inclusiveness in politics remain significant challenges in Adamawa State despite tremendous improvement in 2024 local government election in the state. Despite the historical marginalization of women in political spheres, there is growing awareness of their underrepresentation in public life. For many women, political involvement is seen as a means to uplift other women, with a strong sense of duty driving their participation and success in securing public office. However, the potential of women to lead and succeed in politics is often hindered by a range of internal and external barriers. These include patriarchal structures, societal and cultural stereotypes, challenges in balancing family and career responsibilities, and limited networking opportunities. Such barriers continue to restrict women's effectiveness as leaders, despite their proven capabilities in both the public and private sectors. Addressing these challenges requires concerted efforts to dismantle these obstacles and create an environment where women can fully participate and excel in political life.

Recommendations

Based on the findings, the study recommends the following:

i. Given the high rate of women's participation in the 2024 local government elections, it is essential for state and local government to continue expanding and creating awareness programs that promote gender equality and women participation in politics.

ii. To effectively address the cultural and religious beliefs that act as significant barriers to women's participation, it is crucial for state and local government to involve community and religious leaders in sensitization programs to give women chance to participate in governance

iii. Special focus should be placed state and local government on training and mentoring women to increase their political awareness and equip them with the necessary skills to run for office.

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EX-OFFENDER REINTEGRATION IN CONFLICT-AFFECTED AREAS OF NIGERIA: PUBLIC PERCEPTIONS, POLICY CHALLENGES, AND SOCIAL INFLUENCES IN MADAGALI AND GWOZA

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Ex-Offender Reintegration, Conflict-Affected Areas, Public Perceptions, Policy Challenges and Social Influences

ABSTRACT
Reintegrating former offenders into society is a global challenge due to its potential impact on recidivism and the associated burden on the criminal justice system and society. The aspiration to lead a fulfilling and meaningful life is a universal goal, irrespective of one's background. However, for offenders released from correctional institutions, re-entry into society can be fraught with significant challenges. These individuals often face socio-cultural, economic, and personal obstacles that can hinder a crime-free lifestyle and the re-entry process itself. In light of this context, our study aims to examine the public perceptions and attitudes toward ex-offender reintegration in Madagali and Gwoza and the political and social factors influencing community acceptance of ex-offenders in the study area. The study adopts social identify theory and boundary theory as the theoretical framework. The study used quantitative method of data analysis for the study. The study discovered that there is negative public perceptions and attitudes toward ex-offender reintegration in Madagali and Gwoza and involvement of political and social factors influencing community acceptance of ex-offenders in Madagali and Gwoza. The study recommends critical need for awareness programs that challenge the perception of ex-prisoners as perpetual criminals. Highlighting the success of Nigerian Correctional Service rehabilitation programs through community outreach in villages, markets, religious centres, and media could foster greater public understanding of the reintegration process and its benefits.

Introduction

Reintegrating former offenders into society is a global challenge due to its potential impact on recidivism and the associated burden on the criminal justice system and society. In the United Kingdom, for instance, the Ministry of Justice (2021) reported that adults released after less than 12 months in custody had a reoffending rate of 59.7%, which rose to 62.0% among those with sentences of six months or less. In the United States, data from the National Institute of Justice indicate that nearly 44% of released offenders return to prison within a year (World Population Review, 2021). In Alaska, around two-thirds of released individuals are reincarcerated within six months, reflecting a long-standing trend: in 2005, 68% of 405,000 released prisoners were rearrested within three years, increasing to 77% within five years (World Population Review, 2021). Similarly, Nigeria grapples with a high recidivism rate, estimated at 52.4% (Abrifor et al., 2012), up from 37.3% in 2005 (Soyombo, 2009). Contributing to prison overcrowding, this issue is further complicated by Nigeria's prison population, which as of 2023, stands at 76,239—over 50% above its capacity of 50,083 (Nigerian Correctional Service, 2023; Mbah, 2021). Given its population of approximately 200 million and high criminality score (7.15/10 according to the Global Organized Crime Index, 2021), Nigeria offers a significant case study for examining public attitudes towards the reintegration of ex-offenders as a means to curb recidivism.

Research has explored numerous factors contributing to recidivism, such as poor prison conditions (Igbo and Ugwuoke, 2003), substance misuse (Chenube et al., 2011), employment discrimination (Ismail, 2022), and the limited role communities play in reintegration (Ike et al., 2021). Existing studies have often concentrated on ex-offenders, the incarcerated, or reintegration programs, such as deradicalization efforts (Barkindo and Bryans, 2016), job training (Salaam, 2013), or democratic reintegration (Uggen et al., 2006). Other programs include amnesty initiatives for former militants (Adebayo and Matsilele, 2019; Ike et al., 2022b) and rehabilitation efforts for former Boko Haram members (Felbab-Brown, 2018; Ugwueze et al., 2022). However, research on how communities perceive these reintegration efforts is often limited to specific crimes, as demonstrated by studies on community resistance to reintegration for ex-Boko Haram members, driven by negative views of the group (Ike et al., 2022b; Owonikoko, 2022).

Additional literature highlights the effects of stigma, discrimination, and the labeling of individuals as former prisoners on reintegration outcomes, suggesting that such barriers can contribute to recidivism (Ahmed, 2015; Moran, 2012; Schneider and Weber, 2020). For example, Moran (2012) found that the physical and emotional imprints of imprisonment complicate reintegration for women in Russia, while Ahmed (2015) noted that criminal records and discrimination based on race or social status increase recidivism risks.

Despite the insights these studies provide, they often fall short of exploring public attitudes towards reintegration irrespective of the crime committed, which is a significant gap in understanding societal acceptance. Additionally, the potential positive association between public education levels and openness to reintegration remains under-researched, particularly in Nigeria, as noted in Salaam's (2013) study.

Statement of the Problem

The aspiration to lead a fulfilling and meaningful life is a universal goal, irrespective of one's background. The reintegration process is hampered by socio-cultural, economic, and personal obstacles, with the stark contrast between the structured prison environment and the complexities of mainstream society compounding the difficulty (Ajala & Oguntuase, 2011). These challenges are particularly acute for those returning to communities vastly different from those they left.

In states like Adamawa and Borno, ex-offenders encounter stigma, discrimination, and exclusion due to entrenched societal beliefs, which undermine rehabilitation efforts and heighten the risk of recidivism (Osayi, 2013). Limited access to employment and social support further perpetuates this cycle, with 31.3% of released offenders in Nigeria between 2007 and 2014 reoffending (Idowu & Odivwri, 2019). Public skepticism, as seen in the backlash against presidential pardons for Boko Haram members, reflects deep-seated doubts about the rehabilitation and reintegration of ex-offenders (BBC, 2018; Iroanusi, 2021).

Despite some research on offender reintegration challenges and aftercare services (Osayi, 2013; Davis et al., 2012), limited attention has been given to the influence of public perceptions on this process. This study seeks to fill that gap by analyzing the political and social factors shaping attitudes toward ex-offender reintegration in Madagali and Gwoza.

Objectives of the Study

In light of this context, our study aims to examine:

i. The public perceptions and attitudes toward ex-offender reintegration in Madagali and Gwoza.

ii. The political and social factors influencing community acceptance of ex-offenders in the study area.

Hypotheses

The following hypotheses guided the study

Ho_1: There is a significant relationship between the public perceptions of ex-offender reintegration and the level of community acceptance in Madagali and Gwoza.

Ho_2: Social factors, including community cohesion, religious beliefs, and historical experiences with crime, significantly affect the acceptance of ex-offenders in Madagali and Gwoza.

Literature Review

The Concept of Reintegration

Imprisonment and reintegration are deeply interconnected, with imprisonment serving as a legal punishment for offenders and reintegration focusing on their re-entry into society. Imprisonment in Nigeria is guided by Decree No. 9 of 1972, emphasizing rehabilitation and training to transform offenders into law-abiding citizens (Ugwuoke & Ojonugwa, 2014). Similarly, the Nigerian Correctional Service is tasked with managing prisoners and facilitating their rehabilitation, although systemic challenges often hinder these goals (Ugwumba & Usang, 2014). Historically, imprisonment emerged as a humane alternative to the harsh punishments of 18th-century Europe, evolving into a tool for both punishment and reform (Walsh & Poole, 1997).

Reintegration is the process through which ex-offenders re-enter society and gain acceptance, resuming normal activities like employment while navigating societal perceptions (Andrews, 2015). However, in Nigeria, ex-convicts face numerous barriers, including social exclusion and limited job opportunities. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC, 2006) defines reintegration as addressing the moral, vocational, and educational needs of offenders, alongside their special challenges such as addiction or mental health issues. Nwune et al. (2019) highlight the interconnected goals of rehabilitation, reformation, and reintegration, with reintegration often seen as the primary focus post-incarceration.

Globally, reintegration is fraught with challenges, such as stigma, fear of rejection, and strained family dynamics, which can push ex-convicts back into crime (Raboloko & Maripe, 2019). In Nigeria's Rivers State, inadequate rehabilitation programs and the absence of effective reintegration strategies contribute to high recidivism rates (Birabil & Harry, 2021). While initial community support for reintegration may exist, it often diminishes once ex-convicts rejoin society (Andrews, 2015). These issues underscore the need for robust, well-designed strategies to support reintegration and reduce recidivism.

Conceptualizing Ex-Convicts

The terms "ex-convict," "ex-prisoner," and "ex-offender" are often used interchangeably, yet there are subtle distinctions. An ex-offender may refer to someone who has committed a crime but has not been incarcerated, whereas an ex-convict specifically denotes someone who has been convicted and sentenced to prison. Collins (2021) defines an ex-convict as a former prisoner. Osayi (2013) describes ex-convicts as individuals released from prison with the goal of leading a successful life in society. However, various factors complicate their smooth reintegration. According to the Homeless Veterans Reintegration Program (HVRP, 2008), individuals who have committed fraudulent or dishonest acts, or demonstrated behaviors that led to their incarceration, may face credibility issues upon release.

The challenge of reintegrating released offenders is closely linked to the risk of recidivism. Without adequate social support, ex-convicts are more likely to reoffend (Idowu & Odivwri, 2019). Ideally, the reintegration process should involve collaboration between the ex-convict, their family, and the community to ensure a successful re-entry into society. However, securing employment and overcoming societal stigma pose significant obstacles for many ex-convicts. HVRP (2008) identifies challenges such as societal perceptions and attitudes, which may hinder successful reintegration, but with proper support, ex-convicts can achieve competitive employment success.

In Nigeria, inadequate rehabilitation programs often fail to successfully reintegrate ex-prisoners, contributing to high rates of recidivism (Yekini & Salisu, 2013). The failure to reintegrate ex-convicts effectively perpetuates a cycle of reoffending, undermining societal stability and good governance (Osayi, 2013; Schneider & Weber, 2020). This underscores the need for rehabilitation efforts that extend beyond prison walls and into the communities where ex-convicts are expected to reintegrate.

Public Perception of Ex-Convict Reintegration

Ex-convicts encounter significant challenges in reintegration due to societal rejection and stigmatization. They are often stereotyped, labeled, and discriminated against, which perpetuates punishment even after they have served their sentences (Link & Phelan, 2001). This stigma can erode self-esteem, weaken social cohesion, and potentially lead to further criminal behavior (Kobayashi et al., 2001; Le Bel, 2012).

Key barriers to reintegration include family rejection, societal stigma, limited access to the labor market, and mental health struggles such as inferiority complexes (Chikadzi, 2017). In Nigeria, communities often judge ex-convicts by their past crimes, substance abuse, or mental health histories, which affects their acceptance and support (Obum, Yunusa & Galdi, 2017). In Kogi State, public stigmatization has been found to contribute to recidivism and hinder reintegration efforts, despite claims of rehabilitation by correctional institutions (Ugwuoke & Ojonugwa, 2014).

Employment is a critical component of reintegration, providing ex-convicts with purpose and societal acceptance. However, societal perceptions and stigma make securing employment challenging (Angell et al., 2014). In Ghana, business owners are often reluctant to hire ex-convicts due to offense nature, personal bias, and public perceptions (Wiafe, 2021). Employers frequently stereotype ex-offenders as unreliable or unproductive, further limiting their opportunities and reinforcing marginalization (Ahmed & Lång, 2017).

Theoretical Framework

The theoretical framework for examining public perceptions and attitudes toward ex-offender reintegration in Nigeria, with a focus on Madagali and Gwoza, draws on *Social Identity Theory (SIT)* and *Boundary Theory*. These theories offer insights into the processes of group dynamics, social categorization, and boundary-making that shape public attitudes and policies related to ex-offenders re-entering society. Both frameworks contribute to understanding how social identity and boundary formation influence community acceptance, political policy, and social perceptions regarding ex-offender reintegration.

Social Identity Theory (SIT)

Tajfel and Turner's (1985) Social Identity Theory posits that individuals derive part of their self-esteem and identity from the social groups they belong to, such as communities, families, nationalities, and religious affiliations. Social identity is thus integral to one's self-concept and can drive attitudes toward others perceived as belonging to different groups. This theoretical approach helps explain the *ingroup versus outgroup* mentality, where individuals identify with and favour those within their own group (ingroup) while viewing those outside (outgroup) as different or even threatening.

In the context of ex-offender reintegration, SIT highlights how communities may view ex-offenders as outsiders or members of an outgroup due to their past offenses. This perception leads to biases, stigmas, and stereotypes against ex-offenders, influencing community members' resistance to or acceptance of their reintegration. Through *social categorization*, community members may label ex-offenders based on their past behaviours, solidifying boundaries between the "law-abiding" and "non-conforming" individuals. These categories inform *social identification*, wherein community members develop shared norms that align with the ingroup's perceived

values, often leading to prejudice and rejection toward the outgroup.

Moreover, *social comparison* within SIT explains the tendency of communities to compare their group's social standing and morality against those of ex-offenders. This process reinforces a hierarchical structure where ingroups view themselves as superior, further fuelling stigmatization. SIT thus offers a framework to analyse how community members derive a sense of self-worth by distinguishing themselves from ex-offenders, potentially hindering reintegration efforts due to persistent stigma.

Boundary Theory

Boundary Theory, an extension of Social Identity Theory (SIT), explores how social actors create, maintain, and contest boundaries between groups to shape social identities and behaviors. It introduces *symbolic boundaries*, which are conceptual distinctions that categorize individuals or groups, such as "law-abiding citizens" versus "ex-offenders," influencing societal attitudes and interactions. These boundaries often lead to *social boundaries*, which manifest as exclusion from social resources, employment, and opportunities.

In this context, symbolic boundaries explain how public perceptions of ex-offenders are socially constructed, reinforcing moral or legal distinctions that hinder reintegration. Communities, like those in Madagali and Gwoza, may view ex-offenders as morally distinct, perpetuating exclusion. Boundary Theory highlights how community members contribute to this exclusion by defining acceptable behaviors and penalizing those seen as "other."

Combining SIT and Boundary Theory provides a framework to analyze the socio-political dynamics of ex-offender reintegration in Nigeria. SIT's cognitive processes—such as social categorization and comparison—drive boundary creation, while Boundary Theory explains how these distinctions become entrenched within social structures. For successful reintegration, communities and policymakers must address these symbolic and social boundaries, dismantling stigmas and fostering inclusive identities. This approach offers a foundation for designing more effective, supportive reintegration policies.

Methodology

This study adopts a quantitative research design to assess public attitudes towards the reintegration of ex-offenders in the conflict-affected regions of Madagali and Gwoza. The focus on quantitative data collection allows for measurable, statistical insights into the population's attitudes, offering a clear, empirical basis for analysis.

A cross-sectional survey was conducted to gather data, focusing on individuals aged 18 years and above who are residents of Madagali and Gwoza. This design is chosen to capture the current public perceptions within these communities, especially given the recent history of insurgent activities and the challenges of reintegrating ex-combatants.

Participants were recruited via a structured online survey. In cases where internet access was limited, trained field assistants facilitated in-person completion of the survey using electronic tablets. A total of 500 respondents were targeted across both regions to ensure a representative sample of various demographic backgrounds, including gender, age, education level, employment status, and religious affiliation. Participation was voluntary, and informed consent was obtained from all respondents before they completed the survey.

The primary data collection instrument was the adapted Public Attitude towards Ex-offenders and their Reintegration (PAER) scale, informed by the Melvin et al. (1985) Attitude Towards Prisoners scale. The PAER is a 13-item Likert-type scale with responses ranging from "Strongly Disagree" to "Strongly Agree," capturing public attitudes toward the treatment and acceptance of ex-offenders. Statements included: "Ex-offenders should be given housing and support to aid reintegration", "Ex-offenders are bad people", and "Ex-offenders should be given the opportunity to reintegrate positively into society." The survey also included demographic questions (e.g., age, education level, employment, and religious affiliation) to assess whether these variables correlate with attitudes toward ex-offender reintegration.

Data from the PAER scale were analysed using descriptive and inferential statistics. Descriptive statistics provided a general overview of the attitudes within the population, including means, frequencies, and standard deviations of

responses. Inferential analysis included Spearman's rank correlation coefficient (Spearman's ρ) to measure the association between demographic factors and attitudes towards reintegration. The use of Spearman's ρ is appropriate as it accommodates ordinal data and non-linear relationships, allowing for the examination of correlations between variables like education level or employment status and punitive attitudes toward ex-offenders.

Result and Discussion

Based on descriptive statistics, a punitive attitude towards offenders appears prevalent in the quantitative dataset, as illustrated in Table 1.

The study on public perceptions of ex-offender reintegration in Madagali and Gwoza reveals significant community resistance and skepticism. A majority of respondents (51%) strongly opposed providing housing and funding support to ex-offenders, reflecting a deep reluctance to facilitate their reintegration. This aligns with previous research showing community resentment toward reintegration programs, especially for individuals linked to high-profile cases like former Boko Haram members or Niger Delta militants (Felbab-Brown, 2018; Ike et al., 2022a, 2022b; Owonikoko, 2022; Adebayo and Matsilele, 2019).

Additionally, 53% of participants doubted the potential reform of ex-offenders, believing they are likely to reoffend, mirroring skepticism highlighted in existing literature (Ugwueze et al., 2022). Even when presented with a positive framing of ex-offenders leading productive lives with support, 47.7% strongly disagreed, underscoring persistent social stigma. This negative perception is likely influenced by societal views of crime as a grave offense and the enduring stigma associated with criminal convictions.

Interestingly, the study found no correlation between educational level and positive attitudes toward reintegration, suggesting that such negative perceptions are widespread and resistant to change, regardless of education.

Table 1: Societal perception and attitude towards ex-offenders' reintegration

Variable	SD	D	A	SA
I would be willing to volunteer my time or contribute financially to an organization that advocates for stricter sentencing laws in Nigeria.	661 (56%)	97 (8.2%)	117 (9.9%)	306 (25.9%)
For the majority of offenders, there is a need to focus more on condemnation than on understanding.	170 (14.3%)	176 (14.8%)	200 (16.9%)	640 (54%)
My overall perspective on offenders is that they should be subjected to strict treatment.	171 (14.4%)	174 (14.7%)	238 (20.1%)	603 (50.8%)
Incarcerated individuals should be provided with access to television or gym facilities.	593 (50.1%)	237 (20%)	90 (7.6%)	264 (22.3%)
Individuals with past criminal convictions should face strict treatment.	202 (17%)	144 (12.2%)	228 (19.2%)	611 (51.6%)
Housing and financial support should be provided to ex-offenders to facilitate their reintegration into society.	605 (51%)	228 (19.2%)	95 (8%)	258 (21.8%)
I have no objections to residing and collaborating with an individual who has a criminal history.	631 (53.2%)	213 (18%)	118 (9.9%)	224 (18.9%)
Ex-offenders are often perceived negatively due to their past criminal behaviour.	189 (15.9%)	152 (12.8%)	200 (16.8%)	646 (54.4%)
Ex-offenders may reoffend if given the opportunity or under certain circumstances.	187 (15.8%)	130 (11%)	241 (20.3%)	628 (53%)

Ex-offenders should be provided with opportunities for successful reintegration into society.	587 (49.7%)	227 (19.2%)	97 (8.2%)	271 (22.9%)
With adequate support and effort, the majority of offenders have the potential to lead productive lives.	566 (47.7%)	261 (22%)	86 (7.2%)	274 (23.1%)
Even individuals who have committed serious offenses have the potential to overcome criminal behaviours with the right intervention and support.	597 (50.4%)	226 (19.1%)	106 (8.9%)	256 (21.6%)
Rehabilitation opportunities should be accessible to individuals regardless of the severity of the crime they have committed.	642 (54.3%)	117 (9.9%)	113 (9.6%)	311 (26.3%)

Source: Field Survey, 2024

Key: SD: Strongly Disagree, D: Disagree, A: Agree, SA: Strongly Agree

The analysis using Spearman's rank correlation coefficient (r = .025) indicates a very weak correlation between education level and public attitudes toward the reintegration of ex-offenders in Madagali and Gwoza. This suggests that education does not significantly influence community support for reintegration measures, such as providing housing or financial assistance. The data imply that societal attitudes toward ex-offenders are shaped more by cultural, social, and political factors than by educational background. Negative perceptions of ex-offenders persist even among educated individuals, reflecting a broader societal skepticism and stigma rooted in viewing criminal behavior as a moral failing rather than a rehabilitative opportunity.

The findings highlight those societal attitudes in these areas remain punitive and resistant to policies supporting ex-offender reintegration, aligning with existing literature on public resistance in Nigeria, especially in high-profile cases such as those involving Boko Haram or Niger Delta militants. The minimal impact of education suggests that changing public opinion may require community-based interventions and dialogue that address underlying cultural and social narratives about ex-offenders, beyond formal education efforts. Without addressing these deep-rooted concerns, reintegration policies may continue to face resistance and hinder successful societal reintegration of former offenders.

Table 2: Nonparametric correlations

Spearman's ρ	**Level of education**	**Reintegration of Ex-offenders in Madagali and Gwoza**
Level of education		
Correlation coefficient	1.000	.025
Sig. (2-tailed)		.591
N	987	457
Reintegration of Ex-offenders		
Correlation coefficient	.025	1.000
Sig. (2-tailed)		.591
N	457	595

Source: SPSS Output, 2024

Major Findings

Based on the analysis of the research, the following major findings were discovered thus

i. There is negative public perceptions and attitudes toward ex-offender reintegration in Madagali and Gwoza.

ii. There is political and social factors influencing community acceptance of ex-offenders in Madagali and Gwoza.

Conclusion

In conclusion, public perceptions and attitudes in Madagali and Gwoza reflect deeply rooted cultural and social beliefs that view ex-offenders with suspicion and often as permanent threats. These attitudes are shaped by longstanding social norms, practices, and fears that hinder rehabilitation efforts and reinforce stigmatization, limiting the effectiveness of correctional services and reintegration programs. The prevailing belief that associating with ex-prisoners may bring harm undermines community acceptance and risks driving ex-offenders back into criminal behaviours due to isolation and limited social or economic opportunities.

Recommendations

To address these issues, this paper recommends:

i. There is a critical need for awareness programs that challenge the perception of ex-prisoners as perpetual criminals. Highlighting the success of Nigerian Correctional Service rehabilitation programs through community outreach in villages, markets, religious centres, and media could foster greater public understanding of the reintegration process and its benefits.

ii. Legislative measures should address and discourage harmful cultural beliefs, such as the notion that interacting with ex-offenders can bring bad fortune or divine retribution. Correcting these misconceptions could help reduce societal fears and encourage community support for reintegration.

iii. Allowing ex-prisoners to participate fully in civic life, including the right to vote and hold public office if qualified, is essential. Recognizing them at social events alongside other citizens would also help to diminish the stigma associated with their past and aid in their social reintegration.

iv. There should be fair hiring practices that do not disqualify individuals based on their criminal records alone. Denying employment on such grounds not only dehumanizes ex-offenders but also threatens their successful reintegration by depriving them of essential economic stability.

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THE ROLE OF ETHICS AS A COMPONENT OF PHILOSOPHY IN HISTORY-THEMED DOCUMENTARIES

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ABSTRACT
This article examines ethics and philosophical considerations in media and communication within the context of historical documentary filmmaking. The main aim is to speak to the reason for which history-themed documentaries as a form of film that deals with factual representation of history, is not without the application of ethics as a component of philosophy. History is a fascinating subject for any creative endeavor. This article projects the interconnection between historical accuracy and ethical consideration in every historic researcher's quest to achieve objectivity and to represent reality. Moreover, as much as historic researchers are aware that ethical adherence to background evidential values of materials goes a long way to determine the credibility attached to such documentaries (when considered for practical use in an educational, academic, and social setting), there is need to correlate the roles of ethics to the methodology, communication, subjectivity, and interpretation of any historic research endeavor. The study considers ethics vis-à-vis the new historicism theory, the value theory, Aristotle's golden mean to show how cardinal ethics is to the making of historic-themed documentaries.

Introduction

To carry out any research one must bother with communication, especially in social sciences. Media and communication are beyond doubt crucial aspects of social science research. On one part, Clifford Woody (2014) describes research as "defining and redefining problems, formulating hypothesis or suggested solutions; collecting, organizing and evaluating data; making deductions and reaching conclusions; and at last carefully testing the conclusions to determine whether they fit the formulating hypothesis" (p. 12). In other words, it is a process of investigation that requires a systematic approach to the search for what is not known (Scott, 2006). Sometimes research could be a contribution to something that has already been known. For example, a researcher or a documentary filmmaker may have observed a particular trait peculiar to a group of people or cultural heritage. That is a discovery. Another researcher or documentary filmmaker may yet (years later) observe that beyond that trait, a ritual is religiously performed as well as part of a tradition that has been passed down from generation to generation. This would be the further insight on that discovery. Kothari (2013) puts it as an original addition of information or findings to an existing collection of knowledge that leads to the pursuit of what is true.

On the other part, communication according to Logan (2010) entails sharing of information, thoughts, beliefs, understanding, etc. between two or more persons. The information or message being passed across usually conveys a meaning that is preempted to be understandable by the receiver once they receive the message. In other words, the essence of any kind of communication is to achieve a certain effect. Etymologically, the word 'communication' in Latin translate as 'communicare', simply meaning 'to make something through sharing'(Weekly, 1967)—emphasis are mine.

…And what of philosophy?

According to Logan (2010) philosophy, which translates to '*philosophia*' in Greek (literally meaning love of wisdom), was simply a description of the process of trying to makes sense of the world. Durant (1961) said philosophy can be the "hypothetical interpretation of the unknown (as in metaphysics)". This simply means there are a lot of unpacked question in any given philosophical approach. Thus, philosophy simply tries to provide the foundation of every aspect and theory or statement in the research. In this case, that will be the research undertaken for a historical documentary film. In the light of this, to subject communication to philosophical inquiry is to try to query an understanding that an act of communication has made an effect through sharing.

In 1948 Harold Lasswell developed one of the earliest and most influential communication models. According to Laswell for one to be able to understand the act of communication one must define:

- Who said it - The sender of the message
- What was said - The message
- In what channel it was said - The medium or media used
- To whom it was said - The recipient of the message
- What effect it has - The message as decoded / understood

It can be deduced that, for communication to occur the message must be received by the recipient. Also, there must be a communication process or framework (mimicking Lasswell's definition) involving a message, a medium, a messenger, and a recipient by which ideas and themes can be shared and understood. This framework and process are the major concepts of communication (Wenxiu, 2015). Again, communication has to go through a medium or media; and, the form of media used will determine the media language—including the different ways a media text can be used to create meaning. In historical documentary films, this will be the filmmaking techniques applied and the vehicles (films, videos, books and platforms) adopted for conveying content/materials presented in the documentary. For this reason, this essay cross-examines ethics and philosophical considerations in media and communication within the context of historical documentary filmmaking and speaks to the reason why history-themed documentary filmmakers as a form of film that deals with the factual representation of history, must take into account the application and relevance of ethics as a component of philosophy in historical documentary filmmaking.

This article explores the philosophical considerations in creating a historical documentary film with regards to the application of Ethics (not minding the other four aspects of philosophy being Logic, Politics, Esthetics and Metaphysics). It examines some of the reoccurring ethical philosophical questions in documentary, reenactment, history, and philosophical methodologies in the social sciences. Furthermore, this article proffers somewhat of a solution to the ethical issues that may arise and philosophical traditions that will inform historical documentary filmmaking practice on the voyage of truth and reality.

In other words, the paper addresses whether there could be any bias or personal attachment in what is going to be mediated in the historical documentary film output. Simply put, can a historical documentary be "objective" or is it not without being "subjective"? Ethics in this context should be carefully considered when making such decisions in not just only the content, but in the handling of any historical point of view whatsoever presented in documentary filmmaking. In what will follow, the article expounds on the five concerns of philosophy, and in the subsequent section tries to answer this question… and I deliberately use the word, '*try*' because philosophical questions never end and may never truly have answers.

Research Philosophy in Media and Communication

Research in media and communication be observed through five (5) concerns of philosophy, namely: Logic, Politics, Ethics, Esthetics, and Metaphysics (Durant, 1961).

i. **Logic:** This is the field of study that tries to understand several forms of human activities. Logic asks questions on 'arguments' using premises (what is known), inferences (what is implied), and conclusions (what must be given the known and the implied). It forms the bane of any research investigation (whether for documentaries, for legal jurisprudence, for scientific queries, or even for day-to-day application of the chain of causation). The end result of logic is the conclusions that can be drawn from the investigation.

   In relation to the context of historical documentary filmmaking (whose objective is to present and in some cases reenact the past), the query of logic goes a long way in validating sources, materials, and content vehicles of history materials; correlating differing accounts, lore and testimonies of past events; sifting through usages, practices and time scopes of events to filter out adulterations, myths, and legends; and paramount of all, validating inferences, conclusions, and perceptions shared as documented history. One of the credible applications of logic is information gathering from eyewitnesses. They have the information to document and the researcher can use tailored (or control) questions in the query. Gill et al., (2008) put it as the preferred way to follow up with new questions that may come up after questions have been administered is interviews. This rationale for certain decisions and activities (not restricted to probing, resolving, and identifying version gaps or testament conflicts regarding the event) will be what logic tries to achieve.

ii. **Politics:** The concerns of this aspect of philosophy relate to creating context. It contemplates on a broader level, the socio-cultural, tribal, geographical, and political impact of the circumstances surrounding a query. The nature of the social organization associated with the history being documented will be questioned by the political philosophical study—along with any appreciation of changes in political structures and settings that could affect or color the objectivity of the consumer of the output of the documentary endeavor when published.

iii. **Ethics:** This aspect of philosophy deals with the propriety of practice. For historical documentaries research, it addresses the psyche and nature of the conduct of the researcher, the witnesses, the medium, the content and materials being presented (whether textual or otherwise), and the consumer; while trying to curb influences of bias in historical narrations. Leaning on Aristotle's teachings and theory of ethics, is clear that ethics waters down to an individual's character and conduct. If an individual focuses on being a good person, they will automatically find themselves interacting with the content and materials of the documentary film ethically (Kraut, 2018). In the context of historical research and documentary filmmaking process, the queries of ethics provide a foundation or guide for the researcher and filmmaker on how to clarify assumptions of the historical event, how to elaborate on beliefs, how to segregate personal prejudices, and how to mediate what the reality and truth of the event. Ekwuazi (1987) points out that "the ultimate function of any film and the auteur's need to accommodate the exigencies of politics determine what aspect(s) of truth/reality to be mediated, and how" (33).

iv. **Esthetics:** This aspect of philosophy deals with presentation. Journalists can confirm that putting a person's picture in an accolade right beside a horrific newsreel of interest to readers can downplay the accolade at best (as buried news) or cast aspersions on the character of the awardee (as innuendoes)—even where both news are presented objectively. While Ethics focus on credibility in handling historical events, the concern of esthetics is to determine the ideal form for the presentation that projects and does not cloud the purpose of communicating a piece of history. Esthetics is mostly related to the art; including the preference and suitability for use of documentary film as a vehicle for reenactment or presentation of history.

v. Heidegger's concept of "film-as-philosophy" expounds how a film has the capacity to portray its depictions as a "factual [presentation,] consistent" with what is known out there. He furthers that a film can "convey a meaning that reflects [need I add or distorts] the nature of things" (Loht, 2015). In truth, the power of presentation that film affords is unmatched (especially in this technology age that has adept affinity for learning through audio-visual cues). That is to say, film as an esthetic is a good fit for presentation of African history in a way that is ontological.

vi. Metaphysics: On surface value metaphysics as a study of philosophy deals with the intangible: namely existence, consciousness, and identity, all within a space-time context. Metaphysics explores the exposures of religion, traditions, customs, communal values, culture, technology (primitive or otherwise), geographical setting, time scope influences, conflicts, and even social matrices for good and evil in defining the existence, consciousness, and identities of the players in any piece of history. In the eyes of metaphysics, the makeup of an individual is always a construct of, and can always be justified by, the individual's exposures.

To historical documentary film making, the query of metaphysics is instrumental to answering what the level of consciousness was (environmental, cultural, technological, theological, etc.) both for the indigenes and foreigners; what the cultural identity was at the time of occurrence of the event; what sort of culture shocks or clashes, transfers of knowledge, transfers of technology (if any) or changes in socio-cultural perspectives surround an occurrence; what was lost during the mélange; what the residual identity translated to for the region under focus; and how this residual identity is treated (whether by the participants of the event within the time-scope under review or by the consumer of that history today).

The metaphysical study of philosophy also comes in handy in aiding an in-depth understanding of the chronological interaction of cultures, the culture shock (and conflict), the resolutions of conflicts, the birth of new residual or resultant identities, the legacy left on value systems then and there. These can be key determinants for consideration of the genres of film and even the nature and extent of the justification for such a choice.

Philosophical Ethics and Documentary

Of the three kinds of films (documentary, feature, and experimental films), the documentary film is ideal for captivating a target audience on a large scale with valuable information (Bruzzi, 2006; Ekwuazi, 1996; Gaines & Renov, 1999; Watson, 2021). It is potent for drawing the audience's attention to truths (as it were) about events and speaking to their values, concerns, and interests (Johnson, 2022). One of the key documentary theorists Bill Nichols points out that a documentary adds "a new facade" to the general knowledge about a chosen topic (Nichols, 2001), at which point, the information shared settles in as part of the collective general known knowledge. Perhaps that is what film scholar, Hyginus Ekwuazi (personal conversation, January 2022) meant by "once a documentary has achieved its aim, it becomes useless."

Taking into consideration philosophy and film as phenomenological ontology, the ethical philosophical consideration or question that comes to mind is: How do documentary filmmakers present historical content and make sure its depictions (especially in the documentary) are factually consistent with the possible historical event? Loht (2015) in his article 'The Relevance of Heidegger's Conception of Philosophy to the Film-As-Philosophy Debate' expounded how the movie *The Godfather* (1972) arguably represents reality, which (as he puts it) is "a genuine moment in American cultural history" (p. 5).

Carl Friedrich von Weizsäcker (1980)'s argument as translated by Schmidt (2013) is that "whenever we speak seriously of reality, we speak of reality, if nobody speaks of reality, reality is not talked about" (p. 100). Meaning that, if a historical documentary film does not feature someone (a witness) or something (textual or otherwise) from the event that speaks about the event, then reality is not a part of the history is being depicted. Furthermore, Seel's (1998) "philosophical realism" as translated by

Schmidt (2013) provides additional support to these arguments. He says "Only because there are objects which exist independently of our knowledge, media can have a recognizing access to objects" (100) In other words, reality is hinged on the evidential value of accounts and events.

It is in dealing with the evidential value of reality (or truths, as I dare plainly call them) that ethics come to play. Interestingly, when adjudging whether these truths of reality are properly handled, there are only two (2) extremes of concern that speak to the character of any historical documentary research—"credible" or "not credible"! And of whatever persuasion the researcher may be, the judgment passed on the historic documentary smears on him or her.

Ethical Philosophical Basis of New Historicism

New historicism is one of the theories this research considers in arriving at the import of the ethical philosophy of truth in historical documentary filmmaking. As a background, the new historicism theory was coined by American critic, Stephen Greenblatt in 1980 in his book, Renaissance Self-Fashioning: From Moore to Shakespeare. New historicism theory argues that there is no universal meaning or truth in history, and the meaning imputed to history reflects power relations at the time of writing as well the time the event took place (Hoover, 1992). On face value, this theory seems to settle the question of historic objectivity in documentary filmmaking as an outright impossibility.

While this article's erudition may fail to challenge this position, it must be noted that even at the time of occurrence of an event, outright historic objectivity cannot be achieved. Man, by nature is not a machine, but rather a subjective being of communication. Any two persons witnessing an event cannot relate to the event objectively as is being witnessed simultaneously by both. How much more can a researcher poking through the remains of an event, which was not personally witnessed, after the fact?

To compound the issue, the nature of communication is such that expression does not mean impression! Something is always lost in a communication loop—whether due to the choice of medium, circumstances of presentation, the disposition of the messenger when presenting the information, the disposition of the listener when receiving the message, language barrier, timing of presentation, communication noise and distractions, biases, choice of words… pick your poison! The expression of the message by the messenger will never be exact with the impression received; so saying that communication itself flaws outright historic objectivity. The good news is that in propounding the theory of new historicism, Stephen Greenblatt sets an alternative standard. He further observes that in the place of that impossible universal truth in history (or that outright historic objectivity) one must look to the power play of relations between two epochs: the time of occurrence and the time of documenting an event. This simply means that, instead of achieving exactness, there ought to (at least) be congruence between the message left by the trail of history, and the message communicated by the historic researcher such that all may see substantial objectivity, and not perfection. This all the more buttresses the role of ethics in historic documentary filmmaking.

As the name implies, before the new historicism theory, there was the old historicism theory. Old historicism can be traced back to the decade of 1970s. In arriving at what the substantial object reality of the past (history) is, old historicism places emphasis on the evidential value of literary texts, with specific focus analysing the literary texts alone. As long as this old theory is concerned, only that which is textual is relevant; and where a piece of history is not documented (as it is with oral traditions and folklore) or where a piece of evidence is not textual (like surviving witness accounts), such a narrative or evidence is given lesser consideration. So, in terms of analysing the past, old historicism looks at the text that has been documented; while on the other hand, new historicism remakes the past based on the literary past (Pieters, 2001). In truth, the search for substantial objectivity with this theory is narrower, and limiting can lead to an honest miscarriage of historical reality, especially where the researcher does maintain objectivity on oblivious to any faults or defects with the documented text, itself. Think of it as the case of a person who is brainwashed into honestly telling a lie, which the person genuinely believes to be true! Ethically, while the person may genuinely protest credibility, the mere reliance on non-credible text impeaches the research endeavor thus cutting short all efforts to reach substantial objectivity.

The propensity for such a miscarriage of truth is less with new historicism. To achieve substantial objectivity, new historicism theory proposes a compromise, which expands the scope of the researcher from always only focusing on the literary text of the story (as is the case with old historicism theory) to further looking for corroboration of the literary texts with non-literary evidence including witness accounts solicited from interviews. Although the literary text is significant, new historicism argues that other kinds of documents should be consulted while analyzing any literary text—the balance which is held up by the ethical integrity of the researcher. The two (2) weights on the scales of historic evidence acts as pressures that sort of counter balance on ethical consideration and serve as checkers that help the researcher remain properly guided while recreating the past. Veeser (2013) puts it as "those reciprocal historical pressures by which the past has shaped the present and the present reshapes the past" (24).

Media Ethics

There are several methods of communicating history and newer forms are constantly evolving. This means the question of communicating history ethically is even more pivotal than it was before. The moral rule of conduct that guides how we make decisions is ethics. Barnes & Griffin (1997) describes philosophical ethics simply as an attempt to offer a rational response to the question of how humans should best live. The arm of ethics that relates to history-themed documentaries will be media ethics. Media include print media (newspapers, magazines, and books), recordings, motion pictures, and electronic media (radio, television, and the computer). According to Drozdek (2015), the overall rules of conduct that guide the decisions we make in terms of encoding, sending, receiving, and decoding information through the means of media is media ethic.

For example, in terms of presenting history, a documentary filmmaker should take into consideration issues such as bias, privacy, public interest, stereotyping, and many more. If the aspect of history that is being portrayed is done ethically there will be trust and understanding among the filmmaker and the audience. An understanding of media ethics is what separates a media professional from an amateur because being a documentary filmmaker involves talking to people, writing about people, and encouraging people to tell you (the media) their stories.

And how is ethics perceived? Aristotle describes ethics as the examination of the good of an individual. Aristotle (1895) argues that the man who possesses character excellence does the right thing at the right time and in the right way. In other words, virtue is practical, and a man of virtue should practice what he or she preaches. The practicing process will be enjoyable if they are virtuous.

Virtue theory is an ethical theory that emphasizes an individual's character rather than following a set of rules. Aristotle believes that if humans can focus on being good people, naturally the right action will follow effortlessly (Kraut, 2018). Aristotle ties in excellence and virtue such that excellent activities will always be regarded as pleasurable for the man of virtue. This could also mean that the right course of action depends on the details of a particular situation a man finds himself in, rather than the course of action being a generated set of actions by law that should be applied.

The virtue theory reflects the ancient assumption that 'humans have a fixed nature... in essence—and the way we flourish is by adhering to that nature (Tallman, 2019). Aristotle describes it as "proper functioning". For example, from the common understanding of cars, the core function of that car is to drive you from point A through to point B. If, for any reasons having to do with the failure of that car's engine or construction, you don't get to your destination, then the car is bad. This applies to a historical documentary that cannot fulfil its core function, it is bad; and in Aristotle's view, unethical. If a documentary filmmaker or photographer is tasked with a documentary and (re)presentation of history, the ability of that individual to deliver on the documentary while maintaining substantial objectivity with the reality past of the truths in history makes them a good documentary filmmaker or photographer. However, how the individual subjectively interacts or meddles with the decisions made in regards to the credibility of the content and materials, people's private information, or the manner in which the event is presented as biased pegs such an individual as far from virtuous.

When one thinks about the doctrines of the theory of virtue, the question that comes to mind is what action is referred to as virtue and what is not. How do we know what action to take or how do we measure the decisions we make to determine which is right and which is wrong? There are no specific terms for what is right and what is wrong. Aristotle uses the golden mean to explain this. The golden mean as he describes it is the midpoint between two vices: Deficiency and Excess. The balance between these two vices when placed on a beam is the golden mean. For example, if courage is ethically measured using this concept, cowardice will be regarded as a deficiency on the scale while recklessness will be placed at the other extreme as an excess. It follows that for the researcher of historic documentaries, honesty will be the mid-point between brutal honesty and failing to say the things that need to be said.

Although virtue lies in between pairs of opposing vices, the theory of virtue, arguably, has room for flexibility. A mean between deficiency and excess can be described as something that is just enough. Koehn (2012) assessed the doctrine of the mean in Aristotle's moral philosophy of ethics and one of the conclusions drawn from the sufficiency view is that the mean is sometimes broad and not necessarily a point. This claim is relational. Referring back to the earlier description of courage, the golden mean for virtuous behavior here is not just the definite activity of (re)presenting historical materials credibly. It's a range of activities spanning from those tending towards heroism to those tending towards self-preservation.

To demonstrate the sufficiency view on ethics, Koehn (2012) made an illustration with "Hitting a Mark: The Good Archer." If is it said the goal is to strike the middle point of a target, should we not take into consideration the condition, abilities and dispositions involved in shooting arrows? Every archer will be judged as good or bad according to their strength. It is important to point out that while the sufficiency view does not negate the doctrine of the golden mean, it argues further that the plausibleness of the golden mean suggested by Aristotle should not remain a static mid-point, but fluid enough to accommodate mitigating circumstances that could justify an otherwise non-midpoint behavior as equally ethical. Ethics should neither exist in a vacuum nor in isolation to the circumstances qualifying the practice.

The ethical problems that historical documentary filmmaking faces increase as the docuteurs evolve. The decision as to how to interact with historical content seems to remain in the hands of the documentary filmmakers. In the same way man is tasked with the responsibility of making moral and ethical decisions on habits, work, settling issues, and other daily activities, the historical documentary filmmaker will have to spool from all the rules of media and professional etiquette available to be able to ethically interact with written or (re)presented history, its sources, evidence, and past truths. This essay affirms that while the responsibility behooving on documentary filmmakers to tell the truth may be daunting, they are still the ones to decide what and how to tell it—in which case making them both judge and jury!

Conclusion

Digital technology in the 21st century has compelled media professionals and scholars to engage in more complex research and content. The audience are voracious and continuously searches for novelty through research—each time with a higher expectation. Hence, this research wove through the philosophical approach, the five philosophical studies, the new historicism theory, and Aristotle's golden mean to demonstrate the role of ethics in documenting and representing versions of the reality of history.

This article maintains that ethics, as a cardinal element of philosophy, certainly guides the process of how media and communication research can transmit (or, in the event of a lack of it, distort) historical messages that convey meaning.

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MILITARY IN POLITICS AND NIGERIA'S POLITICAL EVOLUTION, 1966-1979

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ABSTRACT
Beginning from the sixties of the twentieth century, military ascendancy was a major feature that exerted masculinity on Nigeria's political evolution. This accounted for the different experiences of military intervention and administration almost throughout the second half of the twentieth century. Essentially, the long-term impact of military governance in Nigeria's socio-political and economic development trajectory warrants more critical analysis. In light of this, the paper explores the military in the Nigerian political landscape from 1966, when the first military coup took place, to 1979, which marks the end of its first phase, which was succeeded by the second Nigerian republic. The paper adopts the conventional historical method, relying on secondary sources for its exploration. The paper found out that beyond the usual alibi of civilian incompetence, socioeconomic underdevelopment, corruption as well as electoral crisis; insurgent tendencies arising from ethnic nationalities as well as secessionist agitation were central to military intervention and administration in Nigeria during the period under evaluation. The paper concludes with reflections on the vestiges of military intervention and administration on Nigeria's civilian political culture and thereby recommends that attempts to address Nigeria's contemporary political acrimonies must necessarily appreciate the historical context and experiences of the nation's military governance, particularly between 1966 and 1979.

Introduction

Since the end of twentieth century, military ascendancy in Nigeria's political evolution has been laid to rest, yet historians and political scientists have not relaxed evaluation on the theme. This aspect of Nigerian history has remained an open discourse, most probably, because of its complex connection to the nation's colonial experiences, which necessarily midwifed its occurrence, and contributed to the nation's post-colonial realities. Adebile et al. (2016) examined military administration from an African-wide perspective as a critical challenge to democratic stability in postcolonial political experiences. On the other hand, it has been argued that military intervention and administration were not entirely strange phenomena in the area now known as Nigeria. This has been substantiated by the nature of monarchical practices in pre-colonial Nigeria, which are mostly monocratic royal absolutism

(Janowitz & Doorn, 1971; Kennedy, 1975; and Nordlinger, 1977). The latter indicates these trendy commonalities in Nigeria's pre-colonial political civilization and post-colonial military experiences. Though Afrocentric perspectives and interpretations may not readily accept such perception, the typical despotic manifestations associated with postcolonial military regimes do not make such critical explanations easily validated.

In light of the above, military intervention and administration in Nigeria's political evolution since independence seems a product of her colonial cum nationalism experiences as Eze Ogueri II maintained (Ogueri, 1976). The objective of this paper, however, is to explore the underpinnings of military intervention and administration in Nigeria's political frame between 1966 and 1979. The year 1966 was when the first military coup occurred, and 1979 marked the beginning of the Nigerian Second Republic following the end of what may be referred to as the first military epoch in the nation's historical evolution. It further attempts to critique the common perception that military ascendancy in Nigeria was primarily necessitated by civilian incompetence, socio-economic underdevelopment as well as political and electoral corruption, thereby drawing attention to a potential approach to addressing the nation's economic and political absurdities through an appreciation of Nigeria's historical experiences with the military in governance.

Context from Colonial Experiences

For the purpose of hindsight, it may be of some relevance to contextualize military forms in the nation's colonial experiences, this will provide insight into Nigeria's post-independence military interventions, if not actual insurgent reactions to civilian democratic governance. More so, it will be helpful to underline the foundations for such nature of reaction during the first half of the twentieth century, when the nation now studied as Nigeria was under colonial administration.

By the end of the nineteenth century was a period that experienced the efforts of a few elite Nigerians against colonial domination and administration, which took the form of religious as well as political movements.[1] After the Second World War, nationalist movements demanded considerable constitutional reforms, most of which were granted by the British. For instance, the first constitution by Governor Clifford in 1922 was criticized by many nationalists because it provided for a Legislative Council for Southern Nigeria and the Governor ruled by proclamation in the North. The Richards Constitution of 1946 provided for a Legislative Council for the whole country and Regional Houses of Assembly. This did not satisfy the nationalists, there were further demands for constitutional reforms resulting in the Macpherson Constitution of 1951. The latter provided for a strong centralized government with four ministers from each region as members of the executive council (Olusanya, 1980, p. 520). This encouraged the formation of two regional political parties; the Action Group (AG) and Northern People's Congress (NPC) in the West and the North respectively, while the National Council of Nigeria Citizens (NCNC) remained the dominant party in the East, which used modern political methods to appeal to the people. Still, there was controversy over self-government. The political parties in the Western and Eastern regions of southern Nigeria began to push the colonial government to extend full internal self-governance to the regional assemblies. The Northern region continued to oppose the move, however, stating that it was not ready for self-government (Falola & Heaton, 2008, p. 153). Following further constitutional talks at Lagos and London in 1954 and 1957 accordingly, the Lyttleton constitution of 1954 was set up to incorporate the agreements reached by the three regions. Each region had the option of acquiring full internal self-government in 1956, but no region was compelled to become fully self-governing, and the Federation of Nigeria as a whole was to remain under British colonial authority for the time being. Hence, the Western and Eastern regions gained full internal self-government in 1957 and the Northern Region in 1959. This constitution established Nigeria as a federation of three regions, Northern, Western, and Eastern under which Nigeria gained independence in 1960. In 1957, Nigeria became a full-fledged Federation headed by Alhaji Tafawa Balewa who became the first Prime Minister (Falola & Heaton, p. 153).

When Nigeria gained independence in 1960, hopes were high that, with mineral wealth and a handful of educated folks in Africa, Nigeria would emerge as African first superpower and a stabilizing democratic influence in the region. However, these lofty hopes were soon dashed and the country lumbered from crisis to crisis, with the democratic government eventually being overthrown in a violent military coup in

January 1966 (Siollun, 2009, p. 7). Economically, from 1966 to 1979, Nigeria's clout grew from being just the most populous Black and African nation to a height of influence and glory. It became the richest African country and by far, the most influential in African affairs. The praise for this was partly due to the oil boom of the 1970s which spelt unprecedented national prosperity, as well as the personalities and preferences of some of the military rulers of the period (Fawole, 2003, p. 2). In a political sense, the decades of the 60s and 70s were perhaps, the touchiest epoch of Nigeria's historical evolution, during which the nation almost suffered disintegration, and Nigerian governments mastered the art of taking their country to the edge of an abyss and pulling back at the last moment. Nigeria was dominated by the military for over four decades of unstable governance – irregular coups supplanting democratically elected governments, the insurgent secessionist Biafra war (1966 – 1970) as well as imposed economic blockade that caused famine and pervasive deaths, reckless squandering of the country's oil wealth - which largely disrupted the country's political evolution (Siollun, 2009, p. 7).

The Military in Nigeria's Political Space from the 1960s

A brief historical excursion into the political antecedents of military involvement in Nigerian politics is necessary to make military rule more understandable. An army officer named Captain David Ejoor commanded the army guards at the midnight flag-raising ceremony on Nigeria's Independence Day on October 1, 1960. But little did Ejoor perceive the role he and his army colleagues would play in their country's post-colonial political evolution (Siollun, p. 11). The army that the departing British colonialists were bequeathing to the newly independent Nigeria had not fully imbibed the strict apolitical tradition of the British army. Hence, the army was still largely officered by British personnel, only 18 percent of its officers at independence were Nigerians. Its commanding officer up till 1965 was Major General Sir Christopher Welby-Everard (Luckham, 1971, p. 163), the Nigerian army therefore was a dedicated disciple of the British army. The army was not a nationalistic organisation, it was far from being political, ideological, or revolutionary. By 1966, the largest segment of the officer corps consisted of very conservative elements who devoted themselves to the attainment of the very top in their career. In some cases, they did this with the aid of top politicians and senior civil servants. Partly as a result of the nature of their training and orientation as well as their ambition to get to the top of their career as soon as possible, thus, many of them were prepared to do the bidding of the politicians (Falola et al., 2010, p. 143). The military came to power in January 1966 with the justification of a failed civilian rule in the country. The attainment of political independence in 1960 inaugurated a new era in which Nigerians assumed the responsibility of governing themselves with the birth of the First Republic. However, this First Republic was short-lived. The conduct of politics in the First Republic witnessed a series of crises which featured oppression, political violence, official corruption, rigged elections, ethnic baiting, bullying, and thuggery (Falola et al., 2010, p. 137). For example, the Action Group (AG) crisis of 1962, the census controversy of 1962/63, the rigged general elections of 1964, the rigged western Regional elections of October 1965, and the bloodletting, arson, and destruction that followed it (Fawole, 2003, p. 4). These attitudes led directly to the overthrow of the civilian democratic regime by several military officers in January 1966.

The politics of the bitterness that characterised the First Republic can be seen as a background to the advent of military rule in Nigeria. The ruthless race to win and consolidate party interests, ethnic supremacy as well as economic and political prospects, which had been gathering clouds since the late 1950s eventually climaxed in the 1962/63 census controversy. The manipulation of the census figures was calculated to entrench a certain ethnic group in the centre thereby dashing the hopes of the other groups (Akinbi, 1999, p. 29).

There was a serious political crisis in the West which started as an ideology but later developed into a personality clash between the leaders of the Action Group. The Federal Government seized the opportunity to impose a state of emergency on the West for six months thereby assuming direct control over the region. A special Commission of Enquiry was set up and the AG leaders including Awolowo were arrested and imprisoned for treasonable felony which alienated the Yoruba (Eluwa et al., 1988 p. 273).

The coalition arrangement between the NPC and the NCNC for the control of the federal government had collapsed. Initially, the coalition government was an act of victimization

calculated to reduce the overall influence of Awolowo and his Action Group; this did not augur well for the image of the Federal government. Struggle over the party that would control the federal government created serious tension and mistrust (Akinbi, p. 30; Adesote & Falade, p. 144).

Again, national morale was at its lowest ebb because of the corrupt practices and mismanagement of the economy by the politicians. These top politicians diverted public funds into the accounts of their political parties. They also used public institutions such as Regional Development Corporation and Regional Marketing Boards to enrich individuals who were staunch supporters of their respective parties (Falola et al., 2010, p. 138). For instance, as the Coker commission of enquiry fully demonstrated the Western Nigeria Marketing Board Funds seemingly reserved for social and economic development projects were cleverly reallocated through a complex chain of banking, construction, and real estate institutions to key AG leaders for use in financing the 1959 Federal elections and for generally strengthening the party at National and regional levels. The AG government of Western region and the NPC government of Northern region wasted about one million six hundred pounds of public fund through the purchase of the much-overvalued assets of Arab Brothers Limited. The venture proved to be worthless to the two governments (Akinbi, 1999, p. 31). In the process of draining the country of its wealth, many of the politicians built luxurious houses brought expensive cars and indulged in all sort of prodigality.

The 1964 federal elections fiasco largely contributed to the political violence and takeover of civilian rule. In order to effectively contest the elections, the various political parties formed alliances. The United Progressive Grand Alliance (UPGA) and the Nigerian National Alliance (NNA) were formed. Thus, the election was characterised by electoral irregularities and increasing incidents of thuggery and intimidation leading to its boycotts by UPGA (Falola et al., 2010, p. 139). A national crisis was imminent and there were talks on possible takeover by the military. To avert such a development, the Prime Minister, Alhaji Tafawa Balewa was invited by the President and agreed to form a government of National Unity thereby allowing a fresh election (Eluwa et al., 1988, p. 277).

Then came October 1965 Western Region election which actually was the immediate precursor to military intervention. During the campaign both the NNA and the UPGA used violence, murdering their opponents and destroying their properties. UPGA then accused the NNA of rigging the election. Thus, the election generated much controversy and later, large scale civil disturbance. For a period of almost three months, governmental activities were relatively paralysed in the region as the people reacted to the NNDP's victory. Lawlessness was on rampage, social disorder all over the west, burnings in towns and cities, including human beings. Yet, the Federal Government failed to intervene (Akinbi, p. 30; Eluwa et al, p. 278). Balewa seemed incapable of acting to quell the riots such that Major-General Johnson Aguiyi-Johnson, the then Chief of Army Staff had to withdraw troops that had been earlier deployed to the region because many of the soldiers got sympathetic with the rioters. The social devastation, profiling deaths, and injuries of persons, most probably must have instigated military response to rescue and restoration of order to the region (Bourne, 2015, p.113). Histrionically, every significant issue gave rise to a serious political crisis and this prepared the ground for the coming of the military on 15th January, 1966. This was followed by a countercoup in July of the same year which ultimately led to the civil war in the year that followed.

The First Experience Ever

In the early hours of January 15, 1966, Nigeria's first military coup took place. The coup was led by ''five military majors'' namely, Kaduna Nzeogwu, Emmanuel Ifeajuna, Don. Okafor, Chris I. Anuforo and Adewale Ademoyega who were later dubbed, and operated out of each of the three regions of Nigeria and Lagos (Ademoyega, 1981; Falola & Heaton, 2008, p. 172). The experience was a bloody one that saw the murder of the Federal Prime Minister Tafawa Balewa, Premier Samuel Ladoke Akintola of the Western Region, Premier Ahmadu Bello of the Northern Region, and Minister of Finance Chief Festus Okotie-Eboh, the young military officers believed, were responsible for the chaos of 1964 and 1965. Scores of Western and Northern top military officers were also killed during the coup, including Brigadier Samuel Ademulegun, Brigadier Zakariya Maimalari; Colonel R.A. Sodeinde, and Colonel Kur Mohammed; Lt. Col. J.Y. Pam; Lt. Col A.C. Unegbe and Lt. Col. A. Largema (Adesote & Falade, 2020, p. 150). The

leaders of the coup claimed that their goal was to bring an end to the tribalism and corruption that had characterized the First Republic. They came with the notion to correct all the social, political, and economic ills of the politicians and restore sanity to governance. The coup only partially succeeded in the North and West while it failed woefully in the East and Lagos (Fawole, 2003, p. 6). The failure of the coup led to the demise of the First Republic and the emergence of military rule in the country. Unfortunately, it was not the original planners and executors of the coup that eventually became the rulers. That the coup failed was due to the inefficiency of the so-called revolutionaries rather than the alertness, discipline, and 'military preparedness' of the loyal troops (Falola et al., p. 145). Again, the Majors' coup probably failed because they simply did not have enough men and transport at their disposal to complete their operation of arresting and guarding leading political figures and senior army officers, disrupting communications networks, setting up roadblocks, defending themselves against counter-attacking forces and taking over broadcasting facilities. They did not even have enough military vehicles and some of them resorted to using civilian vehicles. Rather than launch simultaneous attacks on all the targets or assign one team to each target, the Majors were so undermanned that they had to sequentially move from one target to the next (Siollun, 2009, p. 64). For example, Major Ifeajuna arrested the Prime Minister, then set out for the Ikoyi Hotel, shot Brigadier Maimalari along the way, and then later shot Lt-Colonel Largema at the Ikoyi Hotel. This sequential execution is what allowed the warning to reach Major-General Aguiyi-Ironsi and enabled him to organize a counter-attack. Additionally, the need for secrecy meant that a rehearsal of the coup was not possible. Major Nzeogwu was the only participant who was able to rehearse (under the guise of a military training exercise) (Siollun, p. 65).

Nevertheless, with so many of the most powerful political figures in Nigeria dead or imprisoned, the country was thrown into yet another major political crisis thereby creating an opportunity for the military to seize power from the federal parliaments (Falola & Heaton, 2008, p. 173). The new military government was welcomed with a massive outpouring of jubilation and goodwill. The vast majority of the public had never been in close contact with soldiers before and thus held them in a mixture of awe and fear. Having seen the ease with which the soldiers dispatched politicians they did not like, many civilians looked at soldiers as invincible and fearsome creatures. The soldiers' crisply starched uniforms, peaked caps, Sandhurst honor, and impeccable British accents (gained from their training by British instructors) reinforced positive public perceptions of them (Siollun, p. 65). Power quickly devolved to the commanding officer of the Nigerian army, Major General John Aguiyi-Ironsi, who immediately went about restoring order. Aguiyi-Ironsi broadcasted to the entire country proclaiming the new military government. Lt-Colonel Ejoor made a broadcast to the Eastern Region reiterating Ironsi's proclamation and stating that he would be the military government's representative in the Region. Lt-Colonel Ojukwu made a similar broadcast to the Northern Region and another broadcast was made to the Western Region. Lt-Colonel Ejoor went so far as to meet with Eastern civil servants to introduce himself. The announcements and introductions made to the various regions were confusing as the officers who made them were soon redeployed and assigned by Ironsi to regions other than those to which they had made their announcements (Siollun, p. 70). Notably, between 1966 and 1979, four military heads of states ruled the country namely; Major Genral J.T.U. Aguiyi-Ironsi, Lt. Col. (later General) Yakubu Gowon, General Ramat Muritala Muhammed and General Olusegun Obasanjo.

The emergence of Major General Aguiyi-Ironsi as military head of state of Nigeria on January 17, 1966 laid the foundation for military administration experience in the nation. The new Federal Military Government (FMG) was empowered to make laws for the "peace, order and good government of" Nigeria. Ironsi said his government would last only ''until such a time when a constitution is brought out according to the wishes of the people" (Falola & Heaton, p. 173). He seemed to get off to a good start by initiating some popular actions at the outset. He appointed military governors who replaced the deposed Premiers in each of the country's four regions namely; Lieutenant Colonel Chukwuemeka (''Emeka'') Odumegwu Ojukwu, Eastern Region; Lt. Col Francis Adekunle Fajuyi, Western Region; Lt. Col. David Ejoor, Mid-Western Region; and Lt. Col. Hassan Usma Kastina, Northern Region. Lt. Colonel Yakubu Gowon succeeded Colonel Kur Mohammed as the Chief of Staff at army headquarters (Falola & Heaton, p. 150). He abolished the posts of Prime Minister and President, and formed a new a Supreme Military Council (SMC) and Federal Executive Council (FEC). The SMC composed of

the Head of Federal Military Government who was also the President/Chairman of the Supreme Military Council; Head of the Nigerian Navy, Commodore Joseph Wey; Head of the Nigerian Air Force, Lt-Colonel George Kurubo; Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces, Chief of Staff of the Nigerian Army, Brigadier Babafemi Ogundipe; and the Military Governors of each of the four regions. The acting Inspector-General of Police, Alhaji Kam Selem, was later added to the SMC (Siollun, p. 72).

He also suspended several parts of the 1963 constitution (mostly those parts dealing with party politics) and promulgated a number of Decrees. Decree No. 33 of 1966 abolished 81 political parties and cultural organisations. On 24 May, he issued Decree No. 34 of 1966, which, at a stroke, abolished Nigeria's Federal System of Government and introduced unitary System of Government in the country (Bourne, 2015, p. 117). Thus, the Federal Government became a "national government". The decree unified the senior civil service and made it possible to transfer civil servants across the former regional services. The regional structure of Nigeria ceased to exist, and was replaced by "groups of provinces." Both the military and the civil service, which had previously been administered regionally, were to be integrated and administered from the center. This unification decree was unanimous as the four military governors were against the establishment. Despite this, Ironsi went ahead and passed the decree (Akinbi, 1999, p. 33). Hence, the northerners interpreted this as an attempt to bring the northern region under southern control and Igbo domination. This singular act of betrayal by Ironsi destroyed the original vision of the planners for the country. Unfortunately, the political fragmented and unstable country simply went into more internal turmoil.

Northerners Reaction and the Counter Coup of July 1966

Ironsi's subsequent policies as head of state alarmed many northerners, however, who came to view the coup and Ironsi as part of a plan by southern – specifically Igbo – officers to use the military as a means of imposing a new era of Igbo domination. In many ways, circumstantial evidence corroborated such a view. In the first place, four of the five majors who led the January coup were Igbo. Of all the officers and politicians killed in the coup, only one had been Igbo, while the majority had been northerners. While the two most prominent figures in northern politics – Balewa and Bello – had been murdered along with their ally Akintola, the Igbo premiers of the Mid-Western and Eastern Regions had been arrested but later released. To many, this pattern indicated that the coup was primarily an Igbo strike against the north (Falola & Heaton, p. 173). He failed to put on trial the Igbo majors in the January plot. They were initially arrested and detained in Kirikiri before being dispersed to various prisons all over the country. While the members of the SMC wanted them tried, and while Ironsi was clearly afraid of them. Both the civilian and military elite of the Igbo insisted that they should not be tried. In other words, he allowed the coup plotters to remain in detention, rather than bringing them to trial for the crimes that northerners believed they had committed (Falola, et al., p. 146).

Making matters worse, Ironsi made several moves in the first half of 1966 that led many northerners to believe that he was part of an Igbo conspiracy. Ironsi was himself an Igbo, and, in an unwise political move, he tended to surround himself with Igbo advisers who by passed both the civil service and the study groups he had set up to look into the future constitutional, judicial and economic arrangements for the country (Falola & Heaton, p. 173). The appointment of Francis Nwokedi, an Igbo, as Sole Commissioner to inquire into the unification of the regional services was particularly tactless given Northern sensitivities about 'domination' by the better educated southerners. Furthermore, some of Ironsi's promotion in the army provided evidence that could be used to build up a case of nepotism. For instance, of the 21 promotions in April 1966, 18 Igbo officers were promoted to the rank of colonel against the advice of his Supreme Military Council (Akinbi, 1999, p. 33). The euphoric and provocative attitudes of the Igbos living in the North did not help the situation, for instance, Igbos were blamed for worsening economic conditions and rising food prices, as many of them were traders and Northerners reflexively attributed their worsening economic situation to the Igbo traders who had "control" of commerce and prices (Siollun, p. 83). Ironsi's public moves were centralist and anti-democratic. In the situation where northerners were alarmed at an Igbo takeover – some Igbos in the north were triumphalist. The most damning evidence against Ironsi in the eyes of northerners was the passing of the Unification decree. Given the relatively small number of

educated northerners, the decree was regarded as being unfair to the North (Bourne, p. 117). Within a few days of the publication of the decree, what had been muted displeasure developed into large-scale communal killings of Southerners, particularly Igbos living in the North. Educated northerners, civil servants, staff and students at Ahmadu Bello University spearheaded violent anti-Igbo riots. Lives were lost in massacres, property was destroyed and Igbos began to retreat to safety in the East (Akinbi, p. 33). From then on, until the end of the civil war, the country faced a fearful degree of uncertainty.

On July 29, 1966, a redemptive counter-coup was launched by Northern Military officers such as Lt. Col Joseph Akahan, Major Theophilus Yakubu Danjuma, Major Abba Kyari, Major Martin Adamu, Major Shittu Alao, Major Musa Usman and including Major Murtala Muhammed who masterminded the coup (Adesote & Falade, p. 152). Aguiyi-Ironsi was staying at Ibadan with Colonel Adekunle Fajuyi, Military Governor of Western Nigeria, when a detachment of northern soldiers arrived at the Government Lodge and killed them. Brigadier Babafemi Ogundipe, Chief of Staff in Lagos, ordered troops to quell the mutiny, but they were ambushed with heavy losses. Ogundipe felt he had to negotiate with the rebels. Colonel Emeka Ojukwu, military governor in the east, phoned Ogundipe to offer his support if he wished to declare himself supreme commander. But Ogundipe was losing control of the army and declined. The rebels said there was strong pressure in the north for secession – the code name for the coup was Operation Araba ('secession') – and ideas were circulating for a simultaneous breakaway by both the north and the west (Bourne, p. 118).

For three days the country teetered without a head of state, until Lieutenant Colonel. Yakubu Gowon, the then Chief of the Army who had at first been taken prisoner by the rebels, agreed at their request to take over as Supreme Commander of the armed forces and the new head of state (Falola & Heaton, 174). He was thirty one-year-old, a Christian and from a small tribe, the *Ngas* (Angas), in the Bauchi/Plateau area; this categorized him as a northern minority figure, but from that middle part of Nigeria that was always likely to get squeezed in struggles between north and south and with an interest in keeping the polity together (Bourne, p. 118).

On 1st August, 1966 Lt. Col. Gowon announced that he had assumed control of the federal government and the leadership of the armed forces. Gowon immediately announced the repeal of Decree no. 34, indicating that Nigeria was committed to unity within a federal structure with respect for regional differences. Again, ethnicity re-echoed itself as Gowon was not the most senior surviving officer. At least, five surviving officers were senior to him, but he was the most senior Northern officer and Chief of Staff of the army (Akinbi, p. 34). Gowon was to find reconciliation difficult, however, particularly with Lieutenant Colonel Ojukwu, the Igbo military governor of the Eastern Region, who had many grave reservations about the legitimacy of the countercoup. In the first place, Ojukwu did not believe that Gowon had the authority to become supreme commander of the armed forces. Several still living officers had higher rank and more experience than Gowon, and Ojukwu argued that any of these officers had a greater claim to the title of supreme commander than the usurper Gowon (Falola & Heaton, p. 174). From August 1966 to July 1967, the country watched helplessly a strange struggle between Ojukwu and Gowon. Both officers held the country to ransom. The restoration of Northern hegemony in governance and the military did nothing to improve the political instability that had plagued the nation, especially from January 1966. If anything, the second coup merely worsens the sense of alienation that the Easterners felt as a widespread anti-Igbo pogroms began throughout the Northern region from September and October 1966 (Fawole, p. 52). A spate of massacres, many conducted by northern soldiers, took the lives of between 80,000 and 100,000 easterners during this period, the worst occurring in September. These massacres sparked revenge killings of northerners resident in the Eastern Region. Such events led Ojukwu to question whether Igbos could ever live in harmony within a federal Nigeria. He urged all easterners outside the region to return home and suggested that all northerners in the east do likewise. This led to large population movements in the latter half of 1966 and the early part of 1967 (Falola & Heaton, p. 174). After the collapse of the constitutional conferences and peace-meetings to reconcile the two contenders, on May 30, 1967 Ojukwu declared secession and the birth of independence of the Eastern Region, which he renamed the Independent Republic of Biafra. From the perspective of Gowon and the Federal Military Government, Biafra could not simply be

allowed to secede. Hence, the country moved to one of its grimmest movements, the 30 months civil war which started from May 1967 and was finally terminated in January 1970. With the victory of the Federal Government over Biafra, and the successful conclusion of the civil war, the savior image of the military received a boost.

A Second Experience

Lieutenant Colonel. Yakubu Gowon emerged as Nigeria second military Head of State following the July 29, 1966 counter-coup. Gowon regime remains the longest serving military or civilian administration in Nigeria's political history. It lasted exactly nine years in power, from July 29, 1966 till July 29, 1975 when he was overthrown in a bloodless coup. It is remarkable not just for its long tenure but also for witnessing some of the most momentous events and laudable achievements in Nigeria's history (Fawole, p. 52). The political and administrative structures of government were established at the Federal and State levels as from 1967. However, these structures of government did not begin to function until after the civil war (Falola, et al., p. 146).

Gowon's government at the end of the civil war militarized the Federal structure thereby creating 12 states by Decree No. 14 of 1967. The former four regions were split into 12 states. The North was split into six states: North-Western, North-Central, North-Eastern, Benue-Plateau, Kano, Kwara; the East into three: East-Central, Rivers, South Eastern; the West into two: Lagos, Western; and Mid-Western region was left intact as a State (Adesote & Falade, p. 159).

He went ahead to initiate some populist programmes. One of such was the 3Rs – a policy toward reconciliation, reconstruction and rehabilitation for the nation. This was launched to help wipe out bad memories, reduce resentful and hostile feelings and integrate the various parts of the Nigerian populace into a united Nigerian nation (Eluwa et al., p. 288). The main aim was to bring the country together again, resettle war victims (both internally displaced persons and refugees), repair and replace what was destroyed during the civil war.

This was followed by the Second National Development Plan which spanned between 1970 and 1974. The development plan launched was aimed to accelerating both economic and social developments by increasing agricultural productivity, growing the petroleum industry, and boosting the manufacturing industry (Adesote & Falade, p. 161). Also, in April 1975, the giant Third National Plan (1957-1980) that would consume a whooping sum of thirty thousand million naira was launched with fanfare.

Added to these was the Nine-Point programme of political transformation. This programme created an enabling environment for the envisaged return of governance to a democratically elected dispensation in 1976. It encompassed the reorganization of the armed forces; national reconstruction; creation of more states; preparation and adoption of a new constitution, implementation of a national development plan, and so on (Eluwa et al., p. 288).

Between 1971 and 1974, there was the fortuitous oil boom which enriched state coffers abundantly. It was due to the Middle Eastern war which curtailed the supply of Middle Eastern oil to the Western capitalist countries and the insistence of some militant oil-producing countries, notably, Libya on getting better prices for crude oil (Falola et al., p. 148). The proceeds went into gigantic projects like urban road construction, fly-over bridges, sea and airports across the country, telecommunication services, construction of stadia, medical institutions, educational institutions, and the National Theatre for hosting the Second African and Black Festival of Arts and Culture (FESTAC) in 1977 (Akinbi, 1999, p. 34). Children from the age of kindergarten to adulthood were sent out in thousands on government and private scholarships to study in different part of the world.

Gowon's government also projected the take-off in 1976 of a programme of Universal Free Primary Education (UPE). This scheme was aimed at extending literacy to the entire population of the country. A number of Federal Government Colleges were established across the country. Also, new federal universities were set up. In 1973, he introduced new currency into the country i.e, the Naira and Kobo which replaced the former Pound Sterling currency. In creating a spirit of self-reliance and national unity among Nigerian youths, Gowon established the National Youth Corps. According to the scheme, all tertiary institution graduates in the degree category who are less than 30 years of age are expected to participate in one

year compulsory service to the nation in states/geographical zones outside theirs.

Unfortunately, however, Gowon's programmes did not earn him a lasting reputation because he seem not to have the political will and other necessary qualities to tackle the problems before him successfully. Incidentally, corruption got worse after the programme was made public. He could not remove or redeploy his military governors in the face of allegations of corruption against them. He was literally hostage to the depredations of his subordinates to the point that he virtually ceased to be an effective leader who was subjected to derision by Nigerians (Fawole, p. 55). One of the problems of Gowon's military administration was that soon after the creation of the twelve states; he thought it was wise to establish executive councils at the Federal and State levels. Consciously, he fell back on the same 'corrupt and decadent' politicians they had overthrown. Most of the top politicians were back in power again as members of the executive councils, these 'crafty' politicians were not accountable to him (Falola, et al., p.146). In addition, the Second National Development Plan was inadequately implemented owing chiefly to corruption, inefficiency and lack of executive and managerial capacity. Gowon's government failed to take firm and positive action over an ever-widening range of issues that serious affected the people's welfare. Among these were rising inflation, increasing congestion and chaos in ports, traffic congestion in Lagos, and mal-distribution of petrol around the country. There was also the disorganization brought about by the Second World Black Festival of the Arts and Culture (FESTAC). The worst in Gowon's catalogue of inaction was his setting aside of the transition programme. He had earlier promised to return the country to civilian rule but in 1974, according to him, he said it was impracticable (Eluwa et al., p. 289). The resultant was a successful bloodless coup staged against Gowon by General Muritala Muhammed on July 29, 1975.

The Third and Fourth Regimes

Between 1975 and 1979, Nigeria was governed by two successive Military regimes, namely Muhammed regime (1975-1976) and Obasanjo regime (1976-1979).

General Muritala Muhammed was appointed the third Military Head of Nigeria on July 30, 1975 following the overthrown of Gowon in a bloodless coup. He made his maiden speech to the nation as the Head of State of Nigeria and commander in Chief of the Armed Forces. He has, as second-in-command, General Olusegun Obasanjo. The new regime of Muritala Muhammed was welcomed with a great sense of relief by the generality of the Nigerian populace. In accordance with the expectation of the people, Muhammed was determined to do the things that Gowon had promised: to introduce a new constitution prior to elections, clean up corruption and the ballooning public service and create new states. Within weeks of taking over as Head of State on 30 July, the new leader had promptly and ably waded into the nation's enormous problems (Bourne, p. 134). The structure of the Federal Government was re-organised into three main organs, namely the Supreme Military Council, the National Council of States and the Federal Executive Council. He lost no time in replacing the twelve states governors with new ones. The new governors unlike their predecessors, were not members of the SMC. Muhammed ordered a prompt and energetic enquiry into corruption and inefficiency. He dismissed or retired some 11,000 civil servants and purged the police, the judges and four Vice-Chancellors (Eluwa, et al., p. 291). Gowon's twelve states became nineteen, Muhammed created seven new states which were Niger, Bauchi, Gongola, Benue, Ondo, Bendel and Imo. With regards to chronic congestion and overcrowding of Lagos by February 1976 the decision was taken to remove the Federal capital from Lagos to Abuja, a central site dominated by a huge rock that looked like a sleeping elephant, in a small Hausa emirate ruled by Sulamainu Barau. The government also tackled the problem of congestion at the port, shortage of food, transportation network and petrol distribution. Muhammed took control over universities and primary schools, tightened controls on journalists and broadcasters and reorganised the trade unions. His regime cut back FESTAC, the second World Black and African Festival of Arts and Culture, which was to be a global demonstration of African artistic achievements floated on Nigerian oil wealth. In 1975, Mohammed initiated a Constitution Drafting Committee (CDC) for a new constitution. On the international affairs, he successfully and impressively promoted foreign policy and championed the African Liberation struggle of Angola. A four-year timetable, leading to a transfer of power to elected civilians on October 1, 1979, was announced. His announcement of plans to cut Nigerians army to

size and the resentments of those who had done well with Gowon and were now sidelined by Muhammed led to a failed coup on 13 February 1976. The plot was led by Lieutenant Colonel Bukar Dimka, unfortunately, however, Muhammed was assassinated. He had been travelling with minimal security, part of his commitment to austerity, when his car was riddled with bullets (Bourne, p. 136). The mourning for Muhammed was national and authentic, his short but vigorous tenure and his untimely demise have made him a populist hero in Nigeria. Today the international airport in Ikeja (Lagos) is named for him, and he appears on the N20 note, one of the most commonly used bills in the country today.

Following the assassination of General Muritala Muhammed, the SMC appointed General Olusegun Obasanjo the second-in-command as well as the Chief of Staff of the Army as the Head of State of Nigeria with this development, Obasanjo became the fourth and last Military Head during this period. He was a southern Yoruba who had also distinguished himself as a field commander during the civil war. In spite of Muhammed's assassination, Obasanjo continued with the transition programme. In fact, the transition between them in terms of goals and methods was so smooth that their tenures are usually considered together as the Mohammed/Obasanjo regime (Falola & Heaton, p. 188). There was a high degree of continuity between the Muhammed and Obasanjo governments, but Obasanjo was responsible for a reorganization of local government which made the local government system all over the country more democratic, purposeful, functional, and effective. He was also responsible for the Land Use Act, 1978, which decreed a kind of nationalization that was subsequently embedded in civilian constitutions. It vested all lands within the states in the military governors to be held in trust 'for the use and common benefit of all Nigerians' (Bourne, p.136). To tackle the yet unresolved corruption, he established the Corrupt Practices Investigation Bureau and Public Complaints Commission aimed at minimizing vices such as corruption, bribery, and nepotism in Nigerian society. This exercise led to many dismissals and compulsory retirements, confiscation of ill-gotten assets, and specific scandals like the cement over-ordering scandal. He launched the Operation Feed the Nation (OFN) and Universal Primary Education (UPE) scheme to eradicate illiteracy and boost food production respectively in the country. In 1977 Obasanjo hosted FESTAC '77, an international festival of black and African arts and culture designed to showcase the ''traditional'' cultures of Nigeria and facilitate interaction and discussion amongst the greatest leaders and minds of Africa and its diaspora. On the international scene, Obasanjo continued Muhammed's courageous and dynamic policy. He gave impressive support to the liberation effort of Zimbabwe. The CDC initiated by Muhammed in 1975 produced a draft constitution that was voted on by a Constituent Assembly in 1978, ultimately leading to federal and state elections in 1979. After some preparatory activities and a series of elections ending in the presidential election of August 11, 1979, the country returned to civilian government. On October 1, 1979, Obasanjo transferred power to Shagari, marking the end of thirteen years of military rule with the establishment of the Second Republic.

Conclusion

Thus far, we have explored military intervention and administration in Nigeria's political evolution (1966 – 1979). Our study has shown that Nigeria's political landscape witnessed four different military regimes with varying experiences in the period under evaluation. During this period of interregnum, the civilian populace yearned for an opportunity to again exercise their political and civil rights. This was however challenging to come by because, in the view of the present study, it became clear that military intervention in Nigeria's political frame was particularly a result of insurgent tendencies arising from ethnic nationalities as well as secessionist agitation to overthrow the central government. Even though some people seem to have welcomed the idea following the coup of January 1966, it was mainly on the pretext of civilian incompetence, socio-economic underdevelopment, corruption as well as electoral crisis presented by the military for such 'noble' adventure for change. More so, Nigerians desired restoration of order, socioeconomic stability, and a political order that would manage the country toward a better future. Incredulously, the actual motive behind the military engagements in the nation's political affairs, which can be trapped in ethnic rivalry and insurgent reactions, turned out to be different from their vocalized excuses and motivations. This was responsible for the instability and irregularity that featured in the nation's political space for the first two decades of her independent experience with the involvement of

the military. It follows that the military, instead of correcting the unusual disorder, further worsened the situation, since the top echelon of the junta shared the same traits with their civilian counterpart. Hence, the expected change was far from being realized during their period in power, which influenced their democratic transition agenda with the adoption of a new constitution that eventually instituted a second Nigerian republic on October 1, 1979.

However, it must be understood that the vestiges, if not legacies of military intervention and administration between 1966 and 1979 have remained evident in the nation's political culture in the post-1979 era. In essence, ethnicity, nepotism, civil unrest, corruption, and economic woes that characterised the military era have reared a complex of authoritarian rule, human rights violations, and economic mismanagement even in the nation's civilian dispensations. Despite the restoration of democratic governance in October 1979, military patterns in governance were not done away with, which has shaped the enduring nature of civil-military relations in the country (Babatunde, 2015). Even after the democratic triumph of 1999, military legacies have survived and continued to shape not just the nation's political culture but intensified the challenge of national unity, ethnic rivalry, and more recently the destructive rage of insurgency confronting the nation's political stability and socio-economic development. Overall, it is crucial to underscore at this juncture that any attempt to address Nigeria's contemporary political cum economic distortion requires an appreciation of the historical contexts and experiences of the nation's military governance, particularly between 1966 and 1979.

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1 Some of these elite Nigerians include, Herbert Macaulay, Nnamdi Azikwe, Rotimi Williams, Ahmad Bello, Anthony Enahoro, Kudirat Abiola, Funmilayo Ransome Kuti, Aminu Kano and a handful of others.